

# CANADIO-BYZANTINA

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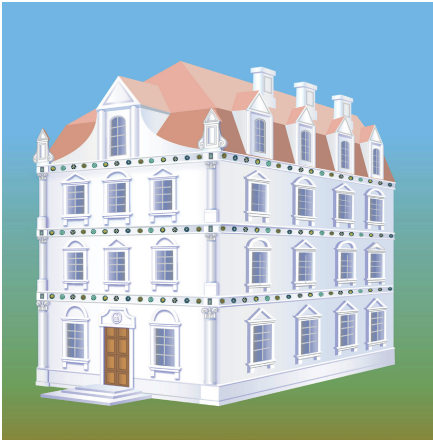
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## Excavations at Baturyn in 2017

In August of last year, the Canada-Ukraine archaeological expedition conducted its annual excavations in the Ukrainian town of Baturyn, Chernihiv Oblast. The project is sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta, the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (PIMS) at the University of Toronto, and the Ucrainica Research Institute in Toronto. The W. K. Lypynsky East European Research Institute in Philadelphia also supported the historical and archaeological investigations of early modern Baturyn in 2016-17.

This past summer, the archaeological expedition in Baturyn engaged about 50 students and scholars from the universities of Chernihiv and Hlukhiv, as well as the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. It was headed by archaeologist Yurii Sytyi of Chernihiv National University. Prof. Zenon Kohut, the former director of CIUS, serves as academic adviser for the Baturyn project. Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev (CIUS) and Prof. Martin Dimnik (PIMS) take part in this research and the publication of its results.

The 2017 archaeological findings have established that medieval Baturyn emerged in the Komnenian era as a frontier fortress of Kyivan Rus' on the north eastern periphery of the Byzantine Commonwealth. After its destruction by the Mongols in 1239, the town recovered in the course of the Palaeologan period. In the 16th and early 17th centuries, the development of this settlement was interrupted. From 1625 the town was rebuilt under Polish rule over central Ukraine.



*Fig. 1. Mazepa's palace in Honcharivka, the suburb of Baturyn before 1708. Hypothetical reconstruction by V. Mezentsev, computer graphic by S. Dmytriienko, 2017.*

In 1669, Baturyn became the capital of the 17th-18th-century Cossack state. It prospered most under the reign of the distinguished Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709), who promoted the town's economic and cultural ties with the kingdoms of Poland and Sweden. In alliance with them, Mazepa led a revolt to liberate central Ukraine from the increasing domination of Russia. In 1708, the tsarist army repressed this insurrection and completely destroyed the hetman capital. Baturyn was rebuilt and experienced its last upsurge under the rule of the progressively-minded Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky (1750-64) prior to his death in 1803.

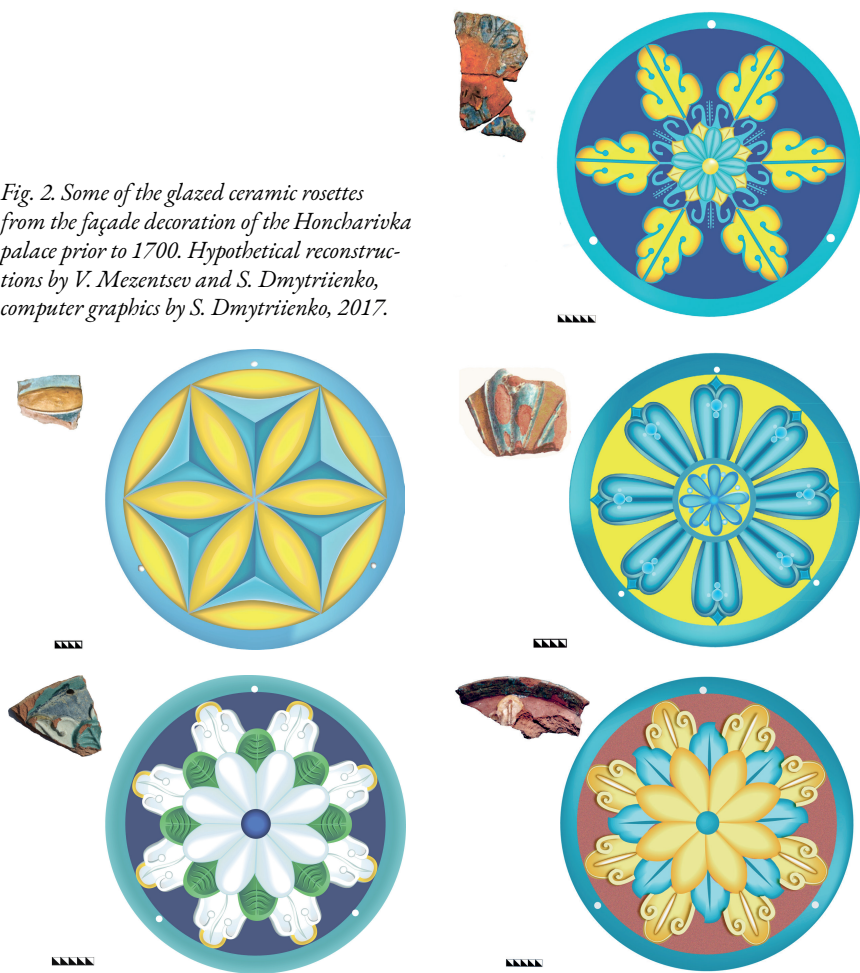
Last summer, the expedition resumed its excavations in the Baturyn suburb of Honcharivka. Between 1696 and 1700, Mazepa constructed there his principal residence with three stories and a mansard. This brick palace was plundered and burned by Russian troops in 1708.

