



During the Middle Neolithic Danilo culture (4,500 – 3,900 BC) and the Late Neolithic Hvar culture (3,900 – 2,500 BC), the Neolithic population (farmers and herders) on the territory of the Istrian Peninsula lived in settlements out in the open and in some caves either on a permanent or on a seasonal basis. Middle and Late Neolithic settlements are located mainly in the coastal region of southern Istria. Neolithic herders on the territory of northeastern and southeastern Istria also lived in caves on a seasonal basis. If we take into consideration the pottery and bone materials that were excavated to date, and also factor in the degree of archaeological exploration of the Middle and Late Neolithic period, we can judge that on the Istrian Peninsula the most important sites - settlements out in the open were Kargadur, Sv. Mihovil, Limska Gradina, Gromače – Brijuni, Pradišelski Rt, as well as Pupićina Cave and Ljubića Cave. The main characteristics of the Mesolithic and Neolithic in Istria were the already developed economy consisting of farming and herding (breeding of sheep, goats, pigs and cattle), the production of pottery vessels for a variety of purposes, the manufacture of various cult objects made of pottery (rhytons, anthropomorphic phalli, pintaderas and figurines) as well as production of stone weapons and implements.

Cult Vessels – Rhytons (Greek rhuton)

Neolithic pottery rhytons represent zoomorphic and anthropomorphic cult vessels on four legs, featuring an open, circular, potbellied recipient and a handle. The name rhyton comes from the Greek rhuton that refers to an ancient vessel used to hold beverages.

The recorded finds, in the form of pottery fragments of handles and legs from Middle Neolithic cult vessels of the rhyton type, which were discovered on Istrian territory, represent the most important archaeological evidence that speaks about cult-related beliefs among the population of Istria in the Middle Neolithic period (Fig. 1-7, 10). In the region of Istria we registered several cult vessel fragments to date, which were discovered on the following sites: Kargadur – Ližnjan (three fragments), Sv. Mihovil (a section of a handle), Pupićina Peć (a leg fragment), Limska Gradina (a leg fragment), Pradišel (a leg fragment) and Mušego (a leg fragment). We can follow the spread of these Neolithic cult vessels from Greece, in other words the region of Thessaly and the Peloponnesus, Albania, Metochia and Pelagonia – Western Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dalmatia, over Istria, the coastal section of Slovenia, to the northeastern, southern and southeastern part of Italy (see Fig. 7, map. 1). Their characteristic recipient with four legs and a handle, is in most cases zoomorphic in form, whereas the anthropomorphic rhytons discovered at Smilčić (Dalmatia), and Obre II (Bosnia and Herzegovina), represent an exception. Such an iconography of manufacture of Neolithic rhytons, and its religious function, can be partially observed on Neolithic anthropomorphic sculpture, primarily as far as the spiritual understanding of the cult of fertility and cosmology is concerned, which is connected with the conceptions of life and death.

Cult Anthropomorphic Figurines – Phalli (Greek phallos)

At the same time we are also witnessing the appearance of stylized, cult anthropomorphic figurines in the shape of a bell, so-called phalli (Fig. 8-9). The name phallus (Greek phallos) refers to a male sex organ

in a state of erection. Symbolically, the notion of a phallus is in many cultures associated with fertility.

Stylized anthropomorphic figurines were also recorded and are spread on the territory of some Albanian, Dalmatian and Istrian Middle Neolithic sites (see Fig. 8, map. 2). The northernmost, most distant discovery of stylized, bell-shaped anthropomorphic figurines, in relation to the above-mentioned territories, was made in northeastern Italy. In Istria we registered stylized anthropomorphic phalli on the Neolithic site of Sveti Mihovil, and in the vicinity of Roč. They are mostly bell-shaped, with a cylindrical upper section and a differently formed top. The top of the phallus is often decorated with nub-shaped protuberances. These figurines represent stylized males with reference to a male deity.

Rhytons and phalli, as objects for symbolic or cult purposes, are narrowly connected with the use of different colors. In this manner, red color on the surface of the rhyton recipient, and on the phallus, represents a symbol of fertility or the place where life is created – the Sun, whereas white color on cult objects represents the Moon, or death.

