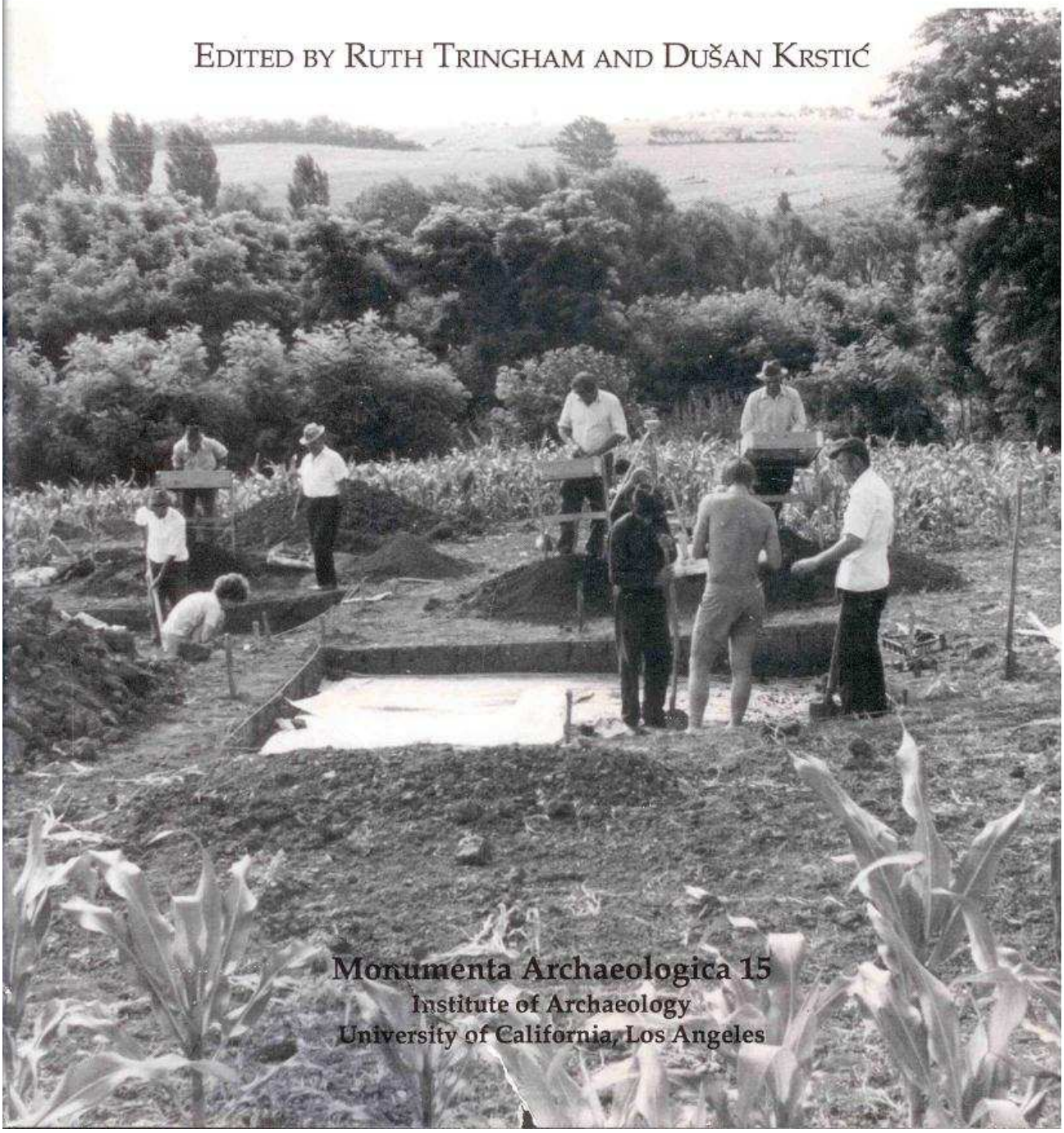
SELEVAC

A Neolithic Village in Yugoslavia

EDITED BY RUTH TRINGHAM AND DUŠAN KRSTIĆ



Monumenta Archaeologica 15
Institute of Archaeology
University of California, Los Angeles

This volume, the final report on excavations at Selevac Staro-Selo, looks at the transformation of socioeconomic life in a late neolithic village in Yugoslavia and probes into the evolution of agricultural societies in Europe some 1500 years after food production techniques were first introduced.