Analysis of the excavated palace's foundations, written sources, and a unique 1744 drawing of this structure's ruins, found at the National Museum in Stockholm, has enabled researchers to recreate its architectural design and decoration. Although Mazepa's main residence was likely built and adorned primarily in the Central European baroque style, the embellishment of this palace's façades with glazed ceramic rosettes represents a distinctive attribute of the early modern architecture of central Ukraine.

While excavating the remnants of Honcharivka's villa in 1995-2013, many fragments of such rosettes were found. These round plate-like ceramic details are ornamented with relief stylized flowers of various patterns and covered by white, yellow, green, turquoise, and light or dark blue enamel. In 2017, on the basis of a detailed examination of numerous rosette fragments and using computer graphic techniques, archaeologists prepared hypothetical colour reconstructions of six types of these intact details. Each type has its own specific flower or geometric relief ornament and predominantly three or four subtypes with variations of colour glazing, up to 21 subtypes altogether. These tiles were nailed to the frieze of the entablature in a row alternating different types or subtypes. According to the graphic reconstruc-



Fig. 2. Some of the glazed ceramic rosettes from the façade decoration of the Honcharivka palace prior to 1700. Hypothetical reconstructions by V. Mezentsev and S. Dmytriienko, computer graphics by S. Dmytriienko, 2017.



tion of the Honcharivka palace's exterior, these friezes on each of its three stories were decorated with rosettes of various diameters, ranging from 30 cm to 40 cm.

Rosettes, heating stove tiles, and slabs bearing Mazepa's coat of arms from the Honcharivka palace have been recognized as valuable pieces of Ukrainian baroque architectural majolica. The rosettes represent one of the most numerous and typologically diverse categories of ceramic embellishments of this edifice. Our conclusions regarding the ornamentation of the Honcharivka palace by six types and 16-21 subtypes of rosettes with a palette of six colours of enamel complement the results of earlier research on the application there of seven to nine patterns of floor pavements or inlays with glazed and terracotta tiles, about 30 kinds of fine glazed multicoloured stove tiles, and two versions of terracotta and glazed heraldic plaques. These findings attest to the exceptionally costly, refined, and diversified ceramic adornments of Mazepa's main residence in Baturyn.

All of these ornamental ceramic details of the Honcharivka palace were conceivably fashioned by experienced tile-makers, whom the hetman summoned from Kyiv. Most likely the method of decorating the façades of this edifice with ceramic rosettes was borrowed from 17th-18th-century Kyivan churches and monastic structures. It was uncharacteristic of Western European and Russian baroque architecture. In fact, the Honcharivka palace is the only known residential building in Ukraine adorned with ceramic rosettes.

Thus, the exclusive application of this specific method of embellishing churches of the leading Kyivan architectural school for finishing Mazepa's palace in Baturyn shows the unique nature and national flavour of the structure. By its three-story design, artistic polychrome glazed ceramic revetments, and unusual combination of Western and Ukrainian baroque decorations, the principal hetman residence stood out among the secular buildings of the Cossack realm.

Last year, archaeologists partly excavated the foundation of a hitherto unknown brick structure at Mazepa's estate in Honcharivka. Its investigation and identification will be continued next summer. Recent archaeological research of the ramparts and five earthen bastions protecting this manor have suggested that their design and polygonal layout were modelled on advanced contemporaneous Dutch fortifications.

In 2017, the expedition continued excavating the site of the household of Judge General Vasyl Kochubei (after 1700) in Baturyn's western end. After 1750, Rozumovsky owned this estate and commissioned three buildings for the hetman's administration there. They were demolished in the 19th century.

Archaeologists have uncovered portions of brick foundations that supported the wooden walls of two



Fig. 3. Two 17th-18th-century patterned neck crosses unearthed at Baturyn in 2017. Bronze and silver (centre and right). Photos by Yu. Sytyi.

of Rozumovsky's buildings of the second half of the 18th century. They have determined that the larger structure had one story, 20 m by 13 m in size, and at least two heating stoves. One of them was revetted with ornate Delft blue and white enamel ceramic tiles, which were probably imported from Holland. The other stove was faced with plain flat tiles glazed apple-green without images or ornaments. They presumably were produced in Baturyn in the second part of the 18th century. Fragments of both kinds of these tiles have been unearthed amidst the debris of the larger administrative premise last summer.

At Kochubei's court, a tiny 17th-18th-century silver neck cross has been discovered. It could have belonged to a child from his family or some other Cossack elite family. The shape and relief decoration of this artefact resemble Cossack crosses of local manufacture. It features a three-barred Golgotha cross inscribed on the front and some ornamental engravings on its back.

