

Team D Report

Field Season:

18 May – 07 June, 2011

Filed by:

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Team Members and Roles:

Name	#	Affiliation	Status/Occupation	Team Role
Kailey Rocker	14	Millsaps College <i>As of 2017: UNC Chapel Hill</i>	Undergraduate, SOAN <i>Anth. PhD Candidate</i>	Team leader
Lorenc Bejko	4	University of Tirana	Department Chair, Archaeologist	Project Co-Director, Field walker
Zamir Tafilica	1	Shkodra Historical Museum <i>As of 2017: Retired</i>	Director, Archaeologist, Ethnographer	Field walker, Ethnographer
Stela Graci	23	University of Tirana	MA student, Cultural Heritage	Field walker
Arjol Porja	24	University of Tirana	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Frances Tubb	25	Millsaps College <i>As of 2017: Texas Tech Law</i>	Undergraduate, SOAN <i>JD, 2017 Graduate</i>	Field walker
Sarah Lima	26	University of Cincinnati <i>As of 2017: Cincinnati Museum Center</i>	PhD Candidate, Archaeology, Fulbright Student <i>Senior Director of Project Management</i>	Visiting field walker

Methodological Notes:

All tracts were surveyed using standard Mediterranean survey methods. For each tract, surveyors walked at 15-meter intervals and counted all tile/brick, ceramics, and small finds. The last category – small finds – included, but was not limited to, lithics, iron tools, mill stones, beads, and glass. Field walkers were instructed to collect all small finds as well as a sample of the different ceramic fabrics counted that were larger than a thumb nail. Additionally, any diagnostic sherds, or those with notable markings, indentations, glaze, color, or shape, were also collected.

All land, including fields, hills, and terraces in the survey zone described below, was surveyed unless the landowner objected or the vegetation was so dense as to render survey impractical.

Team Objectives:

The team had 2 main objectives:

- To identify potential sites from all periods for site collection and/or test pits within the survey zone
 - o To count material from all periods – Bronze Age, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern, etc. – within the survey zone
 - o To collect small finds, diagnostic sherds, and a sample of the different ceramic fabrics from all periods within the survey zone
- To survey the Medieval-Modern site of Drisht (**S-017**)

Survey Zone:

Team D surveyed the Medieval-Modern site of Drisht (**S-017**) located on the hilltop of Drisht, including the Acropolis, the remaining fortification walls, and modern structures located within those walls (e.g. occupied and unoccupied houses, barns, etc.). They surveyed the ridge of the neighboring hilltop of Muzhile, located just South of the Drisht hilltop, and thought to have been the location of a Medieval marketplace (**Tracts D-018 – D-023**). The team surveyed the fields along the Kir River valley, at the base of the Drisht hilltop and continuing west, northwest along the Kir River towards Team B's survey zone. Finally, the team surveyed Vorfë village, or Vorfë e Poshtëm, located in the former Gruemirë municipality (today, Malësi e Madhe). (*See the 2017 Map of Dragoç with all survey zones*)

The area surveyed by Team D included hilly terrain as well as man-made terraces. Hill tracts were moderately to lightly covered with macchia (maquis – French), a shrub typical to the Mediterranean region¹. Terraced areas, especially those along the Kir River, were flat, long, and typically narrow. Most of the terraced fields were planted with cash crops, including but not limited to tobacco, onions, maize, wheat, potatoes, tomatoes, and beans. Some had been left to fallow and contained vegetation such as alfalfa and fodder for livestock. Taking both the terrain and vegetation into account, the team's average tract visibility was **52%**.

Tracts, Sites, and Mounds:

Team D surveyed a total of **225** tracts, covering a total of **0.75** square kilometers. The size of each tract varied depending on the natural characteristics and features of the landscape. Their average tract size was 0.401 hectares, with their largest tract recorded at 1.72 hectares and the smallest at 0.01.

Team D surveyed and collected the known Medieval-Modern site of Drisht (**S-017**), finding a high density of Medieval, Late Medieval, and Post-Medieval to Modern ceramics due to its close proximity to functioning homesteads. **S-017** was tract collected with a total of 17 tracts (**Tracts D-001 to D-017**). Team D also surveyed the neighboring hilltop of Muzhilë (**Tracts D-018 to D-023**), finding a high density of Late Medieval ceramics.

¹ Macchia are noted in the CU databases as “**Bushes**” or “**Macquis**.”

Team D also had **2** small test pits on the hilltop of Muzhilë in tracts **D-018** and **D-020**. The first revealed **4** bone fragments and the latter, **1** grinding stone fragment.

