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TREPÇA's MINE IN STANTERG SINCE THE ANCIENT PERIOD TILL THE 20th CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

The mine of Trepca in Stanterg has had a big economic importance since the earlier period to now.

Even if there is not any written source about the development in this times, some signs prove the beginning of the mine activities since the ilyrian period. The archeologic documents prove the cink and leaden in TREPCA, are used for more than 2000 years. The documents of middle ages prove that the namr of "Trepca" for the first is mentioned in the Dubrovnik's archive in 1303.

In this study we're going to treat the destruction of Trepca, during the Ottoman leading since 1445 till the 20th century. The historical importance of Trepca's mine in Stanterg is a big and valuable as it is impossible to describe it in a few words. However, I have tried to show it in a science manner and as a historical, economic and social issue during the 20th century.

Keywords: TREPÇA's MINE IN STANTERG, THE ANCIENT PERIOD, THE 20th CENTURY

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Overview

Trepça's town lies on the tops of a steep shore in quota 851 above the left bank of the Gjitës River (Smrekonicë), south of the Trepça mine, west of Rashan village, and about 5 km east of Mitrovica. There lived the Dardanian, native Illyrian population. The small town has been erected as a patron of ore and mining settlements, where today are ruins, which testify to this (Osman, 2004, 110). Metal trade dates back to the time of the Illyrians (Đorđević, 197, 33). In troubled times, settlements near the oak protected two fortifications, that of "Zvecan" and "Trepça town" named "Gjytet". Among other things, scholars Oliver Davies also provide information on the activity of the Romans in the exercise of mining in these areas. It counts Trepça among the most important excavation sites of the ore in the Roman period.

In the historical documents "Trepça" is presented as a large settlement with developed trade. In the village called Tunnel, located near Trepça, "old" primitive furnaces, slags, slags of melting and refining of lead were discovered, indicating the early mineral activities in Trepça. In Dardania, extraction, exploitation and mining has been a major development at the time of the Illyrians' cultural flourishing, although there is a lot of ambiguity as the paperwork is lacking. Ever since the nineteenth century. IV para e. "(ASHAK, 2002, 10-11) for these developments indicate the silver coins found by the archaeological works of the Damastion Mining City, which had the hammer, symbolic of miners. The working conditions in the mine have been very difficult because the work has been done in heavy, unheated environments, with poor lighting and working 12-14 hours a day.

The renowned scholar Oliver Davis in his book "The Roman Mines in Europe", a prominent place for "Trepça", but other mines such as Argjenda, Janjeva, Zletova, Breskova etc. are mentioned. In social and economic life in

Roman times, mining played a very important role. (Cerskov, 1969, 132)

However, after the disintegration of the Roman Empire and the invasion of the Barbarian tribes - Slaves, which occupied the area of Kosovo and other parts of the Illyrian Peninsula (Balkans), there was a marked decline in mineral activity (Dushi, 2002, 12)

Other evidence is the archaeological data showing that lead and zinc ore have been used since 2000 years by the Illyrians (Dardans). The results of archaeological research indicate that this side has been inhabited even before the arrival of the Romans in this region. This also shows that the native Illyrian population had good knowledge of mining and processing.

Although there are no written sources on the development of mining in earlier periods, some traces show and testify about the beginnings of the mining activity since Illyrian times (Gjorgjevic, 1971, 71)

The geographic position of this territory has been of great historical importance for its past, while the intensity of transitory operation depended on political and economic conditions (Mitrovica, 1979, 13). Illyrians - Dardanians long before the Romans arrived in the Balkans, especially in the north have exploited the mineral resources of these areas. The traces are found in the holes on the east of Trepça, all of which testify to the use of mines since ancient times by the Illyro – Dardanian population (Hajrizi, 2000, 30)

Many other sources say that the Romans in our neighborhood encountered a miner "that was nevertheless negligible". For these data, Dr. Simiq refers to the various sources of Roman writers and chroniclers, such as Livi, Caesar, Straboni, etc. They in their writings indicate the barbarian attacks in the fourth century BC before the new time and the passage through our ovals of congested peoples who caused serious consequences on the ores of this side.

Some of the toponyms preserved to this day attest to a presence of the Roman Empire in

this environment. Thus, in the valley in the basilica of Bazhiq, is now called "Lugulatin" (Latin stone), while in other countries bear the name " Latin Tombs" etc.