Conducted by an international interdisciplinary team and led by Ruth Tringham (University of California, Berkeley) and Dušan Krstić, National Museum, Belgrade), the Selevac Archaeological Research Project studied the hypothesis that the Vinča-Pločnik phase of the Vinča culture, along with other late neolithic/early eneolithic Balkan cultures, represents stages of the transformation to a new form of agricultural society, one with permanent and highly organized villages, an elaboration of material culture, an expanded exploitation of resources, an intensification of economic production, and an increase in the complexity of communication, exchange, and ritual activity. Selevac was occupied from the late Vinča-Tordoš to early Vinča-Pločnik phases of the Vinča culture (5020–4400 BC).

The primary objectives of the research were to clarify the chronology and cultural evolution of late neolithic and early eneolithic Vinča culture in the Morava-middle Danube Basin; to examine the process of socioeconomic transformation of the early agricultural societies; to explore the variation in settlement pattern between large, unenclosed settlements and the deeply stratified tell-like settlements of the Vinča culture; and to map out the regional pattern of settlement.

The material covered includes an introduction to the development and organization of the Selevac Archaeological Research Project; a discussion of neolithic settlement patterns in the Morava-Danube confluence area; an examination of the chronology of the Vinča culture; a comprehensive chapter on the field research during the 1976-1978 excavations; reports on the flora and fauna, ceramic and nonceramic uses of clay, figurines, stone and bone artifacts, and the beginnings of copper metallurgy; and, finally, a conclusion which synthesizes the results of the Selevac project in the context of Southeast European prehistory.

Ruth Tringham, Professor of Anthropology at University of California, Berkeley, has spent many years studying Eastern European prehistory. Her early research in the area culminated in the publication of *Hunters, Fishers and Farmers of Eastern Europe, 6000–3000 BC,* which was published in 1971. The Selevac Archaeological Research Project represents her first major field project since that book. At present, she is working on the results from an archaeological field project at Opovo in Yugoslavia, bringing to it a growing interest in prehistoric architecture and household organization.

Dušan Krstić is the Director of the Department of Prehistory and the National Museum in Belgrade. He has directed many excavations of prehistoric sites, especially from the neolithic and bronze age periods. Most recently he has worked at Iron Gate Gorge in Yugoslavia.

SELEVAC

A Neolithic Village in Yugoslavia

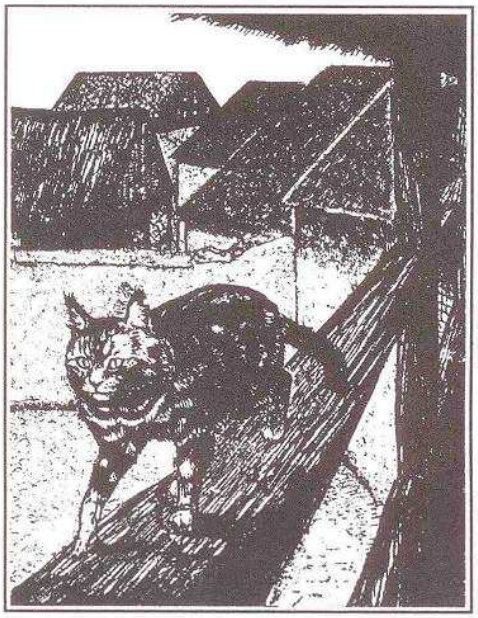
Edited by

Ruth Tringham
Dušan Krstić

Los Angeles, California
1990

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Selevac, a neolithic village in Yugoslavia / edited by Ruth Tringham, Dušan Krstić
p. cm. — (Monumenta archaeologica ; v. 15)
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN: 0-917956-68-0
1. Selevac Site (Yugoslavia) 2. Vinča culture—Yugoslavia.
I. Tringham, Ruth. II. Krstić, Dušan. III. Series: Monumenta archaeologica (University of California, Los Angeles. Institute of Archaeology) ; v. 15.
GN776.V5S45 1990
949.7'1—dc20 90-4514
CIP



. . . i kuće su bile toliko blizu jedna drugoj da su mačke skakale sa krova na krov. . . .

. . . and the houses stood so close together that a cat could jump from one roof to another . . . .

