

## **Team D Report, 2011**

Kailey Rocker  
Millsaps College  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

During the period 18 May-07 June, 2010, over the course of 17 days of fieldwork, Team D, composed of Kailey Rocker (team leader), Zamir Tafilica, Frances Tubb, Stela Graci, Arjol Porja, and (for most of the season) Lorenc Bejko as well as Sarah Lima (a visiting graduate student) surveyed a total of 225 tracts, covering 0.75 square kilometers. The tracts were intensively surveyed using standard Mediterranean methods. Survey was conducted at 15-meter intervals and surveyors were instructed to count all tile/brick, pottery and small finds which included but were not limited to lithics, iron tools, mill stones, etc. and to collect any diagnostic artifacts, including all lithics. The largest tract was 1.72 hectares, the smallest 0.01, and the average was 0.401. Team D surveyed the Upper City of Drisht located on the hilltop of Drisht including the Acropolis, surrounding fortification walls of the castle complex and structural features such as occupied and unoccupied houses in the area as well as the neighboring hilltop of Muzhile (located S of Drisht) thought to have been the location of a Medieval market. Fields along the Kir River in the Lower Drisht area surrounding the hill and continuing W and NW along the Kir toward the survey region of Team B were also surveyed in a linear fashion. Team D then moved to the fields of Vorfe, East of PASH site 003, and continued to survey along the main road which headed NE towards the town of Vorfe. All fields as well as hills in the region were surveyed, unless the landowner objected, which was rare, or the vegetation was so dense as to make survey impractical. Average visibility was 52%, which is relatively average, reflecting the fact that most fields were cultivated by dense vegetation. Most were planted with cash crops of tobacco and onions, maize, wheat, potatoes, tomatoes and beans. Some fields were fallowed and planted with alfalfa. Landowners were often interested in our survey project and often pointed out patches of land where they, themselves, had located many ceramic artifacts.

Team D had several goals for the 2011 season. First of all, we sought to map and survey the hilltop of Drisht, which contains a major Medieval site colored with Ottoman and other post-Medieval elements. Specifically, we wished to map the surrounding fortification walls of the upper city using UTM coordinates as well as investigate all features located within the walls of the Drisht Castle, including the occupied and unoccupied houses and Acropolis remains which included three definite towers, the entrance and inner walls. The Roman road from the base of the hill to the upper city as well as a church constructed during the XI and XII century within the castle walls were also located and UTM coordinates taken for mapping purposes (Meksi 85). This data collection was necessary to assess the condition and state of preservation of the upper city for the project as well as for the future preservation, conservation and restoration of this archaeologically and historically significant site for the Shkoder region. Second of all, we hoped to locate and identify sites of all periods on the fields surrounding the hill of Drisht, continuing along the Kir River to the area surveyed by Team B as well as the

fields of Vorfe to compare to data collected by Team C during the PASH 2011 survey season as well as the data collected by Teams A and B during the PASH 2010 survey season. These goals were met during the period of regular field survey.

## Results

Team D discovered artifacts from many periods of the past; most representing evidence for dense occupation during the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic as well as the Mesolithic Age. These finds were to be expected and very reminiscent of Team A's finds during the previous field season of 2010. The majority of the lithic finds were found in fields along the Kir River with a high density of material found on the northwestern bank (see figure 1). These artifacts are believed to indicate a potential Meso/Upper Palaeolithic site, which will warrant further investigation in the 2012 field season.

No recognizable Lower Palaeolithic artifacts were recovered. Middle Palaeolithic artifacts were densely confined to a small area northwest of the Kir river (*tracts D-145, D-146, D-147, etc.—needs to be looked up*) and were scattered lightly in fields along Kir in an eastern direction towards the hill of Drisht; however, it is important to note that there were no finds at the Drisht site or in fields surrounding the hill (see figure 2). The Upper Palaeolithic period is represented by a dense concentration of lithics found in tracts *D-145, D-146, and D-147 (this needs to be verified since I didn't have any tract maps* (see figure 3). This particularly area (*D-145, D-146, and D-147*) provides credible evidence for the discovery of a Middle and Upper Palaeolithic site. Both the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic appear to be represented by a Levallois component. (These and all other lithics are described in more detail in the report by Galaty). Although fewer were found, the distribution of artifacts belonging to the Mesolithic Age mimics that of the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic.