The tradition of exploiting useful minerals in the area of Kosovo began in the time of ancient Dardania, and perhaps even earlier. (Dushi 1999, 83) The ancient roman city near Sočanës (Sočanica) is the 27th kilometer from Mitrovica, in the direction of Raska, for the Roman mining exercise in Trepça. The well-known researcher A. Evans in 1885 notes that Municipium DD as a municipium was unknown, where it says that this site stretched nearly 7 kilometers from the city.

On the left side of the Sochanica River, large amounts of color, traces of ore processing, have been found. According to O. Davies, in the vicinity of the municipality near Sočanica, there are traces and foundations of melting furnaces and channels for bringing water. (Rilindja, Bogdanovic, 1979, 10)

In some localities of Kreshtbardh (Kopaonik) there are also found mines for which the researcher Vasilie Simiqi considers that they are of the Roman period.

In favor of the assertion of the mining exercise during the Romans in Kopaonik, this assertion is worth mentioning, among other things, that the Golić city, which was plagued by Greeks in 1149, was also found in the Soča River spill in Ibër. (Osmani, 2003 , 110)

In the case of the Iber River floods, 50 gravestone Roman sarcophagus were found on the surface, where heavy lead pieces of up to 50 kg were found, then lead pipes and lead and stone memorials.

It is of particular importance to note that the municipality near Sočanica was also the seat of the Roman Procuratores Metallorum. This can be ascertained by the inscriptions that were found in the archaeological research of this Roman locality.

In Trepça was excavated even before the arrival of the Romans and that the Roman

Municipium did not appear by chance, precisely here, and the time of its creation should be sought roughly from the second century to the beginning of the IV century of the new era.

In the Ibar valley were the main roads in the period of Roman rule in these territories, so in many villages of Shala e Bajgorës, such as Gumnishtë, Mazhiq, Rraka, Rashan, Ceraja, Soqanica etc., testify to intensive mining exercise in Trepça and in the surroundings

According to the researcher Oliver Davies (Rilindja, Ivanovic, 1979, 10) it was concluded that the surface mines of the Roman miners, or the main galleries in Trepça were 1, 5 m high. This suggests that the pull of the jar could have been done by hand and that the jade was pulled out with the help of winches. Such a winch was found in Trepça.

Regarding the airing, the Romans reached this by connecting the two horizons to a horizon, igniting fires and thereby causing the air to breathe. Archaeological evidence suggests that zinc ore and iron ore have been used since 2000 years ago by the Illyrians (Dardans). Extensive sites, other than Stanterg (Trepça), also existed in Mazziq, Zijaça, Cerajë, Kërëzë etj. (Ibid, 10) Sometimes in Kosovo, from the time of the Romans there was the headquarters of the Roman Miner (Procurtor Metallorum), who on behalf of the state issued a special permit for the exploration and exploitation of the mineral wealth. After the establishment of the Roman Empire and the Movement of Peoples in 375 p. e. r., in the vast area of Trepça, the mines were very lively and active, although for this time there was not enough records (Ibid, 10). The most important settlement in the Roman period was Siçana (Municipium D. D. Three kinds of Trajan's money were printed between the years 98 and 138. Two of them had this content:- Metalum.

Mineral activities of Trepca Mines in the Middle Ages

Different lines of c. XIV-XVII have called the Montagno Dell Silver Monos Argenteus, Monte

Argententan, Monte Argententare, which translates into "silvery Mountain" in Albanian. Turks called him Kopaonik "Gumus Dag" which has the same meaning. (Rilindja, Bogdanovic 1979, 10) For the period of mining exercise in Trepca and in the vicinity to the beginning of the century. XIV sources are very poor. The most reliable sources for this period of Trepca are given to Oliver Davies, a research fellow of the Archeology branch at the Royal University of Belfast - Ireland. In his study "Roman Mines in Europe" ("On the Exercise of Mines from the Romans in Europe"), which came to Oxford in 1935 (Ibid, 11) among others, says that the greatest development Trepca has achieved in the twentieth century. XIV - XV.

Bulgarian philosopher Konstantin, who wrote the biography of King Stevan Lazarevic, said that Silver is the city of silver and that Ragusa paid its crown 200 thousand ducats per year from the use of minerals. (Dushi, 2002, 12). The Turkish ambassador, Evlia Çelebiu, for the Silver Mining says that it is essentially a source of gold, citing many historians, geographers, French historians, Italians, Greeks and Turks, who in their writings have affirmed this for our oaks.