Serbian folk memory of the old village of Selevac
(Selevac-Staro Selo)

Acknowledgments

The project could not have been initiated without the original energy and enthusiasm of Ljubiša Popović of the National Museum, Belgrade, and Vladimir Kondić, formerly of the National Museum, Belgrade, and now of the Archaeological Institute, Belgrade, and to Radoslav Galović, formerly of the National Museum, Belgrade.

The project is grateful to the collaboration of all the staff of the National Museum of Smederevska Palanka (in particular to Ratko Katunar and Aleksandar Novaković) where the excavated materials from Selevac are now housed.

We are also grateful to Dr. Borislav Jovanović of the Archaeological Institute, Belgrade, and to Dr. Grigorije Antonović of the Institute for Soil Investigation, Belgrade, for their valuable participation in and consultation for the project.

Many people and their institutions kindly lent us equipment which contributed enormously to the success of the project. These included the proton magnetometer kindly lent in 1976 by Dr. Martin Aitken of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology at Oxford University. The photographic tripod-tower that features in so many of our photographs was kindly made available to the project by the staff of the National Museum, Kragujevac, at the suggestion of Dr. Alan McPherron of the University of Pittsburgh, co-director of the archaeological project at Divostin. Dr. McPherron was also most helpful and encouraging in the planning stages of the project.

In addition, the project could not have been carried out without the effort and good-will of the people and *zadruga* of the village of Selevac and the town of Smederevska Palanka.

We are also grateful to the members of the project for their tireless enthusiasm throughout all the ups and downs:

Of the National Museum, Belgrade: Mirjana Vukmanović (1976-80), Nenad Radojcić (1977-80), and Ljubinka Djurdjević (1976-77).

Of the University of Belgrade: Mirjana Stevanović (1976-80), Jasmina Milojković (1976, 1978-80), Ivana Radovanović (1976-79), Svetlana Milenković (1978-79), and Liljana Čvek (1978).

Draftspeople: Dušan Nikolić (1976), Ivan Aleksić (1977), Zoran Grebenarevič (1977), Mihajlo Popović (1978), Jasmina Milojković (1977-78), Vladimir Kecman (1978), Nina Ilić (1979), Vladimir Ilić (1980-81), Whitney Powell (1976), Hildreth Burnett (1977-79).

Of Harvard University: Barbara Voytek (1976-1979), Jay Henn (1977-78), David Anthony (1977), Delia Flores (1976), Mary-Gay Sprague (1978), Nerissa Russell (1978-80), Timothy Kaiser (1978-79), Cheryl Claassen (1976-79).

Of the University of California, Berkeley: Barbara Voytek (1979-81), Timothy Kaiser (1979-81), Nerissa Russell (1980-81), Petar Glumac (1980), Jeffrey Neidelman (1980), Alexander Adelman (1980), Mary Hancock (1980), Michael Dietler (1979), James Banta (1980).

Of the University of London: Anthony J. Legge (1976, 1978), John and Maja Chapman (1977), Frances McClaren (1978), Patricia Stevens (1981), Myrtle and Martin Kyllo (1981), Richard Hubbard (1978-79).

Other U.S. participants: Judith Rasson (Wilkes College, Pennsylvania, now Pacific Lutheran, Washington) (1976-81); Eugene Sterud (State University of New York, Binghamton, now American Anthropological Association Executive Director) (1976).

Photographers: Carol Spears (University of Arkansas)(1976-79), Pamela Ashford (1978).

Other U.S. students: Kimberley Kresovich (1980), David O'Neill (1980).

Other U.K. students: Madeleine Tringham (1977-78), Oliver Tringham (1976-80).

Finally, we must express our gratitude to and admiration of the two people who tirelessly nurtured the project through all periods of its existence: our manager Oliver Tringham (1976-80) and our cook Marija Ivanović (1977-81).

There is no doubt that the research would not have been carried out without the funding we received from 1976-1981 from the Anthropology Program of the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. Furthermore, the publication of this monograph has also been aided by a grant from the Anthropology Program of the National Science Foundation. We are also grateful to the IREX/Fulbright Fellowship Program which enabled Timothy Kaiser and Barbara Voytek (1979-80) and Petar Glumac (1980-81) to spend many months in the study of the Selevac data in Yugoslavia. The help, encouragement, and facilities of the computer center at Harvard University and the Quantitative Anthropology Laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley were invaluable for input and statistical analysis of the Selevac data. The students who carried out this work were funded partially by the NSF grants, but a great deal of valuable funding was also provided by the Center for Slavic and East European Studies of the University of California at Berkeley Research Assistantship program (Title VI funds).