Ceramic artifacts, including pottery and tile, were found in relatively varying numbers throughout the region, with the bulk of the material concentrated on the hilltops of Drisht and Muzhile as well as the fields surrounding the hill (see figure 4). 56% of these finds were post-Medieval to Modern, which is expected because of their close proximity to the villages and homesteads. The majority of this pottery was located in the upper city of Drisht and in the fields surrounding the hill; light scatters were also found along the Kir River. 38.6% were Medieval to Late Medieval and found concentrated in the upper city of Drisht as well as the neighboring hilltop of Muzhile. These pieces had a fabric similar to Prehistoric ceramics with many intrusions, thin walls and a darker fabric than the post-Medieval artifacts. Only 4.672% of the ceramics found were dated to the earlier periods Bronze, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman. The only two ceramics found (closed handles) associated with the late Bronze period were concentrated in tract D-002. Only three pieces of transport amphora were found (one toe and two wall pieces), dating from the Late Classical to Hellenistic period and located in tract D-020. In tract D-014, one post-Medieval ceramic piece was identified as a part of a Polychrome Sgraffito ware from Northern Italy, dating to the late 15<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century as indicated by the gouged motifs, green and ochre-yellow oxide colors, red clay, white slip and transparent lead glaze covering both the interior and exterior surfaces (Vroom 143).

Team D began with the investigation of the hilltop site of Drisht, identifying, mapping and describing the known Medieval site with post-Medieval elements (especially from the Ottoman and Modern period). The fortification walls surrounding the upper city were identified and walked and an accurate line of the walls was traced with a GPS device for mapping purposes. The standing walls of the acropolis, the entrance as well as the remaining towers (both circular and square in shape) were photographed and data pertaining to their current state of conservation were recorded. Drisht is in a critical state and the walls (fortification and acropolis) as well as the west entrance are in dire need of conservation practices because of their low state of preservation.

Kailey Rocker and Stela Graci also completed a thorough survey of each standing house in the upper city of Drisht. A total of 12 families lived in the neighborhood, most of which bore relation to the first family that had moved to the area around 350+ years ago. A total of 18 houses were identified. Of these, 11 were currently being used for domestic purposes. Of the remaining 7 houses, 3 were being used either as a barn or for storage and production purposes. 3 of the houses had been abandoned within the last 40 years and occasionally functioned as a barn for sheep, donkeys and other livestock. 1 house was completely ruined with only a few walls remaining and not useful for any public purposes. The oldest standing houses were clustered around the village center, while the more recent houses emanated outwards towards the eastern and western entrances of the village. Many of the houses have had additional structural changes within the past 50 years due to age and low state of conservation. It was not uncommon for the family to live in the newer portion of the house, while the older portion either went into disuse or was used for the storage and production of crops and livestock.

### Future Goals

We would suggest that tracts 145, 146 and 147 (*check?*) should be targeted for assessment and site collection to verify its status as a new Mesolithic and Upper Palaeolithic site. The structural features of the upper city of Drisht (the fortification walls, acropolis walls and the west entrance in particular as well as a few of the houses in the upper city) need to be considered immediately for conservation management and properly preserved so as to ensure their survival for future generations. Finally, for the 2012 season, PASH should continue to survey \_\_\_\_\_. (not sure)

*Figure 1; Small Finds Distribution for the PASH 2011 field season*

*Figure 2; Middle Palaeolithic distribution for PASH 2011 field season*

*Figure 3; Upper Palaeolithic distribution for PASH 2011 field season*

*Figure 4; Pottery distribution for the PASH 2011 field season*  
Works Cited

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