

# CANADIO-BYZANTINA

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# REPORTS

*Image: Anastasis fresco from St Saviour in Chora, Istanbul. Photo Geoffrey Greatrex.*

at Harvard University contributed its support to the historical and archaeological investigation of early modern Baturyn.

Prof. Zenon Kohut, the former director of CIUS, is the founder of the Baturyn project and its academic adviser. Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev (CIUS) and Prof. Martin Dimnik (PIMS) participate in this research and dissemination of its findings. Forty-five 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 took part in the 2018 excavations. Archaeologist Yurii Sytyi of the Chernihiv College National University leads the Baturyn archaeological expedition.

From 1669 to 1708, Baturyn was the capital of the Cossack state, or Hetmanate, and emerged as one of the largest and most prosperous towns in Ukraine. The prominent, Western-oriented Cossack ruler, Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709), concluded an alliance with Sweden and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and rebelled against Moscow's growing curtailment of administrative autonomy of central Ukraine. However, in 1708, in the course of the tsarist suppression of Mazepa's uprising, punitive Russian forces razed Baturyn. The outstanding reformer of the Cossack polity, Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky (1750-64, d. 1803), rebuilt the town and facilitated its manufacturing production and trade with Western and Eastern Europe during the second half of the 18th century.

Before 1700, Mazepa founded his main palatial residence in

## **Excavations at Baturyn in 2018**

Last summer, archaeologists carried out their annual excavations in the town of Baturyn, Chernihiv province, Ukraine. This Canada-Ukraine 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. In 2017-18, the Ukrainian Studies Fund

Honcharivka, the environs of Baturyn. His stately palace was pillaged and destroyed by Muscovite troops in 1708.

Archaeological investigations of the ramparts with a glacis and five earthen bastions of this manor have shown that their design, techniques, and polygonal layout were modelled on advanced 17th-century Dutch strongholds. These bastion fortifications of Mazepa's principal residence in Baturyn are the earliest-known in central or Cossack Ukraine.

His masonry three-story baroque palace protected by bastion defenses belonged to a category of fortified villa called *palazzo e fortezza*, which appeared in Italy in the 16th century. By the end of that century, it spread throughout Western and Central Europe, reaching western Ukraine in the early 17th century. The Honcharivka estate represents the first known example of a *palazzo e fortezza* in the Cossack realm.

This sizeable manor with an area of nine hectares included besides Mazepa's palatial court, a fruit garden, a birch grove, and an arable field within its ramparts. The graphic reconstruction of this estate, with its network of straight lanes, resembles the regular pattern of so-called "French parks". They were popular in France during the baroque era and originated in Renaissance Italy. Hence, Mazepa likely commissioned his main residence in Baturyn along the models of contemporaneous Western fortified palatial complexes with regular parks.

Researchers have graphically recreated the ground plan and the exterior design of the timber church (before 1700) at Mazepa's court. Its remnants were excavated in 2011-15. This lost structure belonged to the Ukrainian folk wooden ecclesiastical architecture of Chernihiv province from the late 17th century.

In 2018, near the site of a well on the Honcharivka estate, the expedition uncovered the debris of a 2 m-wide brick corridor. It was traced for about 7 m in length. Preliminary opinion suggests this was a secret underground vaulted tunnel connecting the well's shaft with the basement of the neighbouring building at Mazepa's court. Archaeological investigation of the remnants of this extraordinary and intriguing structure will continue in order to establish conclusively its layout, size, and specific purpose.

In Baturyn's northern suburb, the expedition continued excavating the brick foundation of the home of the distinguished Ukrainian politician, diplomat, and writer, Chancellor General Pylyp Orlyk (1672-1742). His spacious one-sto-

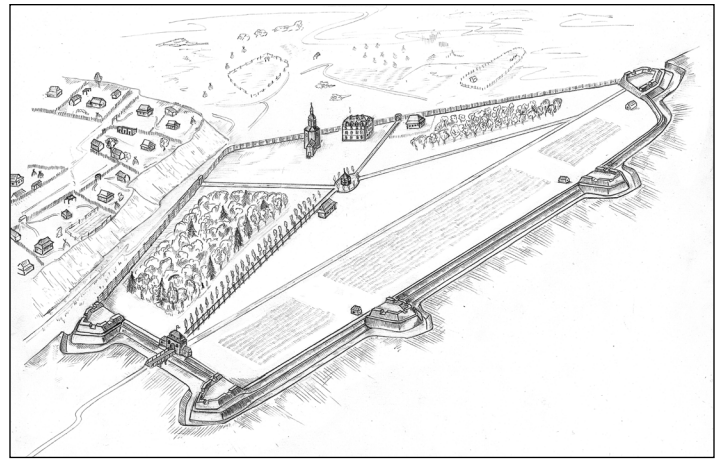


Fig. 1. Mazepa's fortified manor in Honcharivka, the environs of Baturyn, before its destruction in 1708. Hypothetical reconstruction by O. Bondar, 2018.

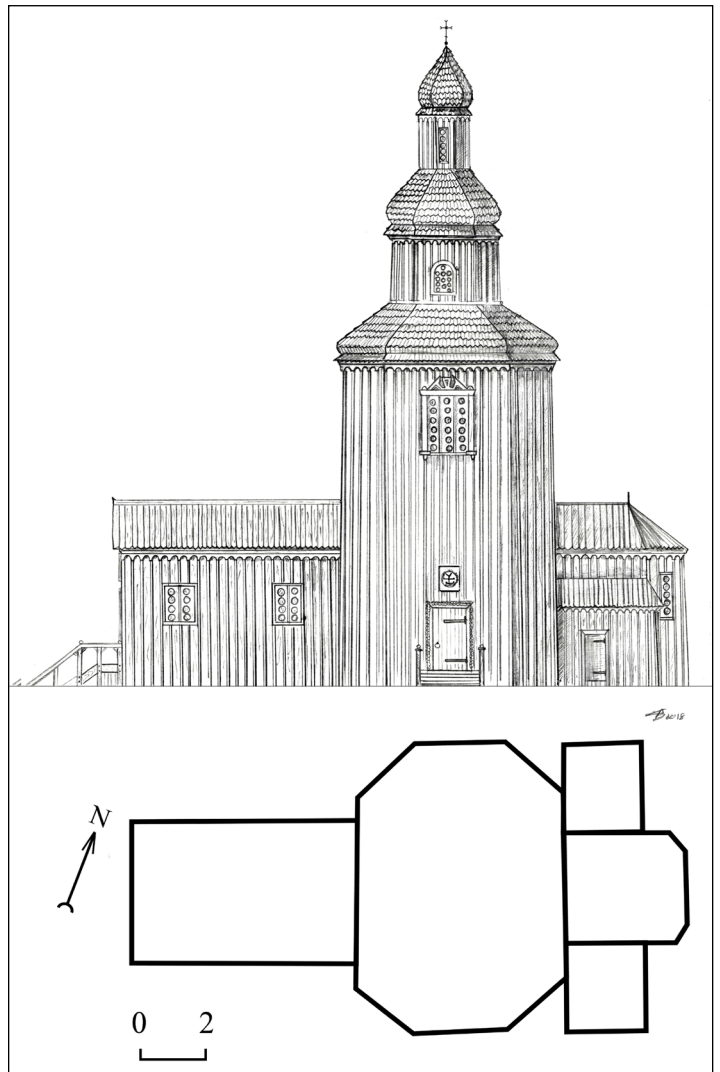


Fig. 2. Ground plan and southern elevation of the wooden church at Mazepa's court (prior to 1700). Hypothetical reconstruction by O. Bondar, 2018.





Fig. 3. Burnt polychrome glazed ceramic stove tile bearing Orlyk's coat of arms (1700-1708). Hypothetical reconstructions, computer photo collage, and graphic by S. Dmytriienko, 2018.

ry dwelling of local tradition was made of logs and dates to 1700-1708.