Team D identified a Middle and Upper Palaeolithic site, **S005-Rasek**, in **Tracts D-145, 146, and 147**, located along the Kir River bank in Rasek village. The team found a high density of lithics, some of which were associated with the Upper Paleolithic period.²

No tumuli were located in this survey zone.

Summary of Findings:³

Regarding museum counts, Team D collected a total of **36** fine-textured; **95** coarse-textured; **190** medium-textured ceramics, of which **43** were tile. Team D also collected **132** lithics, falling under the categories of “lithic” and “tool;” and **43** other small finds, falling under the categories of “metal,” “waste,” “bone,” “ceramic,” and “stone.”

Ceramics:

Team D collected **321** ceramics from the Late Bronze Age, Archaic, Classical, Late Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Medieval Byzantine, Late Medieval, Post Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern periods. **54**, or **16.8%** of the Team’s ceramics, were not identified and marked as “Unkn.” **0.6%** were associated with the Late Bronze Age period; **2.2%** with the Archaic to Hellenistic periods; **2.5%** with the Roman period; **65.4%** with the Medieval to Late Medieval periods; and **12.5%** with the Post Medieval to Modern periods.

The team’s Medieval (**82** ceramics) and Late Medieval (**128** ceramics) finds were largely concentrated at **S-017**, Drisht, and the neighboring hilltop of Muzhilë. **45.1%** of the Team’s Medieval ceramics (or **37** ceramics) were found on Drisht hilltop, while **92.2%** of the Team’s Late Medieval ceramics (**118** ceramics) were located on Drisht and Muzhilë hilltops. The high density of Late Medieval ceramics on Drisht and Muzhilë hilltops as well as the high density of Medieval ceramics at Drisht confirm these locations’ usage during the Medieval to Late Medieval periods.

The team’s Post-Medieval (**20** ceramics), Early Modern (**9** ceramics), and Modern (**11** ceramics) finds were scattered throughout the survey zone. Roughly **1/3** of this material (**7** Post-Medieval,

² The site was revisited in the 2012 field season.

³ The number of collected material (such as ceramics or small finds) listed in this report corresponds with the number of entries in the ceramic and small finds databases. While entries are typically associated with **1** artifact, some entries are associated with 2 or more artifacts. For example, small ceramic pieces associated with the same period and/or located in the same tract might be labeled in the pottery database under **1** entry.

Additionally, all periods listed in the report represent the “start period” and do not reflect the “end period.”

3 Early Modern, and **2** Modern ceramics) was located at **S-017**, Drisht, most likely due to the site's continued occupation until present.

The Late Bronze Age (**2** ceramics), Archaic (**1** ceramic), Classical (**3** ceramics), Late Classical (**1** ceramic), Hellenistic (**2** ceramics), Roman (**8** ceramics) periods were poorly represented in the ceramic finds. Notably, both Late Bronze Age ceramics were located at **S-017** (Drisht) in **tract D-002**. Additionally, **1** ceramic from the Late Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods was recovered from Muzhilë hilltop in Tracts **D-020** and **D-021**.

Small Finds:

Team D collected a total of **175** small finds from the Middle Paleolithic to Modern periods. **66.9%** of the material (**n=117**) was not identified with a period and left unlabeled or marked as "UNK." **10.9%** was associated with the Lower to Upper Paleolithic periods (including Epigravettian) (**n=19**); **1.7%** with the Mesolithic period (**n=3**); **3.4%** with the Iron Age (**n=6**); **0.6%** with the Roman period (**n=1**); and **16.6%** with the Post Medieval and Modern periods (**n=29**).

The different types of lithics identified – flakes, cores, blades, etc. – were categorized as "lithic" and "tools" in the small finds database (**n=132**). Of those small finds, **11.4%** were typed as "natural" (**n=15**) and another **11.4%** were typed as "unidentifiable" (**n=15**). The dated material was associated with the Middle Paleolithic (**6** lithics) and Upper Paleolithic (**13** lithics) periods, the latter of which included **2** lithics identified as Epigravettian. The team also collected **3** lithics from the Mesolithic period and **1** modern-era gun flint – most likely from Southwestern Albania, ca. 18th-19th century based on both color and historical accounts.⁴

Most of Team D's lithic finds were located along the Kir River with a high density along the bank northwest of Drisht in the small village of Rasek. The team identified a site in tracts **D-145** through **D-147** (**Site 005-Rasek** – site collected in 2012) with a strong Upper Paleolithic component based on artifacts collected during the survey.

