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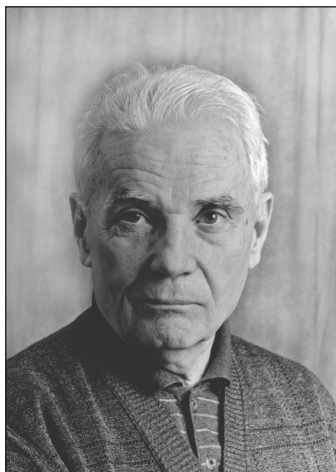
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## IN MEMORIAM



**Borislav Jovanović**  
(1930–2015)

**I**n November 2015 the Serbian archaeological scene has lost one of leading Serbian, Yugoslav and European archaeologists. Borislav Jovanović belonged to the first post-Second World War generations of archaeologists who set large-scale excavation and research projects afoot and brought world recognition to Yugoslav archaeology in the 1960s and 1970s. He collaborated, debated and advanced prehistoric archaeology with other great figures in the discipline, such as Dragoslav Srejski, Draga and Milutin Garašanin, Vladimir Milošević, Alojz Benac, Borivoj Čović, Stojan Dimitrijević, Stane Gabrovec, Šime Batović, who all left a deep trace and laid the groundwork for all further work in the field of southeast European prehistoric archaeology.

Borislav Jovanović was born in Kavadarci, Yugoslavia (Macedonia). He attended school in Skoplje, Kraljevo, and Novi Sad, where he found himself after he had lost his parents in the war. In 1955 he graduated with honours in archaeology from the Faculty of Philosophy of Belgrade University, which earned him a four-year scholarship for postgraduate studies in prehistoric archaeology. In 1964, he completed his PhD with the thesis “The emergence and development of the Eneolithic in Yugoslavia”. He spent his whole working career, from 1959 to 1995, at the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade, which he also led as direc-

tor from 1978 to 1986. He was elected a corresponding member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) in 2003 and a full member in 2009.

Borislav Jovanović did not live long enough to see the publication of the results of all excavation and research projects he had worked on during his fruitful career. He was director or a leading member of many major archaeological projects in the country: field survey and rescue excavation ahead of the construction of the Djerdap I Dam (1962–1970) (he excavated the sites of Padina, Hajdučka Vodenica, Stubica and Mrfaja); the long-term investigation of Vinča culture mining and metallurgy at Rudna Glava near Majdanpek (1968–1985); of mining on Mt Rudnik in prehistory, classical antiquity and the middle ages (1980–1989); the rescue and systematic excavation of the site of Gomolava near Hrtkovci (1965–1985); the excavation of the site of Pećine as part of the rescue excavation in the Kostolac open-pit coal mine area (1981–1982). He also explored many sites in collaboration with colleagues from local museums and heritage protection institutions, such as the Illyrian princely burial mound at Atenica near Čačak; Kormadin at Jakovo near Belgrade; Fafos II at Kosovska Mitrovica; Trnovača at Baranda; the tumulus at Vojlovica; Kuznjica near Majdanpek; Trnjane near Brestovačka Banja. From 2003 he directed archaeological research projects undertaken by the SASA, such as “Neolithic and Eneolithic cultures and copper finds in eastern Serbia” and “Metallurgy in prehistory and antiquity”. He served as an expert consultant on many projects (rescue excavation at the Kolubara coal mine; systematic exploration of the sites of Belovode, Pločnik, Krakul Jordan, Zajačak near Kopaonik etc.); as a long-standing member of the editorial board and the chief editor of the journal *Starinar*; and as one of the editors of the *Srpska enciklopedija* (Serbian Encyclopaedia), a capital project of the SASA, and of the multi-volume *Prehistory of the Banat*, a collaborative endeavour of the Serbian and Romanian Academies. He was chair of the SASA Committee on Vinča, under the scholarly supervision of which the excavation of Belo Brdo had been conducted from 1998. He initiated the founding of the Commission for Archaeometallurgy and Industrial Archaeology Heritage at the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Serbia and, in 1995, the journal *Arheometalurgija*. He was a member of the Berlin-based Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, a lifetime member of the London-based Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS) and, from 1995 to 1999, president of the Serbian Archaeological Society. He participated in many national and international scholarly conferences in Europe, Asia and America.

Borislav Jovanović's prolific scholarly bibliography consists of some two hundred and fifty works, of which seven books he authored alone or as a co-author, several chapters in two volumes of the five-volume *Praistorija jugoslavenskih zemalja* (Prehistory of Yugoslavia) as well as more than fifty reviews. He was an archaeologist of many interests and achieved noted results in the study of all periods of prehistoric archaeology, but the field of his special interest and expertise,