Kosovo's mines were the ones that provided most of Nemanjin's wealth. The business historian, Prokop, who died in 526, wrote about the Slavic attacks on the Danube during the time of the Justinian Emperor. "The Scavians who had come to the Empire lands plundered the Roman state in full freedom." (Ivanovic, 1979, 11) For Trepça Mining in Stanterg it is said that there was an important trade with a great economic role of ore and noble metals that were extracted from it. In Stanterg there was also the seat of the consul of Dubrovnik, working to regulate the relations of this town with the medieval Serbian rulers associated with the products of Trepça and to protect the interests of the citizens of Dubrovnik from which there were many in these areas.

Archaeological data says that Trepça had money (money). A copper coil was found near

the old Catholic church at Stanterg and dates back to 1300.

Trepca's reputation and its minerals, especially lead, had reached far. With the rolls (plumbs of lead is covered also the church of "Arkangjel Mihajl" in Prizeren. At the time of Emperor Dusan as inhabitants of Trepca, Germans, Slavs and Latins are mentioned. Stanford also had the Orthodox bishop (Ibid, 11). According to Oliver Davies, Trepça has not been a fortified city such as Novoberda, for example, but there is a possibility that the ore be controlled by the castle of Zvecan. He, in the reports he had worked out in the field during the 1920-1934 field, dealing with these inquiries, had sought the help and cooperation of known English mining experts. Archaeological research shows, unequivocally, that this environment has been inhabited even before the arrival of the Romans in this region. This convinces me that the autochthonous Illyrian population had good knowledge of mining and processing.

Even Dr. Vasilie Simiqi in his book "Istoria našeg rudarstva" also says that the mines were practiced on this side even before the arrival of the Romans. (Ibid, 11) In the written history Trepça's name is mentioned for the first time in the documents of the Dubrovnik Archives in 1303 There is also mentioned a Catholic parish. In medieval documents, this mineral resource is known as Trepça, Trepçe, Trepte, Tripçe, Trebca, Triupza, Trepza, Hajrizi, 2000, 29). At this time (XII, XIII, XIV) Trepça lived colonists Sasa, Ragusa and Kotoras, and thus became an important trading center. According to the reports of the time, there were several neighborhoods in Trepça where a diverse population lived. According to a document in the Dubrovnik Archives, Trepça's name has been mentioned since 1313. Trepça, based on this source, was a country with developed mining industry. In the crypt of St. Stephen of King Milutin, in 1313-1316 the place of dwellings in Trepça is mentioned (Dauti, 2002, 9). who have had their colony and church, whose walls still exist to this day. Probably the

naming of this settlement may also be related to the German word "Trepfen" which means "scale". (Ivanovic, 1979, 11) In the mid-century. XV in Trepça have lived, besides sas, even dubrovnikas, splitas, kotoras. Apart from the resources written for Trepça, the exploitation of the ore in this environment also proves some of the tools preserved from ancient times, such as old money, staircase from the Roman period and that of Sasses, steel drumsticks and other things found 200 meters below ground, finds British researcher Harold Tritkomb (1936). (Author Group, 1974, 14)

Trepca mine in Stantërg during the Ottoman Empire period

After the fall of Trepça under Ottoman rule, a new period begins for this environment. At the time of the Ottoman Empire, the Turks had erected a settlement called "Trepza turchia". This, according to a Ragusian document, had taken place after 1409, when "Trepca" finally falls under Ottoman rule (1455). It is known that in Zveçan was the seat of Turkish Qafolia since 1399. Since 1436 there was a Turkish quarter in Trepça, while in 1488 it had its own law. In the law it is mentioned as a mining settlement and settlement "peak", "oklaq" and "zijaç." From 1389-1455, nearly half a century, Trepça has had (Ibid, 10) During the period of the rule of Sultan Mehmeti II Conqueror (1451-1481), the mining in Trepça had experienced a development of the Ottoman Empire and the Ottoman Empire until the year 1455, when it eventually falls under Ottoman rule sensitive, which culminated in the time of the rule of Sultan Bayeziti II (1481-1512). In his time Trepça had its own law.

