FIELD REPORT - EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

BARGALA
FYR MACEDONIA

1. PRELIMINARY SPECIFICATIONS

1.a PROJECT OVERVIEW OF NGO ALEXIS PROJECT, ROMANIA

The Alexis Project specializes in identifying, saving and promoting national cultural heritage, has an experience on the field of over 10 years, covering the entire area of South-West Romania, Oltenia, and is based on voluntary and private funding exclusively.
We have a vast experience in cooperation and contracts with cultural and administrative entities (museums, municipalities, county heritage associations, other NGOs, specialists inside the country and abroad) and we already completed service contracts in the field of cooperation and partnership, including public-private agreements. We are the owners of the biggest web site in the world about Oltenia region, www.alexisphoenix.org. We have traveled over 400,000 km in field activity in Oltenia region in the past 4 years. We have been involved in official mapping of archaeological monuments, reported over 200 new locations, contributions to the development of archaeological sites by private investment and promote and research partnerships.

Alexis Project is known for an important media promoting activity, for publications in press and literature and events in the field of ethnographic, environment, flora and fauna, rehabilitation of locations, reconstructions of ancient buildings and devices, time-line, assumptions, objectives rescue of cultural heritage artifacts, educational activities in schools with specific topics, founding of the National School of Applied Archaeology in Oltenia, information dissemination activities without copy-right, establishing thematic tourism routes, promotion of tourist interest, participation in European cross-border and numerous regional and international private projects with international cooperation.

In regard to archaeological activity, we use only survey of the area without any intrusion in sites, of course based on a complex prior documentation activity.

1.b ALEXIS PROJECT NGO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

We start with setting goals by monitoring profile releases, specialist assessments, alerts from partners and correspondents, official requests, interviews with local personalities related to the subject, building up primary databases and documentation archives. Decisions are taken over priorities, the plan of action to follow inside the site, everything under strict regulation and considering any necessary partnerships.

We continue with a full and comprehensive documentation (literature, internet, correspondence, interviews, public reports and evaluations from specialist). Preliminary field trip for identification of the framework and particularities of objective is next, followed by planting information on satellite map (Google Earth) using GARMIN GPS devices.

The next step consists of repeated field trips (between 5 and 35 annual trips to the same objective) without any intrusion into the site, irrespective of its official status, using high-resolution digital cameras, GPS devices, compass, binoculars, voice recording, mobile phone permanent connection with the specialists. We make between 2 and 6 passages over the area investigated, to collect all the data necessary for a draft-map and GPS mapping. Artifacts are
measured and photographed, but not moved from the site. In exceptional cases, they are
removed for protection, a file of identification is filled and they are delivered in due time to
the entities designated by law for approval and evaluation. Editing information gathered in the
report comes next, dedicated to competent authorities, the photo archive is created, satellite
maps are annotated and commented, investigation results are being sent to specialists and
authorities.

To end the project, the collected data are made public via internet promotion, commented
and developed as conclusions and we search for insights and new hypotheses with a
permanent feedback from experts in the field, also including inter-disciplinary research.

1.e SPECIFIC OF BARGALA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE. FYR MACEDONIA

Bargala archaeological site, specific to the late Roman period, is located on
the right bank of a mountain river at its
exit from the gorge, with wide open
plains of north-west valley flanked by
the slopes. The site is surrounded by
massive walls, equipped with towers
for defense and observation. It contains
numerous civil and religious buildings,
shops and warehouses, access roads,
water tanks, imposing gates and a large
area still raw in terms of archaeological
excavations.

The material and spiritual wealth of the ancient inhabitants of Bargala is evident, the
economic, military and religious power, as well as their stability in this historical location for
a long period of time. The site benefits from excellent accommodation, study and research
facilities for specialists, through a
complex of buildings designed exclusively for them, and the
permanent security of the area. There are also good access roads to the site,
parking, water supply and a motel for
thematic tourism is being completed.
In an appropriate view of that time,
people had the benefit of drinkable
water sources such as springs, of
crossings over the mountain river
already mentioned, the inexhaustible
resources of building materials (river
stone), forests on rocky slopes, high
plateaus with agricultural areas and sub-mountain pastures, mineral resources, thermal waters, a proper climate for sustainable development. Bargala is integrated in a network of ancient trade routes and a defensive military chain consisting of “castrae” and watch towers. In the area of the site there are detected a large number of similar locations, symbol of long time Roman power stability, with vast resources for the economic, military and religious development, climax of Empire and the foundation of cultures and civilizations that emerged from it.