Regarding all other categories of small finds that were dated, Team D found **6** pieces of iron slag, all of which were characterized as "metal" or "waste," located at Drisht **S-017**, and associated with the Iron Age. The only small find dated to the Roman period was **1** grinding stone discovered in tract **D-020**, **test pit 002** on Muzhile. **15** "metal" objects were associated with the Post Medieval period and included small finds such as nails, horseshoes, knives, etc. The remaining objects from the Modern period included **1** "stone" whetstone and **12** "metal" objects, such as nails, bolts, etc.

Finally, of note, **5** bone fragments were found – **4** from tract **D-018**, **test pit 002** on Muzhilë Hilltop and **1** from tract **D-015** in Drisht **S-017**.

⁴ See small finds database for more information.

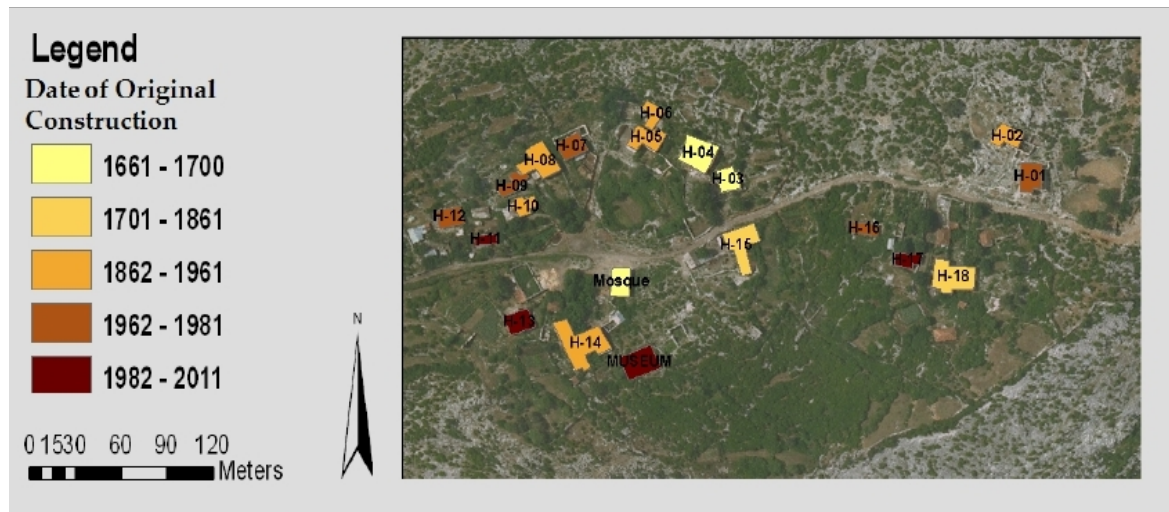
Drisht House Survey:

Finally, as a part of the team's second objective, Rocker and Graci completed a thorough survey of the standing house structures located within **S-017** or the Drisht hilltop, excluding the mosque and the recently constructed museum (**See Figure 1**). They surveyed 18 houses, of which **11** were inhabited by families (**H-05, H-06, H-07, H-09, H-10, H-11, H-12, H-13, H-14, H-15, H-18**). **3** were being used as a barn and/or for storage and production purposes (**H-04, H-08, H-16**). **3** others had been abandoned within the past 40 years and functioned as occasional barns for livestock such as sheep, goats, and donkeys (**H-01, H-02, H-17**). Finally, the roof of the house labeled **H-03** had collapsed, rendering it unusable.

Many of the houses – including those inhabited by families as well as those left abandoned – had newer additions, added within the last 50 years. The oldest houses, reported by villagers to be between 55 and 355 years old⁵, were located closest to the center, while newer ones, constructed within the last 55 years extend out towards the east and west entrances of the neighborhood. Older houses and/or additions were, in all cases, in a much poorer state of conservation, or condition, and typically used for storage. In some instances, families continued to inhabit these older structures, encountering issues such as water-damaged ceilings and walls.

For more information regarding the layout and livelihood of the Roman-Modern Site of Drisht (**S-017**), please see Rocker (2012).

Figure 1: Contemporary Layout of Drisht + Suggested Dates of House Construction



*This data was collected in the summer of 2011 and reflects the contemporary layout and standing structures/houses of the inhabited Roman-Modern site of Drisht (**S-017**). The color of each house indicates its original date of construction as conveyed by local villagers. Noticeably, there have been very few houses constructed since the 1980s. Figure Taken from Rocker (2012).*

⁵ Dates recalculated to reflect their age as of this year, 2017. Only 1/18 structures dated to be ~350 yrs. old. Please see Figure 1 for dating.

Works Cited:

Rocker, Kailey. 2012. "Promoting and Conserving the Cultural Heritage of Drisht Castle, Shkodra, Albania: The Local Stakeholder's Perspective on Cultural Heritage Management," Undergraduate Thesis, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS.