

## Mljet Island, Shallows of St. Paul / Shipwreck with Iznik Pottery Cargo

Mljet Island, with its natural and cultural characteristics, is an unusually interesting area that was part of maritime routes connecting major Occidental and Oriental ports. Several well-protected bays on the north side of the island offer excellent protection for all seeking shelter from bad weather. Those who were unable to find safety can today be found on the seabed around Mljet. One example is the early modern shipwreck dated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, discovered on the south side of the island, near the Shallows of St. Paul.

The shipwreck was discovered in 2006. Archaeological excavations, led by archaeologists from the Croatian Conservation Institute, began in 2007 and are still ongoing. Due to the complexity of research, dimensions and depth of the site, as well as a variety of finds, scientists from the University of Ca' Foscari in Venice joined the expert team.

Characteristics of the ships construction, along with marks on the cannons, indicate a Venetian origin, while its cargo distinguishes it from all other shipwrecks found in the Adriatic. It was carrying Ottoman ceramics produced in Iznik from the 15<sup>th</sup> until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Each sultan had a master potter in charge of pottery workshops, designing specific ornaments with patterns from the Quran, and animal and floral motifs. The great expansion of Iznik pottery occurred during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent. Previous theory postulated that styles of Iznik pottery changed with each new sultan. However, based on the confirmed five stages of Iznik pottery, current theory assumes that individual ornamental styles remained in use for as long as there was interest. Consumers of this ceramics were mostly affluent Europeans in need of "exotic" Oriental goods. Today, only three thousand items of Iznik pottery are kept in museums and private collections around the world.

In addition to the ship and cargo, various items, which allow us to reconstruct the everyday life on a ship, were found during the research. Ceramic and metal utensils found in the ship's kitchen give us an insight into their way of cooking, while animal bones tell us about their favourite meals during the journey. There was also a bronze bell with the year it was cast (1567). We can assume that this was the year the ship sailed for the first time.

