

Late Medieval Locality "Crkvine" in the Village of Vesela near Bugojno in the Western Part of Central Bosnia

Summary

There has been general consensus amongst scholars that Franciscans owned a church and a monastery in Vesela Straza near Bugojno (western part of central Bosnia), which were demolished during the Ottoman assaults on the core of the Bosnian kingdom in the first half of the 15th century. The objects were mentioned in one falsified charter dating from 15th/16th century, as well as by three Franciscan chroniclers in the 17th/18th century and by a Franciscan travel writer from the 19th century. These structures have been attributed to the Crkvine location, in the vicinity of the medieval fortress Vesela Straza. Excavations performed on the site from 10th to 20th December 2014, from 8th to 14th June 2015 and from 9th to 25th September 2015 have not brought to light any evidence which could undoubtedly prove these claims. The absence of tiles and bricks, as well as traces of burnings, witness that the object on the Crkvina location has been covered with shakes (type of wooden shingle) and that it has been destroyed by fire. Its dimensions, wall structure, door-posts, lintels and frescos speak in favour of the claims that it was a structure which belonged to the highest ranks of the Bosnian-Hum political elite. It is not excluded that the location has been named "Crkvine" because Catholic religious services have been performed at the remains of the former church.

Keywords: Crkvine; Vesela Straza; Bugojno; late Middle Ages.