

Research degree of Early Christianity in Niš and condition of science in Serbia

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During the last years due to the Symposium Niš and Byzantium, distinguished researchers from all around the world focused their research toward Late antique and Early Christian Niš, with intention to explore the native city of the emperor Constantine the Great. Due to the new discoveries today we have much more knowledge about Early Christian Niš and its citizens. Historical circumstances are defined; names of the bishop, priest and one deacon are discovered, all from 5th century. In this lecture will be presented not enough known octagonal baptistery at Mediana, unknown basilica and it will be systematized church architecture, thumbs and painting from necropola in Jagod Mala, also new interpretation of children lead sarcophagus from 4th century. It will be shown stone products from Nis workshop etc. After all, will be defined life of Early Christian Niš and its citizens.

We will see that Early Christian Niš is researched thanks to detailed analyzes of material, although detailed archaeological excavations were not executed. On the other side, it will be shown devotion of Serbian archaeologists to the Early Christian and Paleobyzantine age in Serbia. Of special importance are analytical texts which represent much more than report.

Small amount of specialists are interested for Early Christian archaeology and that results to the small amount of specialists for this quite important scientific question. Known archaeological sites discovered decades ago still are waiting for their detailed research and especially research of their rich art historical heritage.

It will be focused also phenomenon evidenced in Serbia and that is the voluntary detachment of art historians from the exploring of this period, giving it right in the hands to the archaeologists.

Having in mind such attitude it is rare between art historians research dedicated to the Early Christianity. That is one of the main reasons why numerous archaeological artifacts are still waiting for appropriate art historical analyzes.