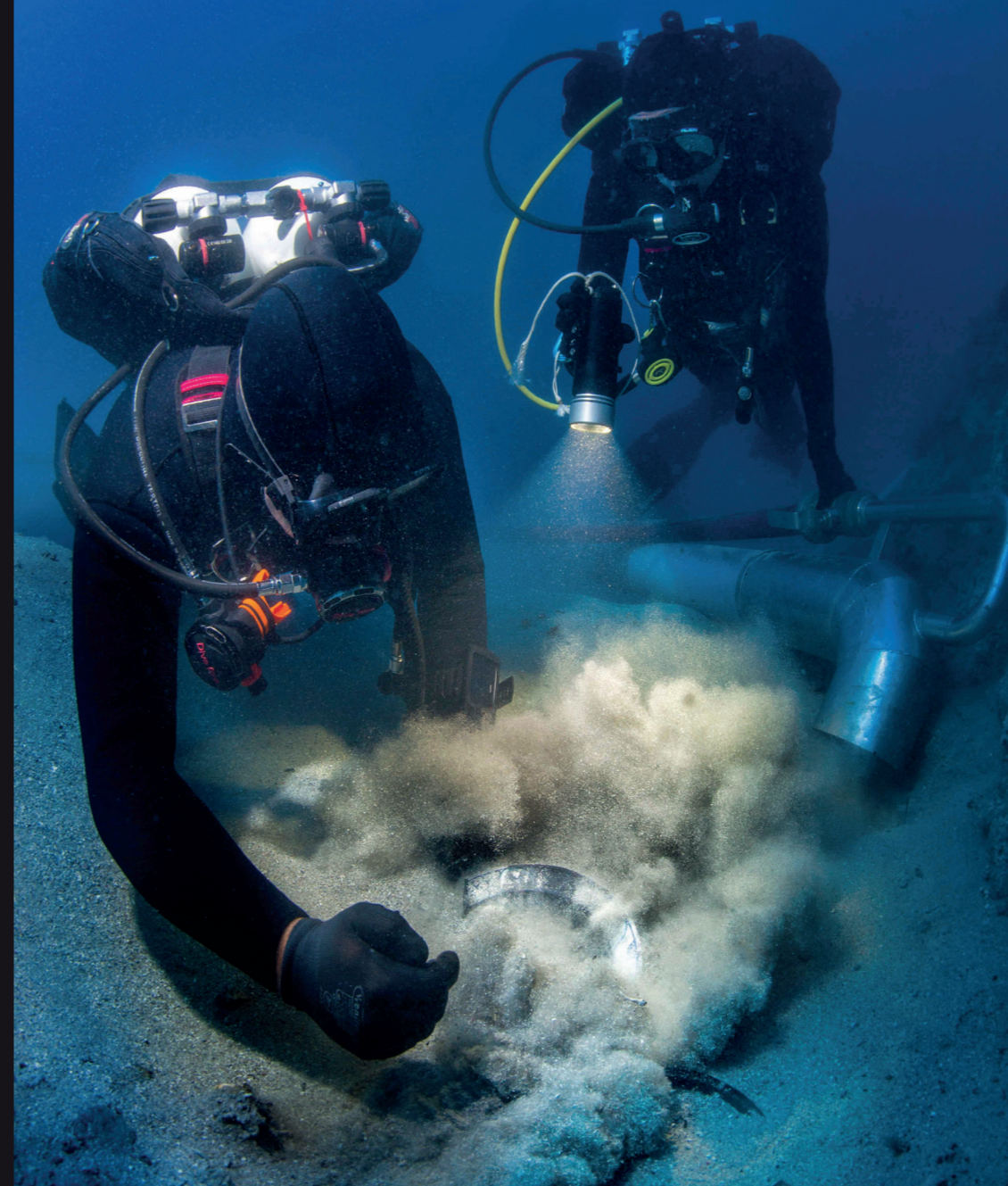
Ottoman silver coins (*akçe*), which probably belonged to the captain, were found in a leather pouch. The coins were minted during the reign of four sultans. Every sultan issued their own coins, and the use of *akçe* of former sultans was forbidden. However, most European merchants did not know the alphabet of the Ottoman empire, nor could they read the inscription on the coins, so *akçe* of former sultans were used for trade with European merchants. *Akçe* of Sultan Murad III, minted from 1574 to 1595, are the most important find used to date the shipwreck in the Shallows of St. Paul. Taking into account the twenty-year lifetime of merchant ships during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the fact that the ship's bell and the coins of Sultan Murad III were recovered from the shipwreck, we can assume that this ship experienced its unhappy destiny around 1585.

Results of research of this shipwreck, unique in the Mediterranean, were published in the book *Sveti Pavao Shipwreck* (Oxford, 2014), and at the exhibition *Iznik - Ottoman Pottery from the Depths of the Adriatic* held in 2015 at the Mimara Museum in Zagreb and in 2016 at the Dubrovnik Museums in Dubrovnik.

The importance of these finds was recognised throughout Europe, so a portion of the ceramics was displayed in 2017 and 2018 on exhibitions *Ocean Explorers - From Sindbad to Marco Polo* in Paris, *Aventuriers des mers* in Marseille, and *Into the sea of intimacy* in Trieste.



## Otok Mljet, pličina Sveti Pavao / Brodolom s teretom izničke keramike



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Otok Mljet sa svojim prirodnim i kulturnim specifičnostima iznimno je zanimljivo područje koje se oduvijek nalazilo na plovnom putu koji povezuje glavne luke Istoka i Zapada. Nekoliko dobro zaštićenih uvala sa sjeverne strane otoka pružalo je odličnu zaštitu pomorcima i brodovima koji su se uspjeli skloniti od nepovoljnih vremenskih uvjeta. Brodove koji nisu uspjeli pronaći sigurnu luku, danas pronalazimo u dubinama oko Mljeta. Takav je i novovjekovni brodolom iz 16. stoljeća, pronađen na južnoj strani otoka, na pličini Sveti Pavao.

Brodolom je otkriven 2006. godine, a od 2007. do danas traju arheološka istraživanja koja vode djelatnici Hrvatskog restauratorskog zavoda. Zbog složenosti istraživanja, dimenzija i dubine nalazišta te različitosti nalaza, ostvarena je suradnja sa Sveučilištem Ca' Foscari iz Venecije.

