



ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF REMI FOUNDATION

2024 Part 1

1504 Sofia, 24 San Stefano str, fl.4

On 20th August, 2005, in the city of Sofia, a Foundation was established under the name of “Remi”, set up as an organization of an activity for public benefit pursuant to art.2, para.1 and art.38, para.1 of the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act, having its registered seat in the city of Sofia, Municipality of Sredets, and its address of management at: **address 1504 Sofia, 24 San Stefano str., fl.4**

The foundation has been entered into the central registry of the Republic of Bulgaria of non-profit legal entities constituted to act for public benefit **under No.20051202003 on 02.12.2005.**

The Foundation is registered in the Commercial Register of the Republic of Bulgaria in 2018 under **UIC: 131 497 163**

1. Research Project ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS STROYNO (5) (BULG 868/24)

Project manager: Daniela Agre National Archaeological Institute with Museum at
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

May 2025

Activities carried out in 2024

Within two months in the 2024 season, the archaeological excavations of the site were carried out. According to the work program, the excavations were concentrated in the "East", "Center-Tolos", "South" and "Southwest" sectors, where a total of 26 rooms have been studied or are in the process of being studied.

Sector Center-Tolos



The beginning of excavation in Sector Center

In the central part of the site, the excavations covered 5 squares, of which 2 - in the tolos. In these squares, a small section of the wall in front of the eastern side of the tolos discovered in 2023 was traced. The archaeological material belonging to the first period of occupation of the site (I-II century) was found in the studied layers. It includes fragments of ceramic vessels (bowls, cups, amphorae, pitchers and dishes), as well as bronze appliqués, bronze nails and coins. In this sector some finds dated to the Thracian period (V-IV centuries BC) were also discovered. They include fragments of gray monochrome pottery (jugs and dishes), imported Greek pottery, fragments of fibulae and bronze arrowheads, as well as a bronze coin of Parion.

Sector East

Rooms №13, 14 and 15 in the Eastern and South-Eastern parts of the site have been fully investigated. The eastern wall of Room №14 coincides with the eastern wall of the entire architectural complex. It is built of local limestone stones arranged to form rows and of the larger

smoothed stones forming two faces. Their total preserved height is 1 m. Room №14 is divided into two parts (western and eastern) by means of an adobe wall. When studying this wall, it becomes clear that it was strengthened in height by means of plasters about 2 cm thick - a kind of mortar "plates". A second layer of fine stucco was laid on top of this plaster layer, on which geometric and plant motifs were applied with black, red and yellow paint. In the western part of the room, the floor level was reached. It was constructed from building ceramics - bricks with a rectangular shape and dimensions: 0.32 x 0.16 x 0.03 m. Part of the floor was dismantled in ancient times. The bricks themselves are laid on a well-leveled layer of thick mortar. The floor level in room №15 is also plastered with thick white mortar.

A large amount of material was found in the rooms: various household and cult objects, fragments of ceramic and glass vessels, silver and bronze coins of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian, bronze appliqués, bronze medical instruments and iron styluses, imported luxury ceramics, amphorae from the Eastern Mediterranean and insular Greece, as well as fragments of marble wall cladding slabs.



A stage of investigation of rooms №14 and №15



A stage of investigating the east wall of room №14



Walls in room №14 with preserved stucco



Bricks at the floor level of room №14



Investigating rooms №13, 14, 15 and 16 as well as the peristyle in front of them

Sector South

18 new squares with dimensions 5x5 m were laid out in this sector. The main goals of the excavations in this sector were the discovery of rooms developing to the north of the southern fence wall; tracing and studying the route of the peristyle corridor with a colonnade in the southwest direction and the location of the front entrance (gate) of the architectural complex. All these goals were carried out. Several rooms were discovered to the south of the inner peristyle corridor – 7 of these rooms (with №16 - 22) have been excavated and partially studied at this stage. The walls and ceilings of the rooms were plastered with white mortar. Some preserved areas of mortar decorated with red and black stripes and plant motifs were found.

The most significant are the studies of the entrance to the complex, which revealed its impressive imposingness, as well as the application of new architectural solutions. An outer peristyle corridor with a colonnade was built in front of the entrance, from which, after dismantling the fallen massive roof, the marble bases for the columns were discovered. The entrance gate was made of massive beams with iron fittings. It was about 3.0 m wide and about 2.60 m high, and the marble columns with capitals, fragments of which were found, were erected on both sides of the gate. A massive iron chain with a massive padlock and key was found in the space around the gate. Several fragmented imported glass and ceramic vessels, coins and cult objects (bronze anthropomorphic sculpture, a bell and ceramic objects) dated to the first period of occupation of the site (I-II century) were found in this sector. After the fire of the site at the end of the 2nd century (after the death of Emperor Commodus), part

of the rooms were cleared and inhabited again, being converted into living premises. Several ceramic vessels, millstones, silver and bronze coins, bronze nails to wooden fittings, spindles, iron knives, etc. are findings from this period.



The beginning of excavations in sector South



Investigating room №19



A stage of investigating room №21



A stage of investigating a peristyle and room №17



Investigating room №20



The outer peristyle in front of the main entrance to the complex

Southwest sector

In the Southwest sector, 6 squares heavily compromised by mining intervention of treasure-hunters were studied. This sector is the SW corner of the site. The excavations showed that, in

addition to the peristyle corridor with a colonnade, an outer peristyle covered corridor was built in front of rooms №3 and 4. In the area in front of room №3, near the outer peristyle, an entrance to complex from the west was revealed, which probably leads to the nearby baths and massive buildings (homes?) located immediately southwest of the complex. During the second period of habitation of the site (at the end of the 2nd century), a reconstruction was carried out - the outer peristyle corridor was converted into living premises. On the floor level of the rooms, in their central part, brick fireplaces were built. These places were used for libations, incense and sacrifices in honor of the deities. Around such place located in room №3, 12 fragmented at place ceramic vessels, a highly burned bronze coin and an iron scythe were found. A pithos dug into the ground was also found in the western part of the room.



A stage of investigation the sector "Southwest"

In room №4, about 40 ceramic vessels were found fragmented in situ. The vessels are mainly table ceramics: cups, bowls, pans, stamnos, amphorae, ceramic lamps, as well as 2 whole granite millstones and pithos. The vessels were placed in specially designed niches around the walls. The floor level in the room is paved with specially shaped small bricks. Two marble votive tablets were also discovered in this room - one in a niche, and the other - next to a specially shaped brick platform-altar. The Thracian horseman is depicted on the first votive tablet, and the image on the second is of the Roman goddess Minerva. Such a votive tablet was discovered for the first time in Thrace. It should be noted that in that period (II-III centuries) the goddess Minerva was perceived as the patroness of legionary warriors. An applique to a ceramic vessel with the image of Medusa the Gorgon was found immediately next to this votive tablet. The similar applique is shown on the garment of the goddess Minerva from the votive table. The image of Medusa the Gorgon (gorgoneium) was perceived as a symbol of protection from misfortune.



Tile roof and ceramic vessels under it insitu in room №4



Storage vessels, amphorae and the millstone in room №4

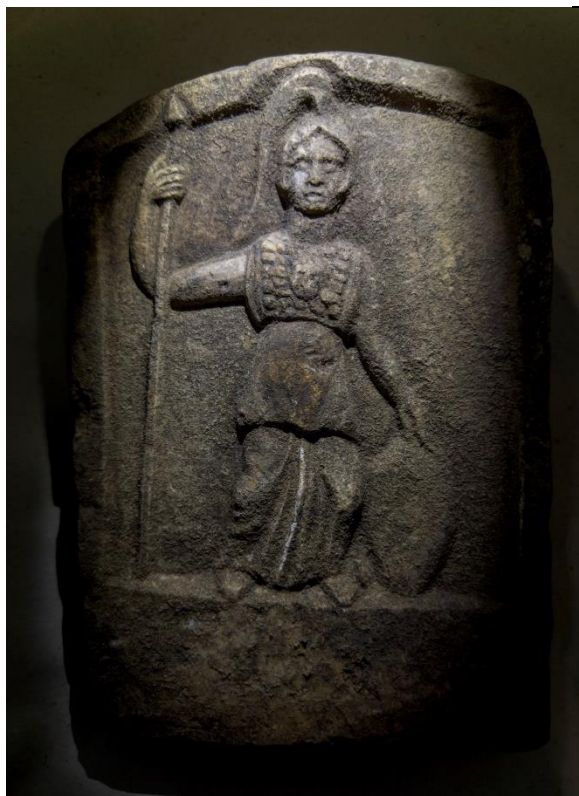
Several silver coins from the 1st period of occupation of the site minted by the emperors Vaspasian, Trajan and Atoninus Pius, as well as fragments of luxurious ceramics and writing instruments - iron styluses were also found in these rooms. Among the finds dated to the 2nd period, discovered in the rooms, several bronze coins of the emperor Caracalla and pseudo-autonomous coins minted at Deultum, as well as silver coins of Septimius Severus were also found.



Ceramic vessels in room №14



Floor level made on thin tiles in room 14 and vessels and the votive table with the image of Minerva



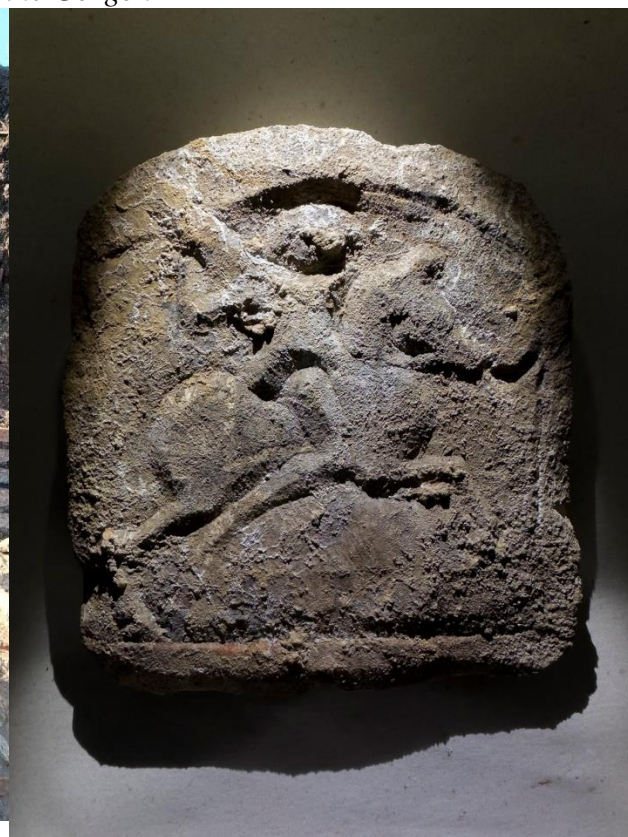
The marble votive tablet with image of Minerva