Christianity’s mark can be identified everywhere through the large number of basilicas, bishop palace, all solemn, impressive in size and execution, occupying much of the city in regard to surface area, volume and significance. The identification of pre-Roman sites, even stratigraphy of the current fortress and its history demonstrates the continuity of the organized presence of people in this area, naturally tributary – first of all – to resources, protection of this geographical niche where they were settled and historical context that allowed their development. From the initial military fortification, then to the impressive center of Christian worship and until the late simultaneous decay and collapse of the empire, Bargala is established as a model to study typical Roman pragmatism, the implementation and expansion of Christianity precisely where it was restricted and the expression of conditioning between progress in a human community and the habitat that circumscribe its existence. There are needed for decades to come, extensive research, restoration, protection and huge financing to understand and express hundreds of years of Roman civilization defined in Bargala

1.d COOPERATION, MONITORIZATION, CONTRIBUTIONS, SOURCES

Bargala archaeological site was the topic of an Alexis Project NGO evaluation in 2011 and 2012, during two short campaigns and a long time for documentation about it. Permanently, Alexis Project teams benefited from support and competence of public administration authorities and of the museum's leading archaeological research at the site, from constant supervision of the security entities that protect the site and local hospitality. The project began through the Romanian-Bulgarian partnership and a preliminary application of a cross-border project for Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia, which among others, is intended to promote the archaeological site and its scientific development. This type of international cooperation is not new for Bargala, special historical value of the monument attracts specialists, authorities, representatives of civil society in an extraordinary effort to establish the historical identity of a unique people in the historical context of the universality of the Roman Empire. The sources of information are still developing and fully justify their completion, especially via the Internet, facilitating free access to public information, specifically the European Union. Local publications and reports having as topic the archaeological site, maps published locally with topics related to geographic, economic, and social history, require more pronounced deepening and disseminating. The efforts of the local and central authorities, of the museum, of the experts and of the civil society require an organized synergy under a comprehensive plan beyond archaeological research and site reconstruction.
2. BACKGROUND OF BARGALA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, FYR MACEDONIA

2.a LOCATION

- located in FYR MACEDONIA (north-east), in the middle of the BREGALNICA region, 18 km north-east of the city of STP, in the foothills of PLACKOVICA MOUNTAINS, in GOREN KOKJAK community, in KOZJACKA VALLEY, on the right side (north-east);
- GPS POINTS: N= 41.799634 E=22.289307 alt=397 m
- current surface of the site: 505 x 225 m
- estimated surface of the site *: 700 x 600 m (*according to Alexis Project NGO evaluation)
- current surface of ancient settlement: 5 ha (280 x 180 m)
- surface of archaeological interest: 45 ha
- the site is open to the north-west, longitudinally positioned slightly sloping, maximum exposure to south-west solarization
- direct distance to main road (Karbinci-Kalauzija) – north: 350 m
- distance to mountains in the north of the site: 3 km
- valley dimensions: 1200 m wide, 800 m long, NW-SE axis
- gradient of altitude = 375 m (river bed)/410 (valley slopes)/450 m (valley key) = typical hilly region with predominantly mountainous terrain type (including flora/fauna)
2.b DESCRIPTION

Bargala archaeological site, FYR Macedonia, is a part of leading Macedonian historical objectives, representing a settlement from the Late Antiquity and – also – one of the great Christian religious centers in this country. It is already demonstrated the presence of a Roman military unit before the 4th century AD in a defensive fortification – “castrum”. After that, here is an exclusive civil community that during 5th and 6th century became an important religious and economical center in the region. The elements identified in the field, until now, prove the city’s defensive nature (massive walls, many defense/watch towers, imposing gates), the location at the crossroads of important trade routes, but especially the density of places of worship or with similar destination (Bishop's palace), which confirms the unprecedented development of the settlement in the Middle Ages, based on Christianity and certain favorable economic circumstances.

Roads, important religious buildings, workshops (ceramics, glass, etc.), warehouses, churches, aqueducts, cisterns are highlighted, all confirming the prosperity of Bargala. The city is very well protected to north-west by the mouth of the valley and to north-east through walls and towers, the access is allowed by massive gates, with defensive role. The artifacts found and saved by archaeological research prove the high degree of material and spiritual richness of Bragala.
2.c TIME-LINE

There are solid material proofs that certify the presence of pre-Roman or even older sites in the region and it is confirmed by specialists the presence of Roman fortifications before the 4th century AD. Also, they confirm the presence of a well developed settlement, both economically and religiously, as well as a powerful religious centre, starting with the 5th and the 6th centre to the Early Middle Age. After this, the settlement decades in terms of strategic importance, just like the empire which built it.

2.d WEEKNESSES

Admiting the location in the Bargala Valley of pre-Roman or even older settlements, accepting the already demonstrated principle of the civil / military "multi-layer", it still remains to be established what the "void" before the 4th century hides, under the expansion of the Roman Empire. In other words, proving the existence of a 2nd century settlement or close to that date, a "statio" or an early Romanian fort for example, remains a goal that escapes our documentation. From our previous field experience and the statistical documentation, Roman fortifications are not placed in the valleys, being vulnerable to attacks from above and without allowing the redoubtable Roman knights to fight in the plains, where they proved adept at maneuvering away from “castrum”.

There are, of course, some exceptions, such as Arutela camp, Calimanesti, Dolj County, Romania, located in the mouth of the Olt valley, but in open ground, avoiding mountain "niches" that can diminish the defensive capacity of the fortress.

While the city Bargala is protected by impressive walls and towers to the mouth of the valley and to the north-eastern side, where it could be attacked from the hills, it is vulnerable to the south-east (possibly due to the natural fortress which is the river gorge, with it’s NW-SE
axis) and is also vulnerable to the south-west, to the river valley, even though the dismantling of the settlement is visible everywhere (so can we assume that the city was illogically vulnerable to the opposite side of the valley?).

Apart from the foregoing, if accepted that there is a "statio" or Roman fort here, and if also accepted the existence of a civil settlement at a major commercial crossroad, the initiation and development of a significant religious center without a presumed economic argument, of extraordinary importance, should be explained in greater detail.

Any large location (military, civil) has agricultural or civil settlements as satellites, such as "villa rustica", which assure the maintenance through workforce and vital products (food, crafts) so far insufficiently proven in Bargala.

The necropola is another subject we are studying, both in terms of location, number and importance.

To sum up, Bargala still has very much to reveal, a huge and lasting effort for archaeologists and all the institutions involved in the financial, logistic and promoting support of their activity.

3. WORKING HYPOTHESIS OF ALEXIS PROJECT NGO, ROMANIA

3.a GENERAL ALGORITHM FOR IDENTIFYING OF SITES

For Roman fortifications we consider strictly necessary the presence of the protective field, thorough facilitating the interception of the enemy from a distance, the presence of drinking water, needed by those who populate the fortification, the vicinal forest as a source of fuel and building materials (may also be just assumed after 2000 years!) quarry point for hard material for construction and design, and strategic placement facing the enemy side, preferably part of a defensive chain.

Eg.: military camp in Lower Racarii, Bradesti municipality, Dolj county, Romania.
3.b PARTICULARITIES, EXCEPTIONS AND REASON FOR THEM

Bargala is situated in a defensive manner, facing the enemy (Goths?), on the shore of the river, protected by mountains, surrounded by woods and having a very rich, virtually unlimited source of building material (stone river). Around the valley there are fields suited for agricultural activities and roads are identified, even on long distances. Obviously, this is part of a defensive chain, oriented to north. Justified by the size and content, the city has important economic role (initially purely military) and later as a Christian religious center. Definitely, these determinations fall into a fortification or settlement placement algorithm throughout the Roman Empire, in fact, characterized by standardization and algorithmic thinking, according eminently pragmatic spirit of the Romans. What is missing is the so-called "key link", the period prior to 4th century AD. It is not sufficiently explained why the site is placed right in the mouth of the valley, made vulnerable by the hills and also occasional floods, other than a reason strong enough to counter-balance these disadvantages. Therefore, it becomes vital to identify all the “necropola” and all the “villa rustica”, to try and justify Bargala’s presence, location and wealth.

3.c LIST OF TARGETS COMPOSING THE PROJECT

A. NECROPOLA  
B. CROSSROAD OF MAIN TRADE ROUTES  
C. BRIDGE  
D. VILLA RUSTICA  
E. MINE  
F. TIME-LINE  
G. QUARRY*

*This list of objectives for Alexis Project NGO is the result of a year of theoretical and speculative inferences based on logic and previous practice in the field, under the guidance of prestigious specialists and was presented to Bargala administrative officials with 24 hours prior to the research of Bargala valley, being assumed as a professional test, given that the team was present for the first time in a practically absolutely unknown site. At the end of the 48 hours allocated to research, Alexis Project NGO identified all targets assumed and presented them, both theoretical and practical, in the field, to the authorities. Some targets were already independently discovered by archaeologists, on professional criteria, confirming our presumptions.
3.d WORKING HYPOTHESIS, SPECULATIVE ELEMENTS

- We consider, first of all, that it is natural and logical to find in the same area several cultures, since every civilization, in turn, had the same kind of reasons in choosing the best location for civilian locations, military or religious, with natural variations caused by technological progress. So where, for example, a new site is identified, must be searched with patience also the pre-Roman precursor or older than this (taking advantage of water – forest – hill algorithm, specifically those ages). Therefore, in the Bargala site, where they highlighted a huge flow of material evidence belonging to all Roman stages, must be searched and found at one end of the wire the medieval settlement (and it is already approved in its most expressive forms) and pre-history and early history of these places at the other end: in Bargala, there must be at least one site before the Roman period or even earlier!

- In other perspective, we believe that, as strong as the Roman argument is present in the area immediately before the 4th century AD, as it is needed to investigate whether the same place there was a Roman earlier location (2nd century, for example), for one or more reasons justifying other two. So, in the development of Bargala, there must be settlements (civil? military?) before the 4th century!

- The intense exploitation of north-eastern side of the valley, where there is abundant evidence of Roman habitation, inexplicably leaves a void on its southwestern side, though - obviously - both sides are alike in terms of features and symmetrical and the defensive walls of Bargala to the opposite side of the valley are definitely inferior to those north-east or to the front, to the mouth of the valley. On the other hand, such a developed location requires, statistically speaking, a civil satellite - type "villa rustica", or pauper, or a luxury are for the rich people of Bargala, just like in the great capitals of today (see Sofia, Bulgaria), who work in the "down-town" area, but live or relax in remotely sub-mountain area, with expensive land, away from the noise, crowds and lack of comfort. So, opposite to known Bargala, on the other side of the valley, there must be a "villa rustica", or a residential area or an industrial area or a pauper one, however this space should be filled, by simple logic of history.

- The small distance between the Bishop's palace and the many shops of ceramics, glass and warehouses makes it unlikely for his private house to be placed in this area, a very noisy, smoky, crowded one. Therefore, it is likely for the Bishop to reside outside Bargala, probably on the slope on the opposite side of the valley, in the residential neighborhood.

- The cemetery ("necropola") is located outside the walls, a short distance away from the main gate (100 m), right next to the main access road. Here, on the right side (!) there must be Bargala's main cemetery, and, if the theory of a civil settlement on the opposite slope of the valley is confirmed, this cemetery is not unique, but has a counterpart on the opposite side of the valley (a third-medieval necropolis, is already found in the southern corner of the settlement, near the church placed here).
If we accept here to be a Roman early settlement, before the 4th century AD, then this can only be an early Roman fortress or a "statio" at the crossroads of important trade routes or an exploitation rich in resources from where fees were collected. **So, Bargala must be located, at least, at the crossroads of important trade routes crossing the Empire.**

The presence of a Bishop in Bargala can only indicate the promoting of an important cult center, bringing tax revenues and donations for Mother Church, emerging with great influence on Roman late civilization. This must also be argued and so **we have to identify in Bargala those promotional, theatrical and influent elements that define the power of the Christian Church.**

Above all, the atypical location of the Roman fortress / settlement in the valley, flanked by mountains, and thus vulnerable to attack from above and restrictive in case of maneuvers of attack by the Roman cavalry, must have a strong enough reason to counter-balance these strategic disadvantages. This reason is the KEY of Bargalea and it can be formed by the river and gorge that can bring a wealth literally worth the risk taken! **Bargala was a "Strunga" for something that came from the gorge and must be careful monitored and taxed while passing and exiting: minerals (lead? silver? GOLD?).**

All these assumptions, some logical, coming from our field practice field and long studying of Google Earth maps, web archives, specialized publications, together with examples of other Roman sites, others purely speculative, **all were undertaken by Alexis Project NGO as working hypothesis** that only practice on the field could have defined as facts or simple speculations. We want to clearly state that **we are not archaeologists**, but we specialize in identifying sites, based on this type of criteria, that we give for study and evaluation to specialists, absolutely necessary for their evaluation.