Karakteristike gradnje broda, ali i oznake na topovima upućivale su na mletačko podrijetlo, no ono što se osobito razlikovalo od svih prije pronađenih brodoloma u Jadranu je njegov teret. Riječ je o osmanskim keramičkim posuđama koje se proizvodilo od 15. do 17. stoljeća u gradu Izniku. Svaki sultan imao je majstora koji je upravljao keramičarskim radionicama, stvarajući posebne ornamente s motivima iz Kurana te s onima životinja i cvijeća. Iznicka keramika bila vrlo popularna u vrijeme vladavine sultana Sulejmana Veličanstvenog. Zbog ustanovljenih pet razvojnih faza izničke keramike, promijenjena je dosadašnja teorija prema kojoj se dolaskom novoga sultana prestao koristiti prijašnji stilski izričaj, pa se danas pretpostavlja da se pojedini stil ukrašavanja primjenjivao dok god je za njega postojalo zanimanje. Kupci takve keramike bili su većinom imućni Europljani, željni „egzotičnih“ predmeta s istoka. U svjetskim muzejima i privatnim zbirkama danas postoji samo tri tisuće primjeraka izničkog posuđa.

Osim broda i tereta, tijekom istraživanja pronađeno je i mnogo predmeta koji nam omogućuju rekonstrukciju svakodnevice tijekom plovidbe. Keramičko i metalno posuđe pronađeno u brodskoj kuhinji svjedoči o načinu kuhanja, a pronađene životinjske kosti o omiljenim obrocima tijekom puta. Pronađeno je i brončano zvono s istaknutom godinom lijevanja 1567. Može se pretpostaviti da je upravo te godine brod prvi put zaplovio.

U kožnatoj vrećici pronađen je osmanski srebrni novac (*akçe*), koji je vjerojatno pripadao kapetanu. Te *akçe* kovane su u vrijeme vladavine četvorice sultana. Naime, svaki sultan kovao je svoj novac, a *akçe* prijašnjih sultana bile su zabranjene. Međutim, većina europskih trgovaca nije poznavala pismo osmanskog carstva, pa tako ni natpise na novcu, stoga su *akçe* prijašnjih sultana bile u optjecaju u trgovini s europskim trgovcima. Za datiranje brodoloma na pličini Svetog Pavla najvažnije su *akçe* sultana Murata III., kovane od 1574. do 1595. godine. Zahvaljujući pronalasku broskog zvona i *akči* sultana Murata III., te uzimajući u obzir dvadesetogodišnji vijek trajanja trgovačkih brodova tijekom 16. stoljeća, možemo pretpostaviti da je nađeni brod doživio nesretnu sudbinu oko 1585. godine.

Rezultati istraživanja toga jedinstvenog brodoloma na Sredozemlju predstavljeni su u knjizi *Sveti Pavao Shipwreck* (Oxford, 2014.) te na izložbi *Iznik - osmanska keramika iz dubine Jadrana*, postavljenoj 2015. godine u zagrebačkom Muzeju Mimara te 2016. godine u Dubrovačkim muzejima u Dubrovniku.

Značenje navedenih nalaza prepoznato je diljem Europe pa je dio pronađenog posuđa 2017. i 2018. godine bio izložen u sklopu tematskih izložbi *Ocean Explorers - From Sindbad to Marco Polo* u Parizu, *Aventuriers des mers* u Marseilleu i *Into the sea of intimacy* u Trstu.



Izdavač: Hrvatski restauratorski zavod, [www.h-r-z.hr](http://www.h-r-z.hr) / Za izdavača: dr. sc. Tajana Pleše / Stručni tim: Igor Miholjek, Jurica Bezak, Igor Mihajlović, Vesna Zmaić Kralj, Pavle Dugonjić, Ana Skračić, Carlo Beltrame, Damir Banković, Vladimir Onofri, Mario Orlandini / Fotografije: Igor Miholjek, Jurica Škudar, Pavle Dugonjić, Jerko Macura, Arne Hodalić / Autor teksta: Igor Miholjek / Lektura: Rosanda Tometić / Prijevod: Nataša Đurđević / Grafičko oblikovanje i priprema za tisak: Ljubo Gamulin / Tisak: Novi val d.o.o. / Naklada: 500 / Zagreb, lipanj 2018.

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