The ceramic applique with the image of Medusa the Gorgon



The marble votive tablet with image of Thracian horseman laying at its back – in situ



The marble votive tablet with image of the Thracian horseman

The analogies to the materials found in these rooms (dated to the the 2nd period) - coins and ceramic vessels, as well as the discovered amphorae of the type Agora M 125-126 made in a production center in Western Asia Minor and dated to the beginning of the 3rd century, have allowed the secondary habitation of the rooms to be dated to the first half of the 3rd century.



A stage of investigating sector "Southwest"

Results achieved

All objectives set for the excavations of the site in the 2024 season were fully achieved. New significant architectural elements of the overall plan of a complex were discovered and a large amount of objects of scientific and museum value were discovered. The unveiling of the impressive central entrance to the architectural complex may be considered as one of the most important discoveries in the 2024 season. The study of the rooms located in the southwest sector of the site has allowed revealing to a great extent various elements of the fitting-up and organization of the living space of the rooms during the second period of the site's occupation - the end of the II - the middle of the III century. As an important result it can be considered the discovery of large areas of polychrome plaster on the walls of the rooms - on the white background, geometric ornaments colored in red, black, yellow and gray are applied, and at the top are placed strips with frames colored in black. Similar decoration, both as technology and color, is usually found in the rich homes of Pompeii, as well as in the richest villas dated to the Greco-Roman period. In addition to picturesque decoration and

lining of marble slabs on the walls of the rooms and marble frames on the windows and doors, the temple complex near Stroyno also had an extremely rich decoration of marble columns and capitals that surrounded the entire inner courtyard in the center of which the impressive tolos temple stood.

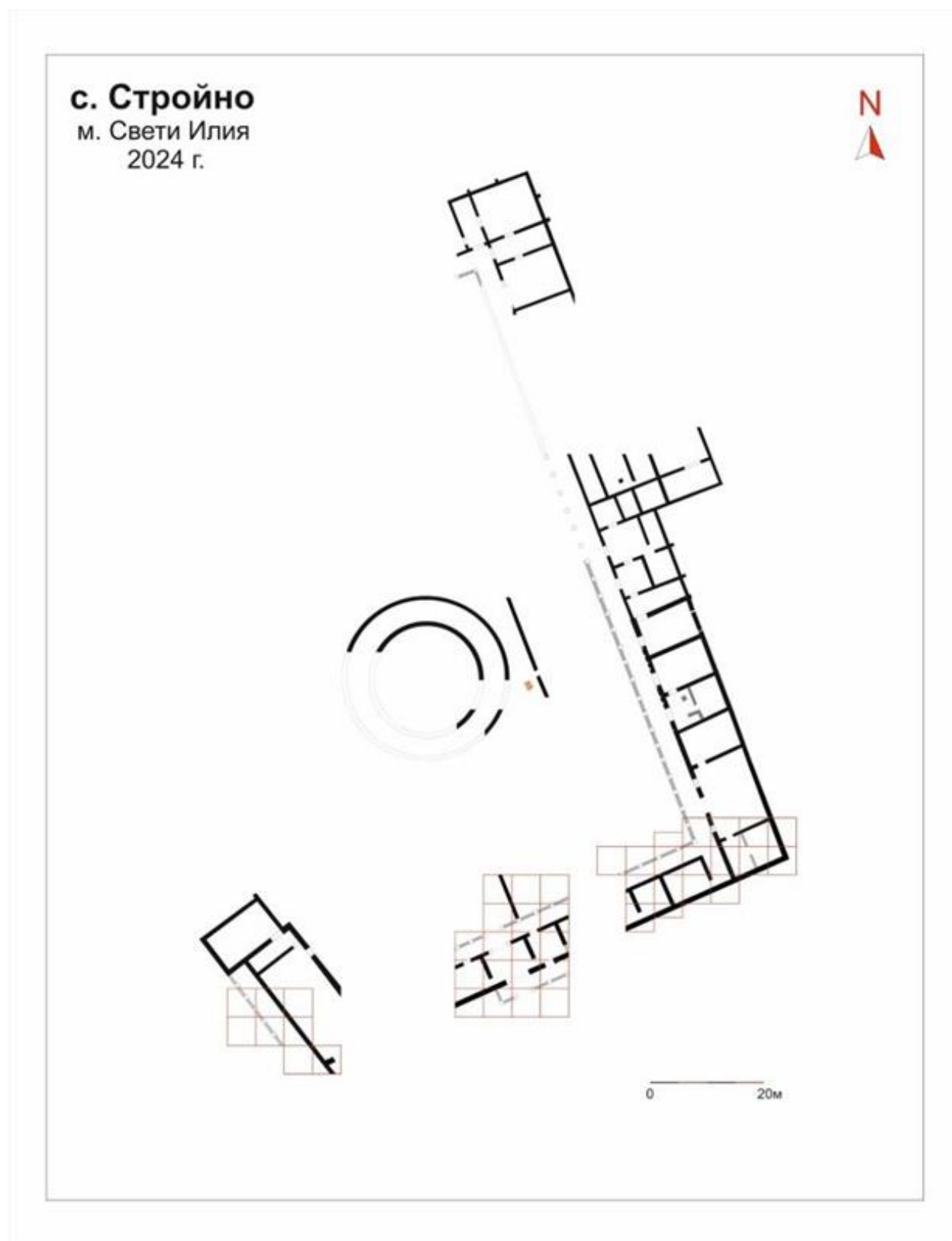
The excavations carried out in 2024 have showed the presence of the strong cult of the deity known as the "Thracian Horseman" as well as the new for Thrace manifestation of the cult of the goddess Minerva both during the first and second periods of occupation of the site.