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N EOLITIČKI KULTNI KERAMIČKI PREDMETI NA PODRUČJU ISTRE

C ULT NEOLITHIC POTTERY OBJECTS ON THE TERRITORY OF ISTRIA

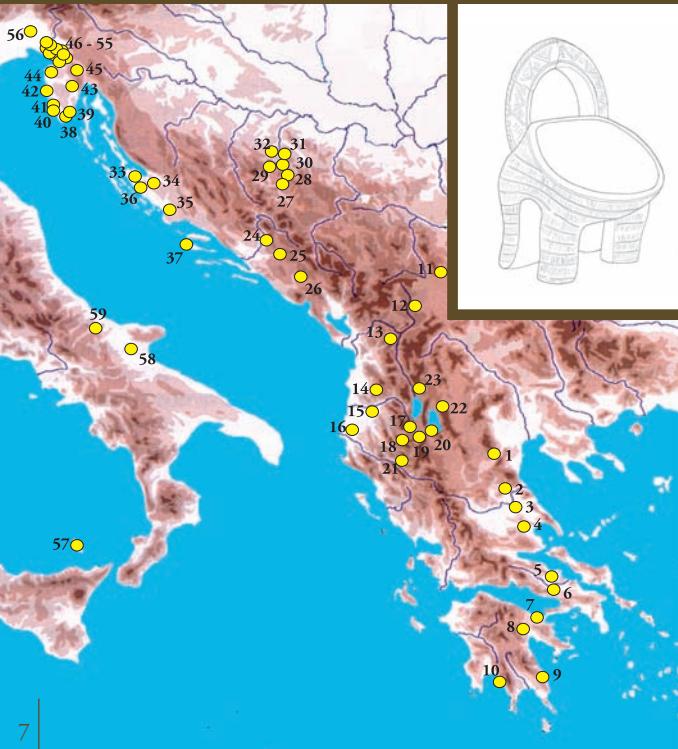


VITRINA MJESECA

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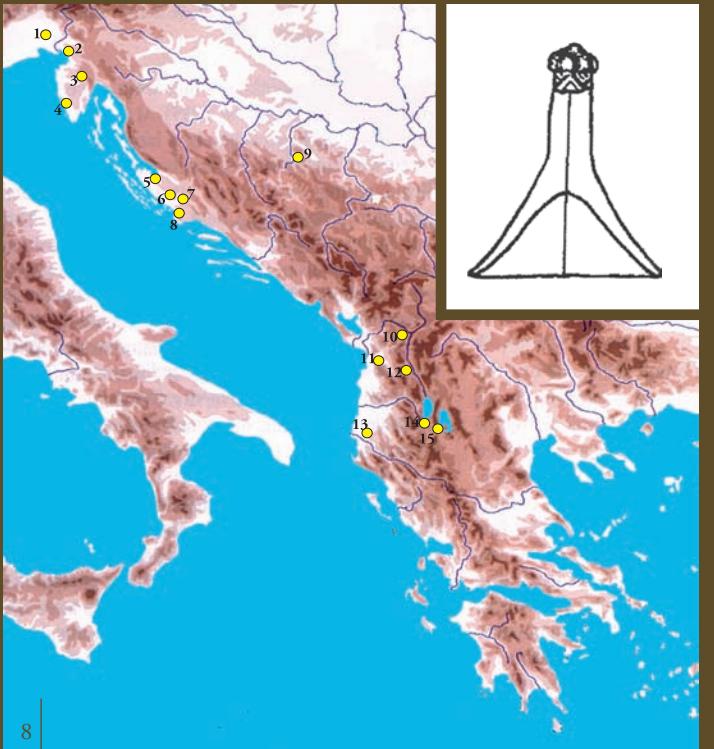
DISPLAY CASE OF THE MONTH

1st NOVEMBER - 31st NOVEMBER 2011



- Neolitička nalazišta gdje su otkriveni ritoni
- Neolithic sites where ryhton was found

1) Servia; 2) Rachmani; 3) Larissa; 4) Tsanguli; 5) Elateia; 6) Chaeronea; 7) Korinth; 8) Franchthi; 9) Raches Phouuron; 10) Alepotypa; 11) Priština; 12) Reštani; 13) Kolosh II; 14) Blaz II; 15) Katundas II; 16) Cakran; 17) Vasthemi I; 18) Barc; 19) Dunavec I/II; 20) Podgori II; 21) Deresnik; 22) Mala Trnska Tumba; 23) Ustie na Drim; 24) Čairi; 25) Zelena pećina; 26) Crvena stijena; 27) Butmir; 28) Arnautovići; 29) Okolište; 30) Obre I; 31) Obre II; 32) Kakanj; 33) Smilčić; 34) Krivače-Bribir; 35) Crno vrilo; 36) Danilo; 37) Markova špilja; 38) Kargadur; 39) Pradišelski rt; 40) Sv. Mihovil; 41) Mušego; 42) Limska gradina; 43) Pupićina peć; 44) Sermin; 45) Mala Triglavca; 46) Caverna Del Pettiroso; 47) Edera; 48) Caverna del Muschio; 49) Pećina na Doleh (Grotta presso Samatorza); 50) Grotta del della Tartaruga; 51) Grotta degli Zingari (Ciganska jama); 52) Lonza; 53) Grotta del Mitreo; 54) Grotta dei Ciclami (Orehova pejca); 55) Grotta delle galere; 56) Sammardenchia; 57) Lipari; 58) Rendina; 59) Passo di Corvo.



- Neolitička nalazišta gdje su otkriveni falusi
- Neolithic sites where phalus was found

1) Sammardenchia; 2) Grotta del Pettiroso (Vlaška jama); 3) Ročko polje; 4) Sv. Mihovil; 5) Smilčić; 6) Krivače - Bribir; 7) Škarin - Samograd; 8) Danilo; 9) Obre II; 10) Kolosh II; 11) Blaz III; 12) Topojan; 13) Cakran I; 14) Dunavec I; 15) Podgori I.