We are grateful to the editorial staff of the UCLA Institute of Archaeology Publications: Dr. Ernestine Elster, Director of Publications, and editors Carol Leyba, Patricia Campbell Healy, Beverly Godwin, Kay Orgill, and Pattie Hickey Rechtman; and to the production staff: Carol Leyba, Manager, and assistants Timothy Seymour, Andrew Funk, and Pattie Hickey Rechtman, for their help in the final preparation of the volume that turned out to be a challenge for all of us.

Special acknowledgement should go to the team of draftspeople, whose work has been used in this final report: Jerry Doty, Vladimir and Nina Ilić, Jasmina Milojković, Hildreth Potts (née Burnett), Whitney Powell, Predrag Stevanović.

The photographs in this final report are printed by Predrag Stevanović from the negatives of the project photographers, Carol Spears and Pamela Ashford.

Conventions and Abbreviations Used in the Text and Illustrations

Chronology

BC	Calibrated dates according to Ralph et al. (1973)
bc	Uncalibrated radiocarbon years
S-A phase	Stratigraphic-Architectural phase at Selevac
BH	Building horizon designated 77-78 or 76 according to excavation areas of 1976-1978 seasons
bh	Building horizon within each trench

Excavation

T. or Tr	Trench (Serbian *sonda*): Basic excavation unit at Selevac
Qu or Quad	Quadrat: Four divisions within each trench (generally 2 x 2 m) Conventionally, quadrats were numbered in each trench as follows: 1 = SE, 2 = SW, 3 = NW, 4 = NE
sec.	Section: Subdivison of quadrat, generally, 1 x 1 m Orientation of the trenches and reference to cardinal points in the trench descriptions have been simplified so that a direction that is actually NNW is referred to as North, one that is actually SSW is referred to as South, WSW is referred to as West, and ENE is referred to as East.
F. or Feat	Feature: Unit of natural stratigraphy
e.l.	Excavation level: Generally 10-15 cm thick artificial pits

Illustrations in chapter 4

The building horizon plans (figs. 4.24–4.36) comprise interpretative syntheses of the situation at one or more excavation levels. To show the actual stratigraphic situation, the following conventions have been adopted in these plans:

1. If a feature is stratified at the same excavation level as those of the hypothesized floor level of the building horizon being illustrated but belongs to a later building horizon, then it is surrounded by a dotted line. If the feature was observed during the excavation of the other features of the building horizon, then its actual fill is shown. If it was not observed at the hypothesized floor level of the building horizon, but is assumed to have been cutting through it, then it is illustrated but its fill is *not* shown.

2. If a feature is observed and defined at a lower or at the same excavation level as those of the hypothesized floor level of the building horizon being illustrated and *possibly* also belongs to that building horizon, then it is surrounded by a dotted line but its fill is not illustrated.

3. If a feature is observed and defined at a lower excavation level than those at the hypothesized floor level of the building horizon being illustrated but definitely belongs to that building horizon, then it is surrounded by a dotted line and its fill *is* illustrated.

4. If a feature is stratified at the same excavation level as the hypothesized floor level of the building horizon being illustrated, then it is surrounded by a solid line and its fill is shown.

5. If a feature is stratified at the same excavation level as the hypothesized floor level of the building horizon being illustrated but its upper levels have been removed by excavation—for example the rubble over the floor of a domestic structure—then it is surrounded by a solid line and its fill is *not* shown.

Contributors

D. C. Brinkhuizen, Biologisch-Archaeologisch Inst., Groningen, Holland

John Chapman, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England

Petar Glumac, University of California, Berkeley

R. N. L. B. Hubbard, University of London

Timothy Kaiser, University of California, Berkeley

Dušan Krstić, National Museum, Belgrade

Anthony J. Legge, University of London

F. S. McLaren, University of London

Jasmina Milojković, University of Belgrade

Nenad Radojčić, National Museum, Belgrade

Judith Rasson, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

Nerissa Russell, University of California, Berkeley

Carol S. Spears, University of Arkansas

Mirjana Stevanović, University of Belgrade

Ruth Tringham, University of California, Berkeley

Barbara Voytek, University of California, Berkeley

Contents