In 2018, many fragments of terracotta and polychrome glazed ceramic tiles facing the heating stoves at Orlyk's house were unearthed amidst its remnants. Some of them exhibit fire damage, indicating that his residence was burned during the sack of Baturyn in 1708. These stove tiles are valuable pieces of the local ceramic decorative and heraldic arts in Mazepa's capital. Several shards with the relief family coats of arms of both Orlyk and Mazepa were found there.

Using computer photo collage and graphic techniques, researchers have reconstructed a whole tile featuring Orlyk's armorial bearings. It was covered with multicoloured glazing damaged by fire and measured 35 cm by 33 cm. In the compositional centre of this tile, is the image of a figured blue shield with an inscribed stylized bowed yellow cauldron holder and an unsheathed white (silver) sword with a yellow (golden) hilt upwards. The shield is surmounted by a golden inlaid crown. Above it, the bent leg of a knight in blue armor is depicted. Two stylized green palm fronds flank the shield. These heraldic symbols are placed against an oval white background and surrounded by a floral ornament with white and yellow flowers as the decorative cartouche in the Ukrainian baroque style set on a cobalt background. In the early modern era, the blue enamel was most expensive. Over the crown, the initials of Pylyp or Filip Orlyk (*F. O.*) are inscribed in Latin letters.

This unique find is the earliest known representation of Orlyk's family heraldic emblem, which he commissioned while serving as Chancellor General in Mazepa's government before the fall of Baturyn in 1708. Previously, only two wax imprints of Orlyk's seals were known to be preserved in Sweden. They bear his coat of arms from the time he was hetman in 1710-42 and lived in exile in the West. However, their heraldic compositions and ornamentations differ and lack any inscriptions. Archaeological research on Orlyk's residence will resume next summer.

On the town's western outskirts, the expedition continued excavating the site of the estate of Judge General Vasyly Kuchubei (1700-1708). In the second part of the 18th century, it was in the possession of Rozumovsky who constructed several government office premises there. These were dismantled in the following century.

In 2017-18, archaeologists partially unearthed the brick foundation of the southern structure of this administrative complex built in the third quarter of the 18th century. This edifice was 12 m by 10 m in size, and it had one floor, a wooden superstructure, and seemingly a kitchen and dining room.

Amidst the remnants of this building, many broken ceramic stove tiles of various shapes were found. They are glazed dark blue, white, and brown and feature the artistic plant motifs and images of early modern Western European architecture, men, women, birds, and flowers in late baroque Dutch style.





Fig. 4a (left), 4b (above). Fragments of glazed ceramic stove tiles featuring human figures in Dutch style, mid-18th century. Photos by Yu. Sytyi.

Fig. 5 (below). Obverse and reverse of 17th-century Polish coins (silver on top, copper on bottom). 2018 excavations at Baturyn. Photo by Yu. Sytyi.



Similar ceramic tiles adorned the heating stoves and fireplaces of two Rozumovsky palaces (1752 and 1799) in Baturyn. They could have been imported by this hetman from Holland or represent less expensive 18th-century Russian or Ukrainian imitations of the fashionable and prestigious Dutch revetment majolica of the time.

Other notable artefacts discovered at the former Baturyn fortress, town vicinities, and Kochubei's court include: a silver coin of Sigismund III Vasa, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, minted in Bydgoszcz, Poland, in 1623, two copper solidi of King John II Casimir Vasa of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth minted in Cracow in 1664, three copper Russian coins, a bronze wedding ring, a signet ring, two belt appliqués from Cossack leather belts, a button, two lead musket bullets, six iron cannon balls, a grenade, various iron implements of local manufacture, a fragment of the patterned white-clay chibouk of the Dutch pipe, and four shards of imported painted faience plates, all from the 17th-18th century.

The fruitful 2018 excavations at Baturyn have provided us with valuable new information about the fortifications, residences, and service structures of hetmans and state officials in the 17th-18th-century Cossack capital. Of particular importance are the archaeological finds of the numerous costly ceramic decorative and heraldic stove tiles, executed in both the Ukrainian and Dutch baroque styles. Field research at Baturyn will be renewed next summer.

Martin Dimnik and Volodymyr Mezentsev