An extremely rich archaeological material including silver and bronze coins was discovered during the season. On the basis of the coin material, the complete chronology of the object can be traced. Numerous objects which were presented in the tolos temple as a personal gift to the deities such as glass and ceramic beads, fibulae, appliques, as well as cult objects - amulets, anthropomorphic figures, bells and pendants were also found. Discovered luxury ceramics, as well as amphorae for wine and olive oil show the close cultural and commercial ties of the local population with the largest production centers on the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean - Pergamum, Ephesus, Syria and island Greece.

Excavations in 2024 made it possible to clarify the plan of the eastern part of the peristyle complex. The connection between the rooms on the eastern side and those located in the southern direction has also been clarified. The studies also showed that the occupation of the site during the II period (end of the II - middle of the III century) was large-scale and a large part of the rooms studied so far being re-inhabited. The site was destroyed in a huge fire, probably during the Gothic invasions in the middle of the 3rd century.

The results of the excavations have shown that played an important role in SE Thrace - it was a cult and cultural center, as well as a place for treatment of the high Thracian and Roman aristocracy.

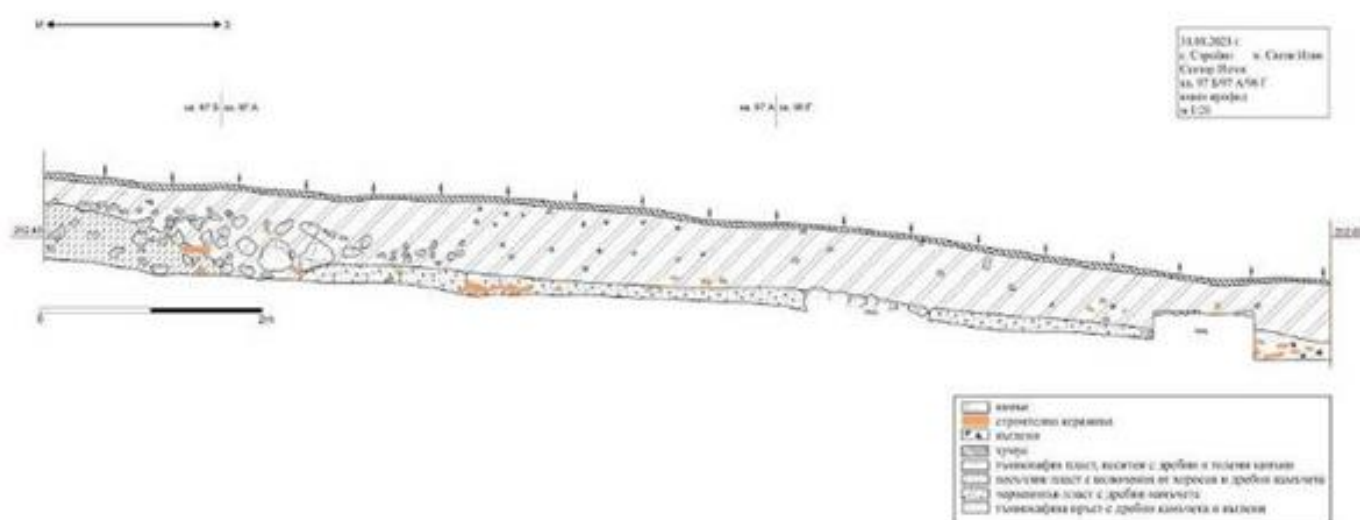
Photo and Graphical Documentation



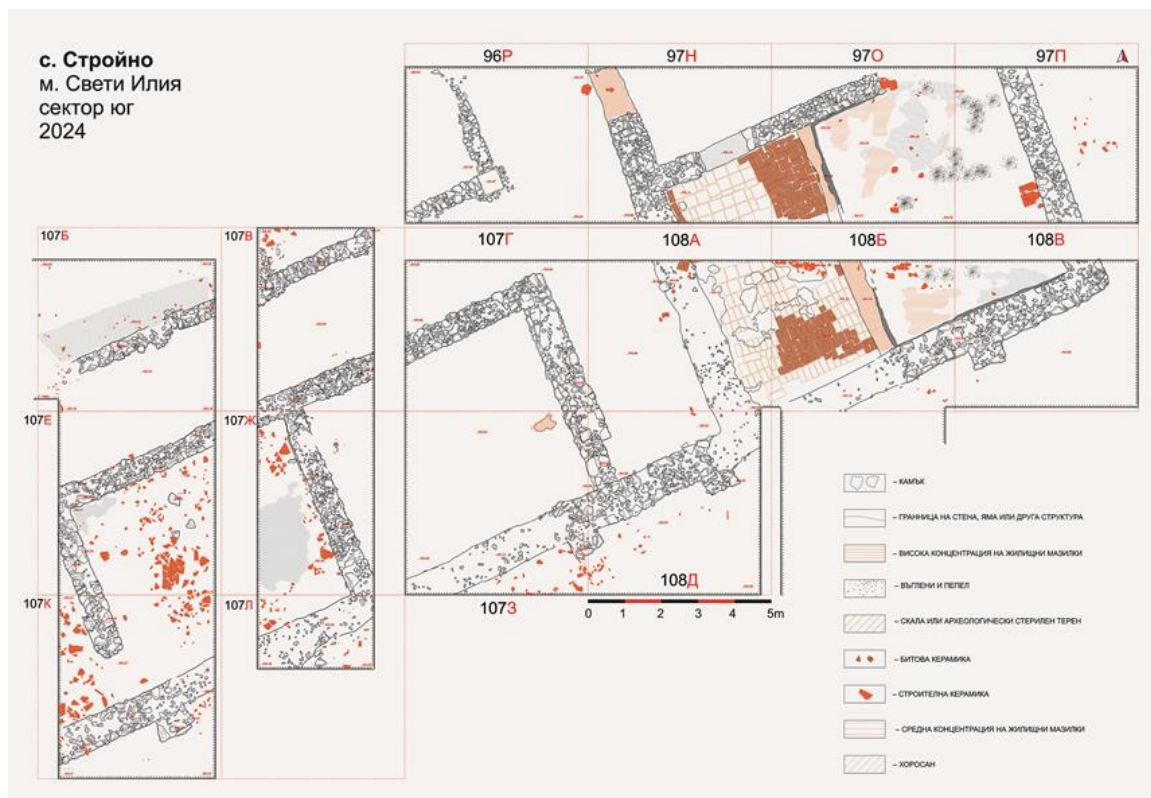
Squares investigated in 2024



Horizontal plan of room 15



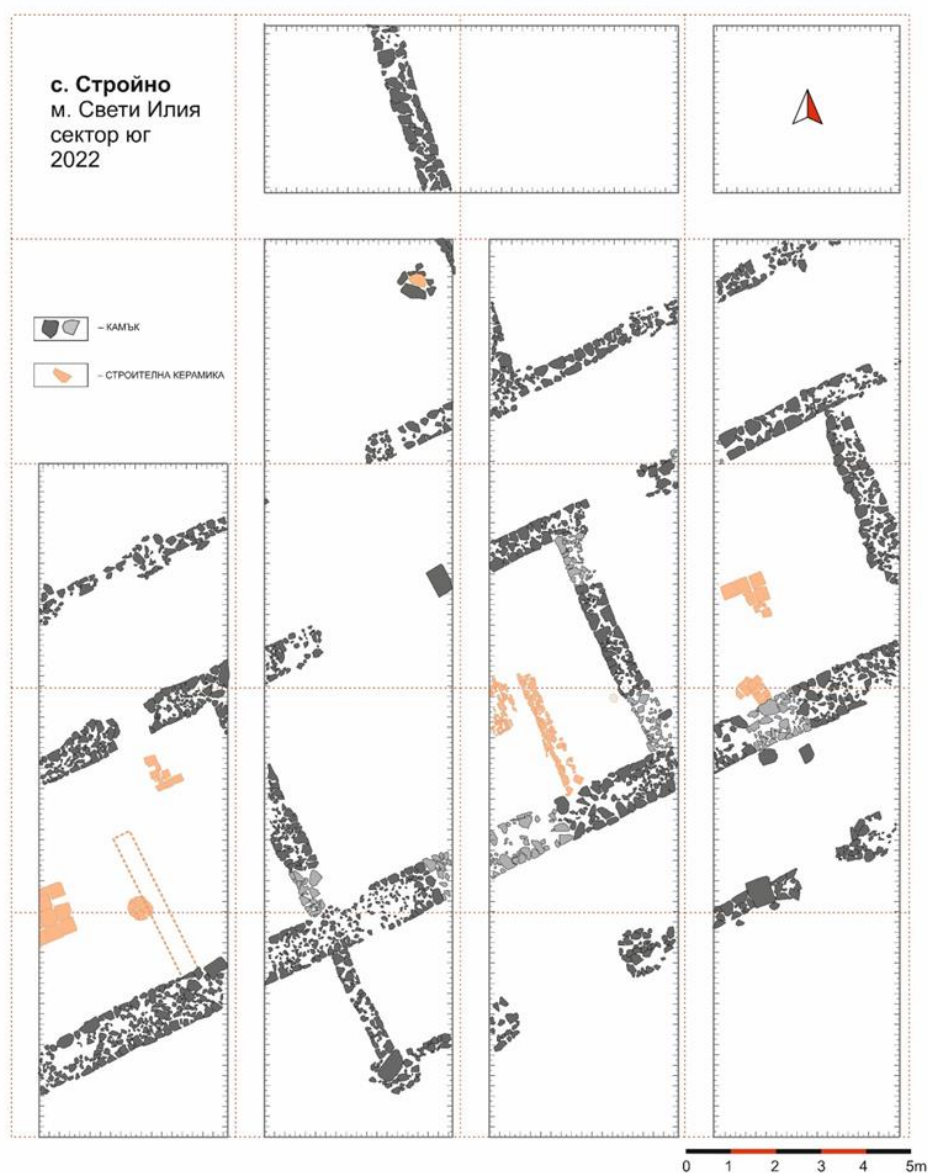
Profile of a wall in room 15 with preserved plaster



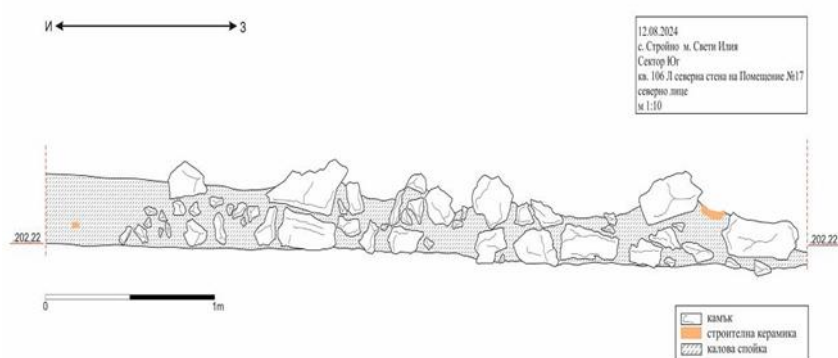
Horizontal plan of room 20



Horizontal plan of Southern peristyle



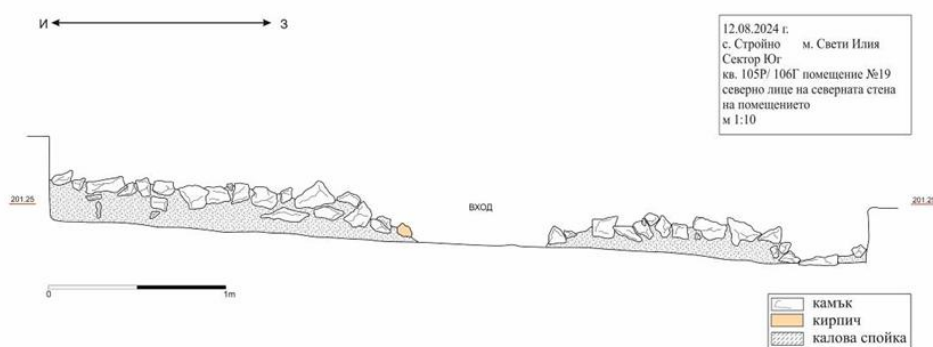
Horizontal plan of room 18



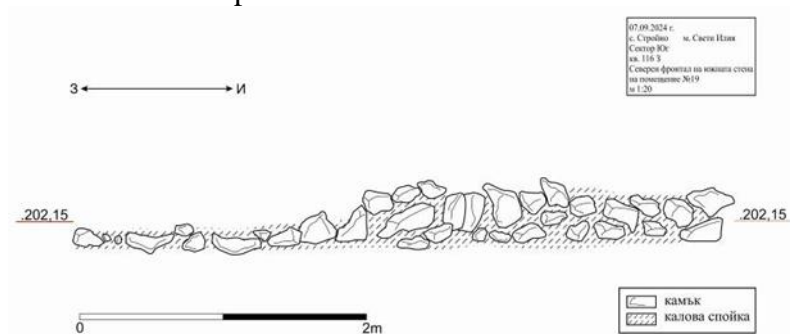
Vertical profile of northern wall of room 17