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Na području istarskog poluotoka tijekom trajanja srednjoneolitičke danilske kulture (4500. – 3900. g. pr. Kr.) i kasnoneolitičke hvarske kulture (3900. – 2500. g. pr. Kr.) neolitičko stanovništvo (zemljoradnici i stočari) stalno ili sezonski živjelo je u naseljima na otvorenom i u pojedinim pećinama. Srednjoneolitička i kasnoneolitička naselja uglavnom su locirana na obalnom području južne Istre. Neolitski stočari na području sjeveroistočne i jugoistočne Istre sezonski su naseljavali pećinske lokalitete. Po dosad poznatom keramičkom i koštanom materijalu te po stupnju arheološke istraženosti za srednjoneolitičko i kasnoneolitičko razdoblje, može se smatrati da su na istarskom području bili najvažniji lokaliteti – naselja na otvorenom Kargadur, Sv. Mihovil, Limska gradina, Gromače – Brijuni, Pradišelski rt te Pupićina peć i Ljubića pećina. Osnovna obilježja srednjeg i mladeg kamenog doba Istre jesu već razvijena zemljoradnička i stočarska privreda, proizvodnja keramičkog posuđa različite namjene i različitih kulturnih keramičkih predmeta (ritoni, antropomorfni falusi, pintadere i figurine) kao i proizvodnja kamenog oruđa i oružja.

Kultne posude – ritoni (grč. *rhyton*)

Neolitički keramički ritoni predstavljaju zoomorfne i antropomorfne kultne posude na četiri noge s otvorenim okruglim trubušastim recipijentom i ručkom. Naziv *rhyton* dolazi od grč. *rhuton* što se odnosilo na drevnu antičku posudu za čuvanje tekućina namijenjenih za piće.

Registrirani nalazi keramičkih ulomaka ručki i nogu srednjoneolitičkih kulturnih posuda tipa riton na području Istre predstavljaju najvažnije arheološke dokaze koji govore o kultnom vjerovanju srednjoneolitičke istarske populacije (sl. 1 - 7, 10). Na području Istre do sada je registrirano nekoliko ulomaka kulturnih posuda, i to na sljedećim lokacijama: Kargadur - Ližnjan (tri ulomka), Sv. Mihovil (dio ručke), Pupićina peć

(ulomak noge), Limska gradina (ulomak noge), Pradišel (ulomak noge) i Mušego (ulomak noge). Inače, rasprostranjenost ovih neolitičkih posuda možemo pratiti od Grčke odnosno područja Tesalije, Peloponeza, Albanije, Metohije i Pelagonije - Zapadna Makedonija, Crne Gore i BiH, Dalmacije, preko Istre, primorskog dijela Slovenije do sjeveroistočnog, južnog i jugoistočnog dijela Italije (vidi sl. 7, karta br. 1).

Njihov karakteristični recipijent s četiri noge i ručkom u većini slučajeva predstavljen je zoomorfnim oblikom, dok su izuzeci nalazi antropomorfnih ritona iz Smilčića (Dalmacija) i Obra II (BiH). Ovakva ikonografija izrade neolitičkih ritona i njena religijska funkcija dijelom se uočava i kod neolitičke antropomorfne plastike, prvenstveno u pogledu duhovnog razumijevanja kulta plodnosti i kozmologije koji je povezan sa shvaćanjima života i smrti.

Kultne antropomorfne figurine – falusi (grč. *phallos*)

U isto vrijeme na tom se prostoru pojavljuju kultne stilizirane antropomorfne figurine u obliku zvona, tzv. falusi (sl. 8 - 9). Naziv falus (grč. *phallos*) odnosi se na muški spolni organ u erekciji. Simbolično, pojam falusa u mnogim kulturama predstavlja znak plodnosti.

Stilizirane antropomorfne figurine registrirane su i rasprostranjene na prostorima pojedinih albanskih, dalmatinskih i istarskih srednjoneolitičkih lokaliteta (vidi sl. 8, karta br. 2). Najudaljeniji i najsjeverniji nalaz stiliziranih zvonastih antropomorfnih figurina u odnosu na navedena područja nalazi se u sjeveroistočnoj Italiji. U Istri su stilizirani antropomorfni falusi registrirani na neolitičkom lokalitetu Sveti Mihovil i u okolici Roča. Najčešće su zvonolikog oblika i valjkastog gornjeg dijela s različito oblikovanim vrhom. Vrh falusa često je ukrašen bradavičastim izbočenjima. Ove figurine predstavljaju stilizirane muške osobe odnosno muškog božanstva.

Ritoni i falusi kao predmeti simboličke ili kultne namjene usko su povezani s upotrebom različitih boja. Tako crvena boja na području recipijenta ritona kao i na površini falusa predstavlja simbol plodnosti ili mjesto nastanka života - Sunce, dok bijela boja na kulnim predmetima predstavlja - Mjesec, odnosno smrt.



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