However, this development and flowering did not last long. At the end of the century. XVI and by the end of the century. XVII, mining constantly decreases drastically. The decline and finally the extinction of mining activity in this environment have been influenced by several factors. At this time there was general movement of peoples where mines settlements have been demolished and burned, different

epidemics emerged, lack of workforce, lack of tools and adequate technique for exploitation of the ore, centralization of Ottoman power.

The main destiny that has followed Trepca's history is the war of the most powerful states of the time to put this mine under its rule. Starting from the Roman, Byzantine, and some temporary regimes, directly benefited from the Trepça mine.

Trepca's special interest was also the Ottoman Empire. (Drancolli, 2001, 49) During the year 1410-1421, according to the documents of Ragusa, Trepça customs office is attended. At the same time, it is also mentioned that the coins were cut off as well as the Catholic church, that of St. Mary and Saint Peter. At the beginning of the 15th century, Trepca was the largest colony in Kosovo (Authorized Group 1971, 7).

Even the Serbian rulers of the Middle Ages, giving themselves the undeniable right to Trepca's mines, they had great interest in cutting metals when silver was processed. For this they brought the assholes for mining and processing of metals. Mineral works in that time included considerable surface area, which can be seen from the numerous wastes of galleries littered in the Mazhiq, Melenicë, Rrzganë, Gumnishtë and Maxuk villages, where galenite is exploited in rich silver content. In the Krisovula, (decision) of King Uroš of 1363, Trepca falls under the rule of Vuk Branković, who in 1414 received his currency.

The Trepça blossom as the ore and the colony of the city contributed to the development of minerals and trade. In 1455, after the collapse of Trepça under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, the census was made. This is how the region of Shala in Bajgora is mentioned as a rich mineral resource, especially lead, and some villages such as Skroma, Zhitia, Kovaçica, Bojevci, Zabërgja, Kçiqi, Vidishiqi and so on. In 1455, the export of lead in Dubrovnik forbade Sultan Mehmet the second, which affected the decline of trade, while the decline of mining has greatly affected the

systematic utilization of old galleries by the Ottomans. In the vicinity of Trepça, in the southern part, today is preserved the ruins of the castle called Gjyll. It is likely that this fortress and fortress near Zvecan was a military base for the protection of Trepça in the 20th century. XIV-XVI. (Drancolli, 2001, 49). According to the bookkeeping debts for the year 1488-89, Trepça had 991 families in which male households were males and 83 families, where housewives were widows. (Osmani 2004, 11) According to a note of 1613, Trepça was a well-known "not weather" ruins of the ruins, called Stanterg, in the area where rarely Albanian Muhamedians lived and lived (Ibid, 111-112) For Trepça, Marin Bici in his report in 1610, claimed that it was a city with 500 fires, with 40 or fewer more Latin houses. According to the evidence, Trepça in 1642 had fallen far in every respect. The same opinion is expressed by Gjergj Bardhi, the village (in front of the town), Trepça was in very good condition due to its minerals, especially silver, but it has now fallen into great poverty. Named "Istan Tërg" is registered in the Vilayet Sallnam of Kosovo, in 1893 (1311h). (Rilindja, Ivanovic, 1979, 13)

For a time, Trepça had fallen, but after a break for more than two centuries, Trepça was again revived.

In the period of Ottoman rule, the greatest development moment Trepça had during the reign of Sultan Pajazid II (1481-1512). (Đorđević, 1974, 16)

For the period of Ottoman rule in Trepça, the most significant and important notes are found in the studies of Professor Skender Rizaj, who has researched through various archives, especially those of Turkey. According to the sources, he states that after the fall of Trepça and after 1410, in Trepça, Serbian and Turkish civilians prevented the Dubrovnik people from exporting silver from Trepça. In 1490, Trepça was mentioned as vilayet, where according to Turkish sources, the Ottoman Empire was initially interested in minerals, using them. Thus, with the purpose of further intensification

and further refinement of mining, Sultan Mehmeti II issued the law on the exercise of mining. By the law of 1536, Trepça is mentioned as vilayet, and as a cadillac it was noted at the end of the century. XVII. Before the full occupation of Trepça, in 1436 we find a Turkish mahala as well as the money cutting works. With the arrival of the Turks, the Dubrovnik people lost the opportunity to export lead and silver from Trepça. (Ibid, 13)