4. INFORMATION GATHERED IN THE FIELD

4.a PRESENTATION OF OBJECTIVES IDENTIFIED IN THE FIELD

The most "simple" action was to confirm that **Bargala was situated at the crossroads of important commercial roads**, as demonstrated by studying online public documentation and corroborating them on sketches and satellite maps:
The trade routes of the Roman Empire were vital arteries for economic development and would have, if necessary, evident military utility. As "all the roads lead to Rome", this road network was very logical and is one of the main reasons which can cause a "statio" crossroads in Bargala, before the 4th century or a military fortification with control and monitoring role. The cemetery presumed to be located at the exit on the main gate, immediately vicinal to the main access road in Bargala Alexis was suspected by Alexis team from the first brief visit to the site, but only now, using the identification of the graves of "huacal" type (circular depression on the ground, which indicates the location of an ancient tomb or, conversely, one variable hill as a "tumulus" with the same destination) was clearly confirmed. So, in the presumed area there is not only a perfectly reconstructed basilica, but a tomb discovered, and others still unopened, the result of independent activity of the archaeologists working at the site:

So, the first "necropolea" of Bargala is already known and independently presumed by NGO Alexis Project, outside the medieval one (the cemetery adjacent to the basilica in the southern corner of the site). Considering that this cemetery is the luxury location of the rich deceased from this ancient place, we crossed the valley on the opposite side, looking for the symmetrical "necropolea" of Bargala II, and we found it, independently of archeologists in this area, because we were really looking for it, according to
the deductions already made public: the two cemeteries certify the presence on BOTH sides of the valley of the Bargala settlement, of course having different forms and different destinations.

Led by the host archaeologist from National History Museum of Stip, which is authorized to research the site of Bargala, we identified, on the opposite slope of the valley currently occupied by Bargala, the foundation for a tower with defense role of observation in line with the ancient settlement:

And, under the guidance of the same specialist, to the west, 3 km from Bargala, we identified a medium-sized Roman fortress with stone walls:

Halfway between Bargala and the Roman fortification showed to us by the archaeologist, we identified (presumably) a fortification with observation role, in line with the other, as follows:

At all this, we add information collected from official sources, that certify that a further defensive chain across the Bargala, to east. So, we consider proven the inclusion of Bargala in a defensive chain (castrae, fortifications, watchtowers) from east to west, facing north (against Goths?).
At the entry in the Bargala valley, right side of it, we identified a major road that targets the south-west tower of the fortress, overwhelmed by spontaneous vegetation, but visible over a long distance:

Also, on the left side of the valley, below the necropolis II, we identified another road, impressive in size (6 m wide and 50 m long), which paradoxically - comes down from the cemetery to the key of the valley, makes a bend to the ancient Bargala, located on the opposite bank, and disappears just at the entry in the gorge, although it seems punctuated by clusters of stones (towers?).

These roads confirm, on the one hand, the existence of two Bargala, on both sides of the valley, the importance of the ancient settlement and a possible access road from the gorge to the valley, probably aiming at exploiting the mountain massif behind the town (mining?).

Everywhere, on the left side of the valley, on the plateaus, we found elements of ceramics, bricks, tiles, which justify the presumption of a "villa rustica" - type of location or even more than that:
By following the gorge crossed by the river, we discovered fragments of pottery gathered by floods:

Also, we have spotted fissure caves in the mountain range:

and rich ore deposits on surrounding rocks, colored sediments in the river bed and we also noticed a strong smell of sulfur:

We are therefore entitled to believe that an ore, and not just any ore (lead, gold, etc.) could be a strong enough reason for placing Bragala in "Strunga" of the river, as well as the obvious cause for the riches of this ancient settlements, of vast area, complex in terms of structure, important for in the military, economic and religious field. We state that we received have similar data from interviews with locals of Bargala (shepherds, peasants), with local authorities and specialists and specialists in this subject from Oltenia Museum, of course, under the clear specification that only proof of a mine or a collection point or some furnaces fully can demonstrate this specific hypothesis.
The quarry was easy to identify, it consists of river stones, an inexhaustible resource, available everywhere, including in the gorge.