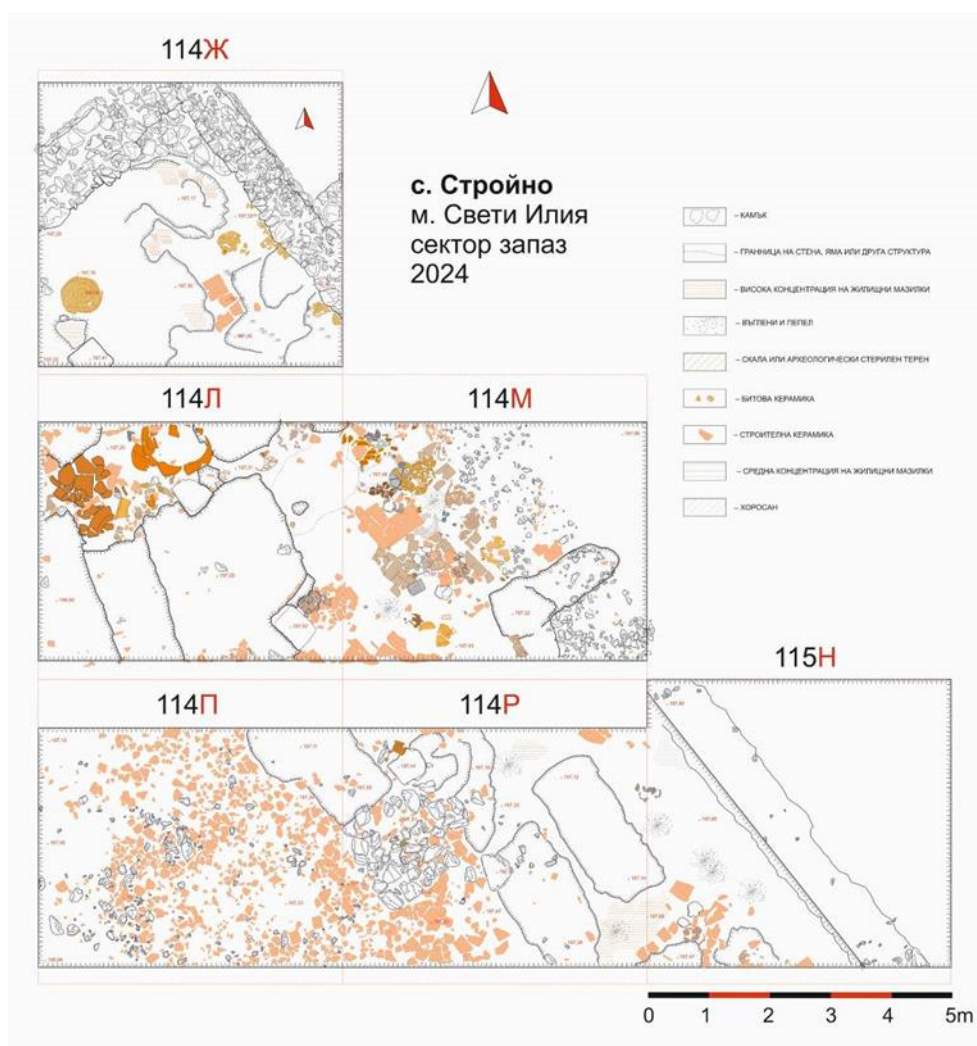
Horizontal of room 19



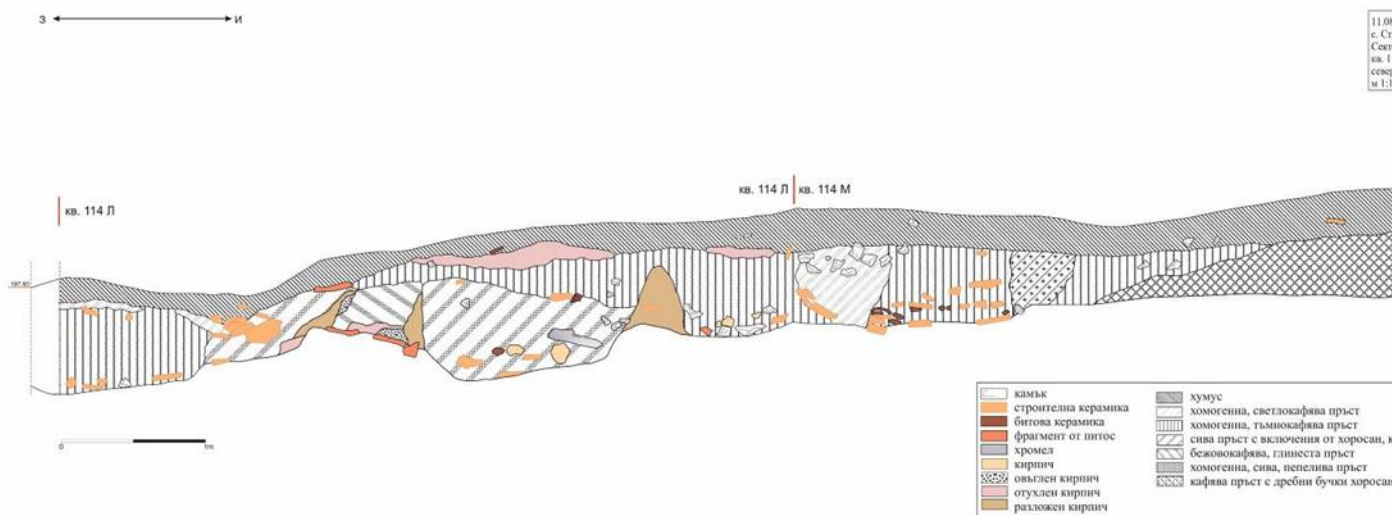
Vertical profile of northern wall of room 19



Vertical profile of southern wall of room 19



Horizontal plan of room 4



Northern control profile in sq. 114Л and 114 М

Some of Silver and Bronze Coins found in 2024



Metal tools and instruments



Cover of Tubus.
Bronze



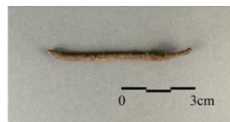
Stylus.
Iron



Medical tool. Bronze.