the one that took him to the top of European archaeology was archaeometallurgy, the discipline he pioneered nationally and was one of pioneers in the world. The beginnings of metallurgy and its impact on the development of human societies began to preoccupy him during his doctoral studies, and the parts of his dissertation that deal with the issue were published in 1971 in the monograph *Metalurgija eneolitskog perioda Jugoslavije* (The Metallurgy of Eneolithic Yugoslavia). By the time of its publication he had already been known beyond Yugoslavia for the investigation of the Vinča culture copper mine at Rudna Glava he had been carrying out together with Ilija Janković of the Museum of Mining and Metallurgy at Bor. At the very outset of the excavation Borislav Jovanović advanced a hypothesis which, however, was to be proved by exact analyses only at the beginning of the twenty-first century – that the earliest metallurgy originated in the territory of modern-day Serbia. The following years yielded a series of attractive new discoveries which fully confirmed the autochthonous Vinča origin of copper metallurgy in Europe. Borislav Jovanović presented his results at conferences across the world, the most important of which was certainly the one at Zhengzhou, China, in 1986, to which he was invited as a leading European archaeologist (“Early metallurgy in Yugoslavia”, in R. Maddin, ed., *The Beginning of the Use of Metals and Alloys: Papers from the Second International Conference on the Beginning of the Use of Metals and Alloys, Zhengzhou, China, 21–26 October 1986*, MIT Press, 1988). His works were published in prestigious journals and edited volumes in Great Britain, Germany and the USA. Among the high points of his work on archaeometallurgy were the monograph *Rudna Glava: Najstarije rudarstvo bakra na Centralnom Balkanu* (Rudna Glava: The Earliest Copper Mining in the Central Balkans) which appeared in 1982, and the international conference *Ancient Mining and Metallurgy in South-East Europe* held in Donji Milanovac in 1990, which assembled the world’s greatest authorities in this archaeological discipline.

Borislav Jovanović made a significant contribution in other areas of prehistoric archaeology as well. He explored Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic sites in the Djerdap area, Padina and Hajdučka Vodenica, presenting the results in many articles and at international conferences. One of his last studies was published in Slovenia (“Micro-regions of the Lepenski Vir culture: Padina in the Upper Gorge and Hajdučka Vodenica in the Lower Gorge of the Danube”, *Documenta Praehistorica* 35 [2008]).

His interest in the Vinča culture goes back to the very beginning of his career, and it is largely owing to him that it is now widely accepted to have been one of the most advanced prehistoric cultures in Europe, the one within which the oldest copper metallurgy in the world originated. Also important are his works devoted to the stratigraphy of the Vinča culture viewed from the perspective of its technological development (“Gradac Phase of the Vinča Culture:

Origin of a Typological Innovation”, in *Homage to Milutin Garašanin*, Belgrade: SASA, 2006).

Among the high points of his years-long study of the Eneolithic were the chapters in the third volume of *The Prehistory of Yugoslavia* (1979): “Mining and Metallurgy of Eneolithic Yugoslavia” and “Steppe Cultures in Eneolithic Yugoslavia”. His last major work concerned with the Eneolithic is a monograph on the Eneolithic horizon at Gomolava, the site he explored as one of leading excavators (J. Petrović & B. Jovanović, *Gomolava: naselja kasnog eneolita* [Gomolava: Late Eneolithic Settlements], 2002).

Borislav Jovanović pursued his enquiries into the Bronze and Iron Ages with equal scrupulousness and success. He excavated the Middle Bronze Age necropolis at Trnjane near Brestovačka Banja (“Nekropola paraćinske grupe u Trnjanima kod Brestovačke Banje”, *Zbornik radova Muzeja rudarstva i metalurgije* 5–6 [1991]). The results of the excavation of the burial mound at Atenica near Čačak with its complex architecture and opulent grave goods, which led some authors to designate it as a “princely” grave, were published in 1996 (M. Djuknić & B. Jovanović, *Ilirska kneževska nekropola u Atenici*).

Celtology was another field of study that earned him world recognition. He entered the circle of experts in the Late Iron Age through the excavation of the La Tène horizon at Gomolava and, later on, of the necropolis of the Scordisci at Pećine near Kostolac. His results were published in leading specialised journals and edited volumes (“Le nécropole d’un grand camp militaire à Pećine en Serbie. L’expansion des Celtes de la Gaule vers l’Orient”, *Dossiers Histoire et Archéologie* 77 [1983]), and in the last, fifth volume of *The Prehistory of Yugoslavia* devoted to the Iron Age (“Istočna grupa” [Eastern Group] and “Zaključna razmatranja o keltskoj kulturi” [Concluding Considerations on Celtic Culture]). In 1988 he published a co-authored monograph (with M. Jovanović) on the La Tène horizon at Gomolava (*Gomolava: Naselje mladjeg gvozdenog doba/Gomolava: Late La Tène Settlement*). And it was to wrapping up the results of his research into the Late Iron Age in the Central Balkans that he dedicated the last years of his life, but death found him in the middle of preparing a monograph on the necropolis at Pećine for publication. Yet, he presented the results of his years of study of the Celts in his inaugural address as elected full member of the SASA in May 2010 (“Походи Источних Келта на Грчку и хеленистичка краљевства Мале Азије”, *Glas SANU* 414 [Campaigns of Eastern Celts against Greece and Hellenistic kingdoms of Asia Minor]).

The departure of Borislav Jovanović from this world means the loss of one of the greatest archaeologists in this region whose work etched a distinctive and influential mark on twentieth-century archaeology. The fact that this mark is visible in the study of all periods of prehistory in the former Yugoslavia speaks of Borislav Jovanović as one of the most versatile and productive archaeologists in the Balkans and certainly one of those to whom we owe most for expanding

our knowledge of the prehistory of southeast Europe. He left behind not only his many publications and his rich excavation records kept at the Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade and the SASA but also successors who will round off his prolific life's work by preparing for publication that which death prevented him from completing himself. The Institute for Balkan Studies will not remember him only for the contribution to its work and policy he made as a long-standing chair of its scientific council but also as a man of kindness, integrity and generous spirit.

*Dragana Antonović*