The bridge, probably made of wood, tied the two Bargala and was used simultaneously with passing through shallow water and it is indirectly confirmed by the presence of two Bargala.

4.b INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THE OBJECTIVES

Obviously, the two parties (experts from The National History Museum of Stip, respectively Alexis Project NGO teams) acted independently, with similar results.

We came to Bargala valley with a plan already made, from far away, and we officially presented it BEFORE investigating the site, even superficially. By finding discoveries of the experts, we received a confirmation of our way of working, because WE HAVE ALREADY ASSUMED the existence of those objectives, based on the study of public documents and satellite maps, on field experience and by comparison with ancient sites already known to us.

Also obvious is that such assumptions, although confirmed in the field, need subsequent investigations, moreover, require the intervention of specialists for whom we have tremendous respect and admiration, both always confirmed.

4.c CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

We have clearly stated, on numerous occasions, that us, the Alexis Project NGO, ARE NOT specialists and that we have abilities in discovering new sites, but our demarche stops at the gate of the Museum, leaving the way for those enabled by their professional training and law to do their job. We have also stated that we are open to any type of legal cooperation, aimed to identify, save and promote the National Cultural Heritage of any country.

We believe that we may make assumptions that are confirmed or not, we may make confusion or even be overzealous. We may have too much imagination, too much enthusiasm, or little specialized knowledge. But we have too many situations where we were right (and this may very well be such a case) and, anyway, we are well-intentioned, meticulous, serious and hardworking people.

We strongly believe that we can be partners in the adventure of knowledge, respecting science and adding our ability to travel in time, understanding cultures and civilizations long gone, for the benefit of history, otherwise than we know it!
A special topic is the dating of the layers of the site where, according to our presumption, there should be evidence prior to the 4th century AD, following the logic applied until present moment. So, at the base of the massive walls of the fortress, where natural collapse of land reveal their subjacent sections, we found clear bill Romanian artifacts of clear Roman type, demonstrating the hypothesis that, in the time-line of the site there must be introduced a period prior to the 4th century, possibly 2nd century AD, or even earlier, depending on the scientific evaluation of specialists:

