

## Team I Report

### Field Season:

17 May – 12 June, 2013

### Filed by:

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### Last edited on 3/8/2018 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>	BA, SOAN <i>Anth. PhD Candidate</i>	Team leader
Zamir Tafilica	1	Shkodra Historical Museum <i>As of 2017: Retired</i>	Director, Archaeologist, Ethnographer	Field walker, Ethnographer
Anisa Buzo	33	University of Tirana	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Alba Selita	28	University of Tirana	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Brunilda Sinani	29	University of Tirana	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Megan Rebman	43	Millsaps College <i>As of 2017: Chesterfield County Public School</i>	BA, Classics <i>Latin Teacher</i>	Field walker
Rudenc Ruka	46	Albanian Institute of Archaeology, Prehistory Department	Graduate Student	Field walker
Michael Galaty	3	Millsaps College <i>As of 2017: University of Michigan; Museum of Anthropological Archaeology</i>	Professor, chair; <i>Professor, Director and Curator</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 4 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 systematically expand our knowledge of the terraced fields along the Kir River from Drisht to Prikall (11 km) in order to assess whether the river had been a main pathway for an older trade network that extended from Shkodra to Kosovo.
- To survey the village of Domën and Derraj to document previously identified petroglyphs (**S-010**)
- To tract-collect the hillfort site of Marshej (**S-012**)

### **Survey Zone:**

Team I surveyed (1) the terraces northeast of Drisht hilltop (**S-017**) along both sides of the Kir River until Urë e Shtrenjtë, (2) the fields located in Domën, (3) the rock art site of Derraj (**S-010**) located near Domën, and (4) the Marshej hilltop fort (**S-012**). (*See the 2017 Map of Dragoç with all survey zones and the 2017 Map of Shkrel*)

The area surveyed by Team I contained primarily fields, some of which were terraced, as well as a steep hilltop. The tracts along the Kir River and in Domën, as cultivated tracts of land, had an average visibility of **71%**. These tracts contained crops such as onions, grapes, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, olive trees and tobacco. Tracts in Marshej had an average visibility of **18.9%**, due to tall grass and macchia (maquis – French), a shrub typical to the Mediterranean region. Additionally, the Marshej hillfort was surrounded by large, natural stones and contained many loose stones from collapsed fortification walls.

### **Tracts, Sites, and Mounds:**

Team I surveyed a total of **227** tracts, covering a total of **0.49** square kilometers. The size of each tract varied depending on the natural characteristics and features of the landscape. Their average tract size was 0.21 hectares, with their largest tract recorded at 2.77 hectares and the smallest at 0.02.

The team found and tract-collected the open-air site **Omaraj (S-009)** on the northern side of the Kir River near the new highway in tract **I-066**. The site was small and wholly encompassed within the tract, a cultivated field. To tract-collect, members of the team were stationed in each row and asked to count and collect all items within their path until the end of the field. The team collected a total of **25 lithics**, **2** Early Modern ceramics, and **1** Early Bronze Age ceramic. Of note, the site's size may have been affected by terrace maintenance.

In addition to **S-009**, the team also located **2** tracts with high densities of lithics on the northern side of the Kir: tract **I-074** (**6** lithics with a Middle Paleolithic component) and tract **I-109** (**7** lithics).

On the southern side of the Kir River, the team recorded a mosque and some associated graves in tract **I-127**. Only modern tile was found in the tract. In tract **I-128**, the team discovered older graves. Locals indicated that another, older church – St. Paul’s – was located at the end of a trail, which began in tracts **I-127 to 128**.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the team located a potential rock shelter in tract **I-163**. In addition to its location near a natural water source and the presence of a small protected area in front of the rock, the team found **4** lithics and **1** Bronze-Age sherd. Finally, the team identified a medium density (**n=4**) of lithics with an Upper Paleolithic component in tract **I-172**.

Southeast of the river, the team identified **2** tracts with medium to high densities of lithics. Tracts **I-129** had **8** lithics with a Middle Paleolithic and Upper Paleolithic component and tract **I-141** had **4** lithics, with a Middle Paleolithic component.

The team documented **S-010, Derraj**, a rock art site at the base of a mountain in Domën. The site was comprised of three panels of petroglyphs, containing dot and cross engravings. The first contained faint crosses, while the latter two had crosses and dots of various sizes. Additionally, the last panel had a curved line, giving the crosses and dots an anthropomorphic shape. Based on the artifact assemblage (Early Medieval to Early Modern), the site was used from the Medieval period onward.

The team tract-walked the Prehistoric hillfort site Marshej (**S-012**) – Tracts **I-210 to 227**. In museum counts, the team collected **304** ceramics, which included **6** pieces of daub (from the Prehistoric Period), and **1** loom weight (moved to the small finds database), all of which accounted for **62.7%** of their total ceramic finds.<sup>2</sup> From a cursory glance at the ceramic finds, both Prehistoric and Hellenistic periods were heavily represented. Regarding this, Marshej (**S-012**) parallels other hillfort sites collected like **S-011**, Gajtan.

No tumuli were documented in the Team I survey zone.