Medical tool. Iron.



Sickle. Iron



Scissors. Iron.



Scales. Iron.



Padlock with chain. Iron.



Key. Iron.



Part of a locker. Iron



Weapon



Arrow head. Bronze.



Arrow head. Bronze



Arrow head. Bronze

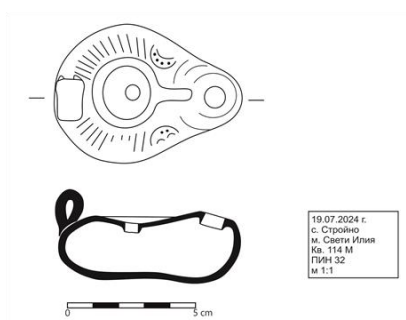
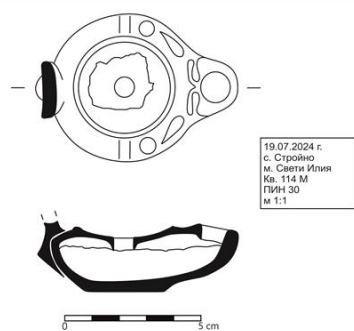


Spear head. Iron.

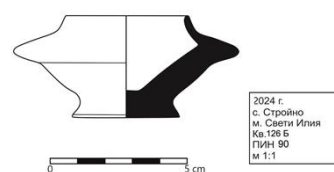
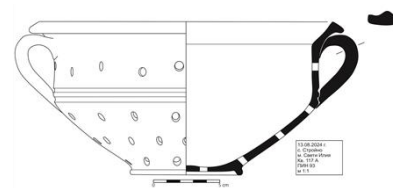
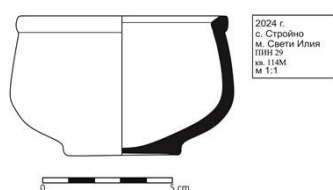


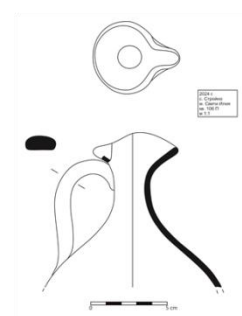
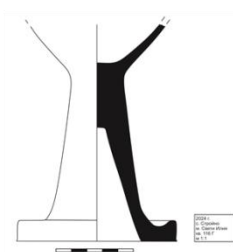
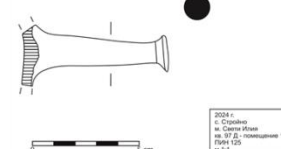
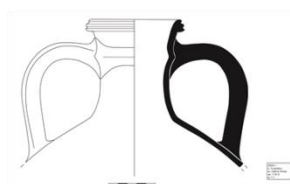
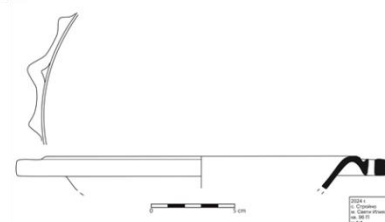
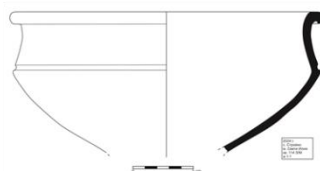
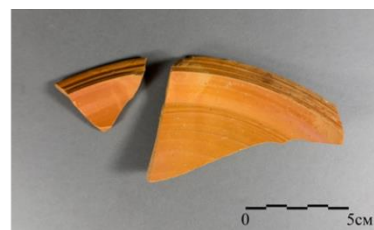
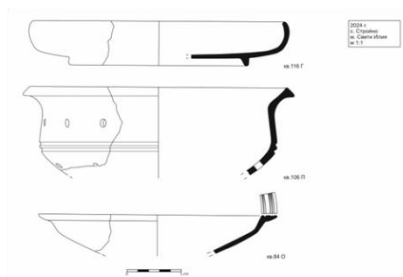
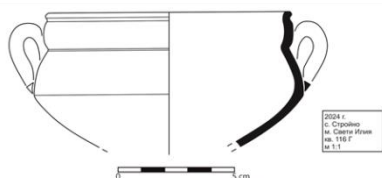
Arrow head. Iron. Желязо

Ceramic vessels



Ceramic vessels





Direct cost project 868/2024 STROYNO	BGN
<u>Spend for project in cash</u>	
Allowances and lodging for the team	23 667.00
Paid net remuneration for the team and workers	59 736.98
Car rental and fuel	2 354.87
Transportation	8 111.00
Tools , consumables, removal of ground mass	2 803.60
TOTAL	96 673.45
Paid from the Foundation's bank account	7 466.55
Paid income tax &social security&health insurance civil contracts	
total	7 466.55
SUBTOTAL SPEND	104 140.00
Funded by Horizon Foundation	104 140.00

Sofia, 02.06.2025

Aneta Manzelova