4.d SUPPORTING APPENDICES

This is the list of main GPS GARMIN points used in field determinations in Bargala site, FYR Macedonia. Also, enclosed nearby is a map showing the way that we followed in the 2-days research in the area, with an extensive surface covered to the west of the known site and also a long a difficult attempt to breach through the gorge made by the river, in search of possible mining point and/or artifacts to prove another settlement upstream.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>ALT</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>41 47.993</td>
<td>22 17.216</td>
<td>1252</td>
<td>North point road/wall – river stones aut of Bargala (2.5x10m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>41 48.008</td>
<td>22 17.195</td>
<td>1254</td>
<td>North point Bargala aut of the site road/wall – river stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>41 47.979</td>
<td>22 17.227</td>
<td>1253</td>
<td>Further part of the wall fallen in the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>41 47.970</td>
<td>22 17.245</td>
<td>1254</td>
<td>Cross road + intact wall N-S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>41 47.948</td>
<td>22 17.299</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>Tower N-W Bargala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>41 47.890</td>
<td>22 17.305</td>
<td>1254</td>
<td>Slab of stone by the river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>41 47.742</td>
<td>22 17.282</td>
<td>1328</td>
<td>Necropola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>41 47.688</td>
<td>22 17.671</td>
<td>1308</td>
<td>Bottom of pottery element, possible to be roman, 4x3x1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>41 47.570</td>
<td>22 17.813</td>
<td>1345</td>
<td>Stone quarry (2) – river bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>41 48.027</td>
<td>22 17.346</td>
<td>1326</td>
<td>Points for artefacts or other places, later better determined, used on field work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>41 47.409</td>
<td>22 16.594</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>Should be very close to 78 – Corner of castrum (same as 78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>41 47.409</td>
<td>22 16.594</td>
<td>1558</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 70, 72 and 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>41 47.420</td>
<td>22 16.578</td>
<td>1561</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 70, 71 and 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>41 47.424</td>
<td>22 16.548</td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 70, 71 and 72 – Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>41 47.407</td>
<td>22 16.528</td>
<td>1531</td>
<td>Clay wall west side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>41 47.398</td>
<td>22 16.566</td>
<td>1548</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 76, 77 and 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>41 47.393</td>
<td>22 16.583</td>
<td>1548</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 75, 77 and 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>41 47.384</td>
<td>22 16.601</td>
<td>1545</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 75, 76 and 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>41 47.387</td>
<td>22 16.639</td>
<td>1532</td>
<td>Should be very close to 70 – Corner of castrum (same as 70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>41 47.458</td>
<td>22 16.618</td>
<td>1518</td>
<td>Corner of castrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>41 47.487</td>
<td>22 16.616</td>
<td>1508</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 79, 81 and 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>41 47.512</td>
<td>22 16.604</td>
<td>1494</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 79, 80 and 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>41 47.522</td>
<td>22 16.586</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>Should be on the same line as 79, 80 and 81 – Corner of castrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>41 47.542</td>
<td>22 16.527</td>
<td>1497</td>
<td>Clay wall east side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>41 47.754</td>
<td>22 16.767</td>
<td>1344</td>
<td>End of roman road to east, passing through Bargala, marked by watch towers (see east side tower – 70/80 GPS point)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>41 47.756</td>
<td>22 16.909</td>
<td>1377</td>
<td>Hypothetical watch tower – point on the roman road between E castrum (70-80) to Bargala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>41 47.768</td>
<td>22 17.149</td>
<td>1307</td>
<td>Building (?) close to east side necropola of Bargala – 4x20 m – 86 is to the east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>41 47.780</td>
<td>22 17.164</td>
<td>1308</td>
<td>Pottery elements from east side of Bargala valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>41 47.791</td>
<td>22 17.164</td>
<td>1297</td>
<td>Pottery fragment (handle) north valley of west side of the river – Bargala II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>41 47.786</td>
<td>22 17.184</td>
<td>1286</td>
<td>OLANA – ceramic roof fragment – confirms villa rustica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>41 47.802</td>
<td>22 17.171</td>
<td>1269</td>
<td>Watch tower 5x5 m, 60 cm thick – Bargala II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>41 47.806</td>
<td>22 17.197</td>
<td>1302</td>
<td>Dwelling (?) – Bargala II, approx. 15 m in diameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>41 47.752</td>
<td>22 17.265</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>drip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>41 47.703</td>
<td>22 17.275</td>
<td>1324</td>
<td>drip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>41 47.469</td>
<td>22 17.828</td>
<td>1363</td>
<td>drip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. PRIMARY PROCESSION OF THE DATA OBTAINED IN THE FIELD

#### 5.a REASONING AND CONNECTIONS

Considering the above, including the error caused by the absence of a detailed archaeological assessment, which NGO Alexis Project DOES NOT possess (only collaboration with specialists from various disciplines accredited in specific institutions), even so, there should be much interest for careful examination and checking in the field of our Report, which is, in fact, our main task, fully proven in the archaeological site Bargala. We strongly believe that professionals should accept the interdisciplinary cooperation with archaeologists, biologists, geologists, architects, engineers - all who can contribute to an integrated image, which can reconstruct the historical truth in all its splendor.
5.b ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES

In Bargala Roman archaeological site, NGO Alexis Project, from Romania has identified, based on theoretical studies and field evaluations independent of those made by archaeologists, material elements (walls, roads, cemeteries, homes, etc.) that are likely to improve the information heritage about the site and, in the wider context, to contribute to the affirmation of the historical identity of FYR Macedonia. Considering the extreme openness to collaboration of local administrative authorities and that of the specialists from the museum involved in the study of the site, the hospitality of the area and the support of a true historical treasure in the area, there is a real prospect of applying a three-part project (FYR Macedonia - Bulgaria - Romania) on this objective, much larger, better-organized and, obviously with resources fit for the purpose assumed.

5.c EVIDENCE AND ASSUMPTIONS

Concrete elements of our research related to the archaeological site of Bargala are of all types: Roman roads, fragments of Roman masonry, Roman ceramics (fragments of brick, pots, tiles, "tegulae"), tombs of various kinds, building stone, tower foundations and fortifications, Bronze Age pottery fragments, all of this is a list of topics that need to be clarified by specialists, in an interdisciplinary way, of course! There are also a large number of assumptions, some of which are speculative or based on logic and practice in the field: the existence of a Roman site earlier than 4th century AD (2nd century?), the destination of the road network targeting the gorge, the use of the left slope of the valley for housing or industry, the justification for the location of Bargala in this valley, all of these constitute the challenges for future research and evaluation. Therefore, we strongly believe that the archaeological site of Bargala must be reconsidered from an historical, economical, spiritual and topographic point of view.

