EXCAVATING THE HETMAN CAPITAL BATURYN IN 2014-2015

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The Canada-Ukraine archaeo-
logical expedition has conducted an-
annual field research in the town of
Baturyn, Chernihiv Oblast, in-
recent years, the military actions of
in eastern Ukraine. In 2014, some
30 students and scholars from the
universities of Chernihiv, Kyiv,
and Hryvka took part in the ex-
cavations there. Last summer, the
expedition involved 45 members from
these institutions.

The expedition was headed by
archaeologists Yuri Sytyi and Dr.
Vladimir Demnyk of Chernihiv
National University. Dr. Volodymyr
Mezentsev of the Canadian Institute
of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the
University of Alberta is the executive
director of the Batyrn archaeological
project from the Canadian side. Prof.
Zheniu Koidali, distinguished
historian of the Hetmanate and
professor at CIUS, is the academic
advisor. Leading histo-
rant on Chernihiv Principality.
Professor Martin Demik of the
Pittsburgh Institute of Medieval Stud-
ies (PIMS) at the University of Toronto,
also participates in the
research of Baturyn and the pub-
lication of its findings.

In 1669, this town became the
resistance to the Russian troops.
They brutally suppressed this up-
rising. In 1708, the tsar’s army,
aided by the traitor, occupied,
plundered, and burned down the
hetman capital, killing 5,000 to
6,750 civilian inhabitants, regard-
independent Ukraine. Following
the reconstruction of the impres-
sive fortress citadel, the hetman’s
capital, the state treasury house,
the court hall, and chambers, as
well as the establishment of sev-
eral modern museums of antiqui-
ties, since 2009, Baturyn has become one of the most pop-
able tourist attractions in Ukraine.
De-
spite the tense situation in the
country, about 143,000 tourists
visited its museums and historical
sites last year, an increase of
13,000 from 2014.

In 1751-53, Rozumovsky com-
misioned his first palace in Batur-
yn, which was demolished in 1821. It
was probably designed by the renowned Italian architect
Antonio Rafaeli, whom the het-
man invited to Ukraine in 1751.
Descriptions from the 18th
and 19th centuries tell us that this palace was a spacious one-story
late baroque wooden building with
private living quarters, two
stories for guests, an inside
and a rich library.

In 2014, Yu. Sytyi discovered
the remains of the dismantled
church. The church was built on the
same site in the late 17th cen-
tury.

The enlightened Hetman Katy-
ro Rozumowski (1750-64) rebuilt
the palace in 2014, and computer
artist Serhii Dmytryienko have
prepared hypothetical graphic recons-
tructions of the exterior of Mazepa’s palace.

The author and S.
Dmytryienko have prepared hy-
pothetical graphic reconstructions
of the first Rozumovsky
residence in Baturyn, this writer
and computer artist Serhii Dmytryi-
tenko (Chernihiv) have completed a hypothetical graphic reconstruc-
tion of its front elevation.

The expedition has continued
excavating the remains of Mazepa’s mansion in Honcharivka, a
suburb of Baturyn. In the late
18th century, he constructed there a m-
sory palace (20 by 14.5 m) with
three stories, a basement, and a
Western baroque style. The residence of the hetman was pillaged and
burned by Muscovite troops dur-
ing the town’s ravaging in 1708.
Archaeological and architec-
tural research of the palace debris,
with an analysis of a 1744
drawing of its ruins preserved at the
National Museum in Stock-
lholm, have allowed investigators
to determine the ground plan,
size, design, and decoration of the edifice. And S. Dmytryienko
have prepared hypo-
thetical graphic reconstructions
of the exterior of Mazepa’s palace.

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excavating the remnants of a sizeable imported goods, the prosperous near the extant masonry residence members of the hetman’s body - racks, or hypothetical computer reconstruction. These could have been the work of ceramic tobacco pipes of local man glazed tableware and Dutch porcelain chibouks and mouth holes, lead mask fluted brass and silver, two lead mask booklets, two copper bot ton - tiger rings with a gem, two iron belt clasps, a bronze oval plain clasp, and three bronze fiction belt buckles. One of these is gilt and broken. These bronze figurines were probably manufactured locally for the decoration of the Cossack elite at the hetman’s capital. Two intact belt buckles were shaped and engraved in the form of a stylized tiger - head - flat - tailed from the wild. They resemble three bronze lion - guard belt buckles unearthed among the remnants of the mili tary barracks at Ma zepa’s estate in 2012 - 2013. All these antiquities can be dated in a time preceding the 1708 destruction of Batyryn. This claim holds a groove in the body that was detected by X - ray analysis in the form of a tiger - head belt buckle, and probably under the seat of a car seat. Several thousand bones from the 17th - 18th centuries. These pieces may indicate a revival of ceramic folk art in Batyryn during its reconstruction by Rozumovsky in the second half of the 18th century.

In 2014, in the town’s northern outskirts, a fragment of a brass glazed heraldic stone was found. It features the relief coat of arms of the famous Pylyp Orlyk, Secretary General of Mazepa’s administration, a future hetman (1710 - 42), and the author of the first Ukrainian constitution (1710). Archaeologists hope to locate the remnants of Orlyk’s named residence at this site. The excavations carried out by Yurii Skorokhod in the Batyryn district in the land of the Sein River, uncovered the remnants of wooden structures which were burned by the turco - tatars in 1708. For many years, the Batyryn project has excavated the remains of hundreds of burned and buried victims of the Russian attack in every part of the town and its environs. The researchers unearthed the Batyryn necropolis, Yu Sytyt, has revealed their graves in several 17th - 18th - century cemeteries. In 2014, our expedition exca vated 10 graves of the tombwomen from this time at the burial ground near the Catholic Church. Yu Sytyt identified the skeletal remains of a man, a woman, and a child while excavating the remains of two mass graves.

These field investigations and exhumation of exhumed bones by specialists in anthropological examination and St. Nicholas church - present day market square. Yu Sytyt’s excavations unearthed the foundations of an undated 18th - century structure. Its foundation trenches were filled with broken 17th - century bricks, many of which exhibit fire damage. This researcher suggests that some of these beds bricks came from the monastery of St. Nicholas Church in Batyryn. The church was built in the 17th century. Its bell tower is a landmark of the town and its environs. The continued support of archaeological research in Baturyn has been sponsored by the National Executive of the League of Ukrainian Women in Canada (Lesia Shymko, president), the League of Ukrainian Women in Canada Toronto Branch (Halyna Vynok, president), the Knyshtny Olha Branch of the Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada (Vera Melnyk, president), the Baturyn Field School at Harvard University (Dr. Roman Proskiw, director), and the Ukrainian Studies Program at the University of Toronto, O N C A M. Please make your cheques payable to: Ukrainian Research Institute (Memy Project). The researchers are invited to send their cheques to: Mr. Stan Kamin, Treasurer, Ukrainian Institute of Medieval Studies (Memy Project), 9 Plastics Ave., Toronto, ON, CANADA M8Z 4B6.

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