Trepça gave it to the sultan, in the year 1527-28 as a hawk, 1024 acres, while only the rent and lease income of the ore amounted to 82,570 acres. (Ibid, 13)

Trepça was divided into Upper Trepça and Trepça e Poshtme. In 1544 there were 76 Muslim families and 277 others, indicating a significant reduction in the number of families in Trepça. Even Costa N. Kostic in the book "Our new city in the south", besides describing Vucitrn, since the Middle Ages belonged to Vuk Branković, provided data for Trepça, where he writes that in the nineteenth century. XV Trepça was a "developed (large) mining city". Austria's war against Turkey in the years 1683-1699 had serious consequences for the mining exercise in Trepça. The efforts of Bajram Agaj and Izhemi Mehemet in 1970 to renew the work in Trepça were unsuccessful. (Ibid, 14) The processes of livelihood development in the historical past have been an integral part of the Illyrian-Albanian territories. In the historical past in the Balkans, the Illyrians lived. As a result of the large invasions and influences of different peoples, they influenced the change of the population structure of these areas (Osmani, 2003, 11) The various invaders, especially those of Serbs, changed their native homométics. Those toponyms and microtopons translated and adapted their language.

The network of settlements in Kosovo, especially its north, consists not only of administrative, communal but industrial ones as well. In these areas, settlements are hilly - mountainous, part of the plains, especially those that lie at the foot of the hills, river valleys

are of the scattered or accumulated type. Many settlements in northern areas due to the territory's configuration, especially the mountainous areas, are quite small and some even have fewer homes and residents. In recent years, due to the consequences of the recent war, some settlements remained almost empty. (Osmani, 2003, 12) The northern part of Kosovo has an important position especially for transit traffic. Railways linking the southern part with the northern Balkans were also crossed in this direction. The strategic position, especially the geographical one between the two rivers, has caused this territory to be populated, as early as the prehistoric one. Albaniku (Monte Argentarum) was rich in silver and lead, and especially Trepca as an important mining town. (Ibid, 19)

The most famous settlement in the vicinity of Trepça is Mitrovica. At the end of the 19th century, Mitrovica was part of the Vilayet of Kosovo and belonged to the inner area of Upper Albania. At this time the number of residents of the city tripled. After the construction of the Thessaloniki-Skopje (1873) and Skopje-Mitrovica (1874) railways, the city at the edge of Ibar became an important trade-craft center that linked relations with many provinces of the country and beyond. With the upgrading of the railway, interest for the activation of the Trepça mine started. Trade grew and took a new direction, that of Mitrovica-Prishtina-Ferizaj-Skopje and ended in Thessaloniki. The balance of trade profits ranged from the city of Mitrovica, which also gained importance because it was the main exit gate from Sandzak of Novi Pazar to the south, toward northern Albania, towards the Drin River, Kosovo Field and the Vardar River valley. (Hajrizi, 2011, 29) So, from all that we have said above, we can conclude that, based on the discovered traces of old primitive fires, pieces of smelting and refining bricks indicate the early mining activities in Trepça.

Even in the Middle Ages since 1303 when Trepça was mentioned in the Dubrovnik

documents until the fall of Trepça under Ottoman rule (1445), according to the account debut on the squatters, 1488-89 in Trepca lived 991 families. The name "Instanerg" was registered in the village of Vilayet of Kosovo in 1893. By the end of the 19th century Mitrovica and Trepça were part of the Vilajet of Kosovo, where, with the construction of the Thessaloniki-Skopje and Skopje-Mitrovica railways 1874, interest for the activation of the Trepça mine started.

Conclusion

This study deals with the geographic position of the Trepca's Mines in Stanterg, the local population, and the activity of the Romans in the practice of mining in these areas by analyzing the mining activities in the earlier periods, the means used for extraction of the ore and so on.

Describing the developments in Trepca from the IV century BC, silver coins cut, difficult working conditions in the mines, heavy spaces with poor lighting and long working hours from 12 to 14 hours in day. While in the Middle Ages, the significance of the mining developments, both from the Serbian and Ottoman powers, has been mentioned, as far as the 20th century. Based on historical history-graphical sources I have noticed the Trepca's importance was in its historical past, emphasizing archaeological data. All this shows that Trepca was not only a problem of economic interest, but also of the political and strategic delicate ones..

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