5.d ANNEXES

Throughout the site assessment a large number of high-resolution digital photos were taken, to argue or prove wrong the initial assumptions. Some of them can be found in the report, others are its complementary:
6. CONCLUSIONS

6.a ONGOING OF CROSS-BORDER PROJECT

The present project is realised with private financing from PERPETUUM MOBILE FOUNDATION (Gabriela ANTONOVA, Economist) from PLEVEN, BULGARIA, ALEXIS PROJECT NGO (Adrian GHEORGHE, MD) from FILIASI, ROMANIA and KARBINCI MUNICIPALITY (Vasil BOGDANSKI, Mayor), FYR MACEDONIA, under the supervision of NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF STIP (Mitko STERJOV, archaeologist), FYR MACEDONIA.

6.b THE HYPOTHETICAL DESCRIPTION OF BARGALA ARCHAEOLOGIC SITE

The valley of Bargala has always been a proper setting for human collectivities to settle. Protected by mountains, with the water of a mountain river nearby, with fertile plateaus for agriculture and grazing, mild climate and resources in construction materials and mining, Bargala has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. During early Roman period (1st - 11th century AD), in this place there was a military fortification or a "statio" for monitoring the intersection of major roads nearby. Since the 4th century AD, a large civil settlement develops here, but also an important religious center, motivated by this trade roads, by the extraction of valuable ore and also by the expansion of Christianity. The settlement progressively decades later in the Middle Ages, becoming a sporadic set for small human communities.

6.c FUTURE PROJECTS AND AVAILABILITY

The complex and complete assessment of the archaeological site of Bargala, of the entire valley in which it is located and establishing relationships between those elements and the material evidence of the former Roman province.

6.d PROJECT EXPANSION

If we accept this type of contribution in identifying and evaluating an archaeological site, then the project can be applied in similar terms on any known archaeological site in FYR Macedonia, or may be focused on finding others completely unknown at present.
7. SPECIAL NOTES

7.a CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANKS

Many thanks to Mister Mayor of KARBINCI, Vasil BOGDANSKI for constant support and open mind for the European concept of cooperation with the purpose of identity affirmation of National Cultural Heritage in FYR Macedonia!

Respect and appreciation for specialists in STIP National History Museum who contributed to the project!
Many thanks also to our partner from BULGARIA, Miss Gabriela ANTONOVA, from PERPETUUM MOBILE FOUNDATION in PLEVEN, without her help this project would have never existed!

The team for BARGALA - ALEXIS PROJECT NGO, ROMANIA:

- Adrian GHEORGHE, MD
- Adrian Alexandru GHEORGHE, ARCHITECTURE STUDENT

7.b THE ROLE OF INTER-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

It is clearly beneficial to a complete research the real terms cooperation between specialists from related fields to such an action. This way a clear and complete picture of the subject is created, surprising data may appear, the historical reconstruction has the advantage of multiple scientific applications as opposed to the sufficient, autarchic specialist proud and bigoted. Bargala archaeological site already has the benefit of dedicated and professional archaeologists, near which we expect to see geologists, architects, historians, and - why not? - the civil society!

7.c THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN PROMOTING THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

The expression of civil society, caring for the identification, rescue, protection and promotion of national cultural heritage can be accepted in partnership with specialized institutions for the benefit of affirmation of the national identity through history, and more!

7.d A NEW CONCEPT FOR MODERN ARCHAEOLOGY

After a romantic and anarchic period, devoid of method, practice and expertise, archaeology has become technical, complex and efficient. Maybe is time to develop, on the background of scientific accuracy, data INTERPRETATION for the understanding of the less knowledgeable, but who materially support the effort of the archaeologists!
NGO Alexis Project Executive vice president,
Adrian GHEORGHE, MD

NGO Alexis Project Member,
Adrian Alexandru GHEORGHE, ARCH ST

L.S.,

NB: We will come back to BARGALA!