On the cross arms, the initials of Jesus Christ, the King, are inscribed in keeping with mixed Byzantine and modern Slavic iconographic traditions. The Greek letters IC and X represent the canonical abbreviations of Christ's name, while the Cyrillic letter Ц seemingly refers to His title in Slavic: Tsar (Царь). Such a brief monogram for Christ's name and title, with only four characters (IC, X, Ц), is very rare among modern Orthodox crosses with Cyrillic inscriptions. It could be due to the small size of this child's cross.

Within the former Baturyn fortress, near the Resurrection Church (1803), a larger bronze neck cross was unearthed. In the centre, it bears the miniature relief of a cross set above a crescent moon. This less expensive cross was apparently cast in Muscovy and exported to Baturyn in the 17th century.

During excavations near the Resurrection Church, a remarkable bronze ring with a seal on the octagonal glass insert of the late 17th or early 18th centuries was found. Researchers examining the seal made a sample wax impression and a graphic outline of the miniature relief image. The seal depicts a stylized masonry fortress wall flanked by two towers with steep conical roofs. Above the towers is an image of an eagle fighting a serpent or a dragon in the sky.

The fortress symbolizes the fortifications of Constantinople. The seal presents the legendary combat of two creatures, flying above the city as described in the tale about the foundation and fall of the Byzantine capital in 1453 by the Russian author Nestor Iskander in the late 15th or early 16th centuries.

Illustrations of this legend were popular in applied arts of 17th-century Muscovy. Gold and silver signet rings of this time with a similar composition were found in Tula Oblast and Mordovia in Russia. No early modern seals with this motif are known to us in Ukraine. It is also absent from the coat of arms of Ukrainian gentry and baroque engravings. This allows us to believe that the signet ring discovered in Baturyn was brought there from Muscovy during Mazepa's reign. It could have belonged to an educated



Fig. 4. Bronze signet ring of the 17th-early 18th century, graphic outline of the images on the glass seal, and its wax impression. Photos by Yu. Sytyi and S. Dmytriienko, computer graphic by S. Dmytriienko, 2017.

Cossack officer, state official, scribe, or cleric who was familiar with Iskander's account about the origins of Constantinople.

In Baturyn's northern suburb, the expedition uncovered a portion of brick foundation of the early 18th-century residence of Chancellor General Pylyp Orlyk, the renowned author of the first Ukrainian constitution (1710). This structure was burned during the conflagration of Baturyn in 1708. It had timber walls and at least two heating stoves. The first was faced with imposing multicoloured glazed ceramic tiles, while the second one had less costly terracotta tiles without enamel. Several shards of both types of these stove tiles of Ukrainian production were unearthed in 2016-17.



*Fig. 5. Fragment of the early 18th-century terracotta stove tile and a graphic outline of its reliefs of a Cossack flanged mace, banner, and acanthus leaf. Photo by Yu. Sytyi, computer graphic by S. Dmytriienko, 2017.*

One terracotta tile fragment from the last excavations features the reliefs of a stylized banner on a wooden shaft, a flanged mace (the insignia of a Cossack colonel's rank), and possibly a decorative acanthus leaf in baroque style at the bottom. These images may form part of Orlyk's ceramic armorial bearings. Several fragments of ceramic stove tiles with various elements of his noble heraldic emblem were found on this site in 2014 and 2016. Archaeological explorations of Orlyk's household will be renewed next summer.

While excavating the fortress, town's suburbs, and Kochubei's estate, were also discovered: two glazed ceramic children's toys fashioned in a folk style (a tiny cup and a whistle shaped as a stylized bird), three fragments of ornamented terracotta Cossack tobacco pipes, two iron belt clasps, two copper buttons, three lead musket bullets, and various iron tools, all of local manufacture, nine silver Polish-Lithuanian and three copper Russian coins from the 17th-18th century, as well as two silver shillings of Queen Christina Vasa of Sweden (1632-54) minted in Riga, Livonia, and one 17th-century silver solidus from Swedish Livonia.



*Fig. 6. Silver coins from Swedish Livonia, 17th century. 2017 excavations at Baturyn. Photos by Yu. Sytyi.*

In Honcharivka, archaeologists have investigated the remnants of a wooden dwelling, which was burned together with the neighbouring Mazepa villa in 1708. Inside this structure, an iron cannon ball from the shelling of the town that year has been found.

To summarise, the brick foundations of three heretofore unknown buildings and the ceramic tile adornments of the Mazepa and Rozumovsky eras were discovered at Baturyn in 2017. The latest archaeological findings have confirmed the dynamics of masonry construction, local urban crafts, Ukrainian baroque applied arts, and the broad commercial and cultural relations of the hetman capital with the Netherlands, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Swedish empire, and Muscovy. Thanks to the 17-year-long annual Canada-Ukraine excavations at Baturyn, this town has become the most extensively archaeologically studied settlement of the Cossack realm. Further field investigations in Baturyn are scheduled for August 2018.

Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev