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The archeological site of Doljani on Zlatica is only 4 km away from the center of Podgorica. It is located 200 m east of the main road to Kolasin and 3 km northwest of the remains of the ancient city of Dukla, with which it was historically inseparably connected. This cultural asset consists of the remains of an early Christian complex, from which a basilica with a narthex, a triconch with a narthex and an atrium, as well as a large number of stone sculptures and a sarcophagus have been discovered to this day. On the bottom of these two buildings, the triconch and the basilica, as contemporary buildings from different time periods, as well as the pluralism of the artistic language of the found sculpted decoration, still attract the attention of the scientific public today.



Remains of the walls of the early Christian basilica and triconch

## Description

It is a representative sarcophagus part cultural property, locality Doljani, on Zlatica. It is part of the cathedral church, on cadastral parcel 3534, KO Doljani I, Municipality of Podgorica, which belongs to the architectural complex of 42.64 m<sup>2</sup>. Finds set at 1.5 m below ground level in the north chapel of the basilica and the surface is 7.37 m<sup>2</sup>. The site has a protective fence with a gate, next to which an olive grove is planted, which physically and to some extent visually protects it from the densely populated immediate surroundings.

The sarcophagus is larger in size 1.11 m Length x 2.11 m Width x 1.07 m Height was intended for an adult. It consists of a tomb and a cover 1.22 m long and 2.16 m wide. It is made of one block of marble with a shallow profile, and the slabs are carved with a careful relief treatment on the outside, and with an internally serrated hammer, they represent the work of masters versed in the architecture of sarcophagi.

## Damage analysis

Visual observation of the material provided a detailed insight into the current condition of the sarcophagus, which can be assessed as poor.

## Proposed conservation measures

Based on the insight into the existing condition, and in order to preserve the originality and authenticity, conservation - restoration works on the sarcophagus envisage several phases, as follows:

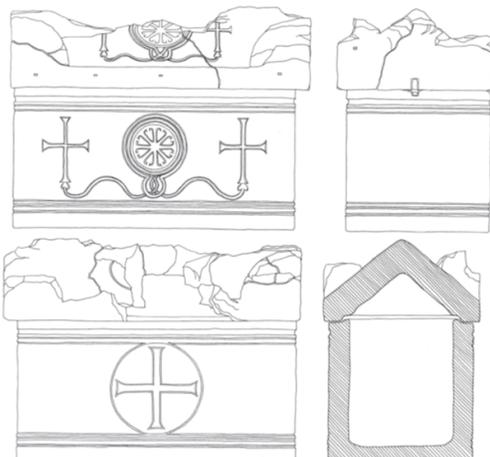
- Chemical analysis of marble, in order to determine the type and amount of soluble salts.
- Preparation for moving the sarcophagus which includes: marking the existing fragments of the lid; providing machinery and equipment for insulation and lifting of lids and sarcophagi; collecting bulk fragments.
- Determining the location with water and electricity to move the sarcophagus; installation of adequate substrate and prefabricated canopy.
- Moving the sarcophagus to an already designated place, with great care and transfer of the collected fragments.
- Removal of black deposits and lichens, after analysis of stains, reported by mechanical wet and dry methods; apply cellulose pulp and ammonium carbonate solution (up to 10 %) to clean individual stains.
- The process of desalination of the material, in the case of surface crystallization, is performed mechanically and by rinsing with a jet of water; to remove salt from the stone, apply compresses of cellulose pulp or paper moistened with water or a chemical agent, depending on the composition of the salt.

- The most endangered parts with an increased concentration of sulfate salt, coat with barium hydroxide or one of the acrylic resins, which are used to consolidate marble.

- Joining the heavier fragments of the cover is performed with two-component epoxy and polyester stone glue, which will be anchored with stainless steel wedges, by being placed in pre-made holes inside the parts to be joined and whose edges are already coated with glue. Constructive strengthening of the cover is performed by laying a base of thicker stainless steel, which should be a few centimeters larger.

- Fill smaller cracks with a mixture of ground xumen and stone glue.

- According to the condition obtained after joining the found parts, a complete or partial reconstruction of the cover will be reported, for which natural stone most similar to the original or artificial (polyester epoxy resins, white cement and stone flour) is provided.



Drawing of a sarcophagus found in the basilica ((V. Korać, 2009, Doljani-Zlatica, Podgorica, Zograf, 33, 1-8).



Stone sarcophagus found in one room of the basilica