### **Summary of Findings:**<sup>3</sup>

Regarding museum counts, Team I collected a total of **58** fine-textured; **90** coarse-textured; and **326** medium-textured ceramics, of which **36** were tile. Additionally, **3** ceramics were identified with a “Plain”

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<sup>1</sup> Due to time limitations, the team could not document this church.

<sup>2</sup> The total ceramic count – **485** – includes the **6** pieces of daub and **1** loom weight.

<sup>3</sup> 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.”

texture and **8** items were not associated with any texture.<sup>4</sup> Team I also collected **89** lithics; and **42** other small finds, falling under the categories of “**bone**,” “**metal**,” “**stone**,” “**button**,” “**glass**,” “**ceramic**,” and “**other**.”

#### *Ceramics:*

Team I collected **485** ceramics from almost all periods. **13.4%** were associated with the Prehistoric to Bronze Age periods, **45.6%** with Archaic to Hellenistic periods, **3.1%** with Roman to Late Roman periods, **4.3%** with Medieval Byzantine to Late Medieval periods, and **32.2%** with the Post-Medieval to Modern periods. Finally, **1.4%** of the ceramic finds were either labeled as “**Unkn**” or not linked to any period.

Throughout the Kir River valley, collected ceramic finds belonged mainly to the Post-Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern periods. The team only located **1** Classical period ceramic in **I-038** and a few Early Bronze Age and Bronze Age ceramics in tracts **I-066** (associated with **S-009**), **I-131**, and **I-163** (associated with the potential rock shelter). This ceramic distribution is most likely due to the proximity of modern homesteads and the construction of the highway along the Northern side of the Kir River.

In Marshej (**S-012**), the team collected the bulk of their total finds, mainly ceramic. In museum counts, the team collected **304** ceramics – **62.7%** of their total ceramic finds. Notably, all of the team’s Prehistoric, Archaic, Hellenistic, Roman, and Late Roman finds were located at Marshej as were nearly all of their Bronze Age and Classical period ceramics. Most of these finds were associated with the Hellenistic (**205 ceramics**) and Prehistoric (**58 ceramics**) periods<sup>5</sup>, comprising **86.5%** of the ceramics collected at **S-012**. The remaining **12.2%** of the ceramic finds from **S-012** were associated with the Bronze Age (**4** ceramic), Archaic (**1** ceramic), Classical (**14** ceramic), Roman (**14** ceramic), Late Roman (**1** ceramic) and Medieval (**3** ceramics) periods. Finally, **1.3%** were not identified with a period – **3** were labeled as “**Unkn**” and **1** was blank. The high density of Prehistoric and Hellenistic ceramic finds at Marshej (**S-012**) parallels other hilltop forts collected during the PASH survey like **S-011**, Gajtan.

In Domën, Team I found very few ceramics, from the Post-Medieval to Modern periods. In Derraj, Team I collected few finds (**n=11**) from the Early Medieval to Early Modern periods – associated with **S-010**.

#### *Small Finds:*

Team I collected a total of **131** small finds from the Middle Paleolithic to Modern periods. **75.6%** of the material (**n=99**) was not identified with a period and left unlabeled. **2.3%** was associated with the Middle Paleolithic period (**n=3**); **2.3%** with the Upper Paleolithic periods (including Aurignacian) (**n=3**); **5.3%** with the Archaic to Roman periods (**n=7**); and **14.5%** with the Modern period (**n=19**).

Regarding lithics, of the **89** identified, **4** were recorded as “**unidentifiable**,” and **5** were not labeled. The remainder were typed as flake, cores, blades, etc. **25** were located in tract **I-066 (S-009)**. Team I discovered high densities of lithics (**4+**) in tracts along the Kir River. On the northside of the river, tracts

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<sup>4</sup> The daub and loom weight were not associated with any texture.

<sup>5</sup> These Prehistoric ceramics may be a type of Medieval ceramic that mimics/appears similar to Prehistoric fabric. Additionally, the number of Prehistoric ceramics collected from Marshej (S-012) includes the 6 pieces of daub.

**I-074** had **6** lithics, **1** of which was labeled Middle Paleolithic, and **I-109** had **7** lithics. Southeast of the river, tracts **I-129** had **8** lithics, **2** of which were labeled Middle Paleolithic and Upper Paleolithic respectively, and **I-141** had **4** lithics, **1** of which was labeled Middle Paleolithic. Finally, south of the river in nearby terraces, tracts **I-163** (associated with the potential rock shelter) had **4** lithics and **I-172** had **4** lithics, **1** of which was labeled Upper Paleolithic. Finally, of note, Team I located **1** possible Aurignacian piece in tract **I-065**.

The Archaic (**n=1**); Classical (**n=1**); and Roman (**n=5**) periods were represented by “**metal**,” “**stone**,” and “**ceramic**” small finds, all of which were located at **S-012**. The Archaic period was represented by a metal fibula; the Classical period, by a ceramic loom weight; and the Roman period by **4** Grinding stones and a piece of metal slag.

Finally, the small finds from the Modern period (**n=19**) were represented by objects categorized as “**metal**,” “**glass**,” “**button**,” and “**other**.” While located throughout the survey zone, **12** metal objects, such as projectiles, bullets, and nails, were found at **S-012**.

Of note, all three of the bones fragments, including one human pre-molar, were associated with tracts **I-226** and **I-227** in **S-012**.