

REPORTS

Excavations at Baturyn in 2014

Last summer, the Canada-Ukraine archaeological expedition carried out its annual excavations in Baturyn, Chernihiv province, Ukraine. The Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (PIMS), and the Ucrainica Research Institute in Toronto sponsor this project. Prof. Zenon Kohut (CIUS) is its academic leader. Archaeologists Yurii Sytyi and Dr Viacheslav Skorokhod of Chernihiv University head the Baturyn expedition. Dr Volodymyr Mezentsev (CIUS) and Prof. Martin Dimnik (PIMS) participate in this research and the dissemination of its results. Nearly 50 students and scholars from universities and museums in Chernihiv and Hlukhiv as well as the Kyiv Mohyla Academy National University took part in the 2014 excavations.

Baturyn was the capital of the Ukrainian Cossack state and achieved prominence under the dynamic leadership of Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709), a nobleman raised and educated in Poland and Western Europe. He concluded a military alliance with Sweden and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in an attempt to free central Ukraine from increasing Russian domination. In 1708, when suppressing Mazepa's rebellion, the Muscovite army completely destroyed Baturyn. The enlightened Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky (1750-64) rebuilt the town and restored its status as the capital of the fading autonomous Cossack state on the eve of its abolition and absorption by the Russian Empire in 1764.

Rozumovsky commissioned two sizeable palaces in Baturyn. In August, the archaeological expedition discovered the remnants of his little-known first residence near the town's secondary school. This late baroque elongated one-story wooden palace was designed by the renowned Italian architect Antonio Rinaldi after the hetman invited him to Baturyn in 1751. It was likely modelled on the tsar's fashionable timber villa in the village of Perovo (1747) near Moscow, which was designed by the outstanding Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli.



Fig. 1. (palace) Front elevation of K. Rozumovsky's wooden palace in Baturyn, ca. 1752. Hypothetical reconstruction by V. Mezentsev, computer graphic by S. Dmytriienko, 2014

Rozumovsky's wooden residence in Baturyn rested on a brick foundation and socle. It included a court chapel and side wings for guests, connected to the main structure by passages. This complex was demolished in 1821.

Researchers believe that its close analogies were the lost late baroque timber palaces constructed by this hetman in the town of Hlukhiv, Sumy province (1750) and by his brother, Count Oleksii Rozumovsky, in the town of Kozelets, Chernihiv oblast (1744). On the basis of their architectural drawings and 18th-19th-century descriptions of the hetman's residence in Baturyn, a hypothetical graphic reconstruction of its front elevation was undertaken. In 1799, K. Rozumovsky erected in Baturyn his masonry palatial complex, a masterpiece of neoclassical architecture, which was restored by 2009.

Last summer, archaeologists also partially unearthed the footing of the Church of the Presentation of the Holy Theotokos. It was built of oak logs by Judge General Vasyl Kochubei at his estate in Baturyn in the late 17th century. In 1778, this church was dismantled and then reassembled in the neighbouring village of Matiivka. Soviet authorities, however, pulled down this monument of Ukrainian baroque ecclesiastical architecture in 1933.

In 2014, our expedition resumed its excavations of the remnants of Mazepa's manor in Honcharivka, a suburb of Baturyn. There, prior to 1700, the hetman constructed a richly embellished brick baroque tower palace, which was destroyed in 1708 by the Russian troops. Remnants of the rampart, bulwarks, and palisade protecting the hetman's principal residence have been investigated by archaeologists. They also completed excavating the sites of a small wooden church and a spacious service structure (19 x 5 m.) from the early 18th century at Mazepa's court.

The service building had a post-and-beam (in German: *fachwerk*) construction design, which was common for urban and rural dwellings throughout medieval and early modern Europe from Britain to western Ukraine. In North America, private residences using this building technique are known as the "Tudor style timber-framed houses". A *fachwerk* edifice could fit in well with the Western baroque style of Mazepa's palace.



Heating stoves of this service structure were faced with fine polychrome glazed ceramic and terracotta tiles with various floral relief motifs. Their fragments were found during the excavations of this building in 2011-14. The ceramic tiles decorating stoves, walls, and floors of the Honcharivka villa were fashioned conceivably by skilled artisans summoned to Baturyn from Kyiv. The sophisticated techniques of architectural majolica along with masonry construction were transplanted to



Kyivan Rus' from Byzantium in the late 10th-11th centuries.

Fig. 2. (968, 976) Fragments of polychrome glazed ceramic stove tiles. 2013 excavations of the service structure at Mazepa's manor in Honcharivka. Photos by V. Mezentsev.

Artifacts unearthed during the 2011-14 excavations allow us to surmise that this large service structure housed either Cossack officers, members of the hetman's guard, or adjutants working within Mazepa's private quarters or state institutions at his court. Last summer, at this site were found: 17th-18th-century Polish and Russian silver and copper coins; locally produced bronze buttons, a clasp, and four figured



Fig. 3. Bronze belt clasp and decorative appliques uncovered at the service building site in 2014. Photo by Yu. Sytyi.

appliqués with relief patterns and engravings which adorned the costly leather belts of officers; lead musket bullets; fragments of imported German glazed earthenware and Dutch porcelain tobacco pipes.

In 2012-13, among the remnants of the service building, many shards of delicate milky glass plates painted with cobalt plant ornamentations were uncovered. Last summer, several fragments of similar dishes with multicoloured floral designs were unearthed within the former Baturyn fortress. These painted milky glass imitations of expensive china ware were probably brought to early modern Baturyn from the Ottoman Porte.



Fig. 5. Fragments of milky glass plates painted with multicoloured floral designs, before 1708. 2014 excavations in the Baturyn fortress. Photo by Yu. Sytyi

Archaeological finds of this kind in the Cossack capital attest to its trade connections with and cultural influences from Northern, Central, and Eastern Europe, and the Islamic East. Using computer methods, the investigators have reconstructed three decorated belts of wealthy hetman officers.

A unique and noteworthy glazed ceramic stove tile was discovered in 2014 in the Baturyn suburb of Ostroh, on the high bank of the Seim River. It bears the relief coat of arms of the famous Secretary General of Mazepa's administration, Pylyp Orlyk, a future émigré hetman (1710-42) and the author of the first Ukrainian constitution (1710). After the defeat of Mazepa's uprising in 1709, Orlyk fled to Moldavia and then in 1715 to Sweden. Descriptions of Baturyn from 1726 and 1760 inform us that his suburban household stood abandoned for half a century and was re-occupied by new inhabitants only during Rozumovsky's rebuilding of the hetman capital.

Archaeologists hope to locate the remnants of Orlyk's residence at the site where this heraldic tile was found.

In the Baturyn fortress, the team excavated the substructures of a sizeable granary and a timber building for the drying of grain from the 17th-early 18th century. These apparently belonged to the hetman and were burned during the 1708 sack of the town.

Near the granary, ten 17th-18th-century graves of ordinary burghers were exhumed in 2014. A number of them can be associated with the victims of the Russian assault on Baturyn.

Last summer, during the excavation of remnants of an 18th-century wooden dwelling in the Baturyn fortress, three small terracotta human figures were discovered. The lower parts, hands, and head of one of



Fig. 4. Hetman officers' leather belts with bronze ornaments. Hypothetical reconstruction by V. Mezentsev and S. Dmytriienko, computer photo collage by S. Dmytriienko, 2014.



Fig. 6. Broken glazed ceramic heraldic stove tile found in a suburb of Ostroh in 2014. Baturyn Museum of Archaeology. Photo by T. Kerbut

them were broken off. Their faces and head dress were coarsely fashioned. These figurines show no influences of realistic baroque or neoclassical sculpture.



Fig. 7. Broken 18th-century terracotta human figurines, presumably toys, discovered in the Baturyn fortress in 2014. Photo by Yu. Sytyi

Presumably, these rare artifacts represent distinctive vernacular toys created by a local Baturyn potter during the Rozumovsky era. Such clay images are absent in the major cities of the Cossack realm—Kyiv and Chernihiv. The only known comparable early modern terracotta anthropomorphic statuette was found in the village of Ulanovo, Hlukhiv region in 2009. Our preliminary analysis suggests that ceramic toys of this design and technique were produced in Baturyn, Hlukhiv, and possibly other towns in Chernihiv and Sumy provinces in the 18th-19th centuries. These toys may indicate a revival of ceramic folk art in Baturyn during its reconstruction by Rozumovsky in the second half of the 18th century.

Archaeological and architectural research of Baturyn in 2014 has provided us with new information about the wooden palatial, ecclesiastical, service, and ordinary residential structures of the hetman capital, as well as its local crafts, and international trade and cultural contacts during Mazepa's and Rozumovsky's reigns. It has also enriched our knowledge of early modern Ukrainian folk ceramic sculpture. The Canada-Ukraine expedition plans to resume excavations in Baturyn in 2015.

Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev

40th Byzantine Studies Conference

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, 6-9 November 2014

Some 70 papers were presented at this year's BSC, which was organised by Dimitris Krallis in Vancouver city centre, at the Segal Building in Granville Street. The building was well adapted for the conference, in which around 120 people participated: it was formerly a bank, which has now been converted for use by various departments of Simon Fraser University. The two rooms used for the simultaneous sessions adjoined a large hall in which the coffee flowed steadily.

There were always at least two sessions occurring simultaneously; topics treated included 'Byzantines and Latins', 'The Self in Byzantine Poetry', 'The visual culture of Byzantium in a Mediterranean context' (a session in honour of our member Erica Cruikshank Dodd) and 'The Emperor and the Church'. The whole programme may be accessed on-line at: <http://www.sfu.ca/~40thbsc/pdfs/PROGRAM.pdf>. There was a good Canadian presence: among those presenting were Dana Iuliana Viezure, George Bevan, Glenn Peers, Patrick Gray and Erica Dodd. The keynote lecture was delivered on the Friday evening by John Haldon (Princeton), entitled 'A shifting 'environment'? Climate, land and politics from late Rome to middle Byzantium'. There was also a brief allocution by Alice-Mary Talbot and Walter Kaegi about the origins of the BSC in order to mark its 40th annual meeting. Participants were treated to several receptions at various venues; there was likewise the customary business lunch of the BSANA.

On Friday 7 November there was an informal meeting of the Canadian participants present to discuss what our committee might do to promote Byzantine studies in Canada. Present were Glenn Peers, George