

EXCAVATIONS AT BATURYN IN 2016-2017 CERAMIC ADORNMENTS OF HETMAN ARCHITECTURE

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War and economic problems in Ukraine have complicated but not interrupted the annual excavations conducted by the Canada-Ukraine archaeological expedition in the town of Baturyn, Chernihiv Oblast since 2001. This is thanks largely to the sponsors of the Baturyn historical and archaeological project: 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. Prof. Zenon Kohut, distinguished historian of the Hetman state and former director of CIUS, serves as the academic adviser of this undertaking. Orest Steciw, M.A., managing director of the



The 17th-century fortress citadel of Baturyn with the Resurrection Church and the earliest hetman residence within the bailey. Reconstructed on the basis of archaeological research in 2008. Photos by V. Mezentsev.

Archaeologist Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev (CIUS, Toronto) is the Canadian executive director of the Baturyn project. The notable

looted and burned down the hetman capital, and annihilated its Cossack garrison as well as all the residents—from 11,000 to

In 2016-17, archaeologists continued their excavations in Honcharivka, the suburb of Baturyn. In the late 1690s, Mazepa con-

Chernihiv examined numerous photos of unearthed rosette fragments. Using computer graphic techniques we prepared hypo-

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 refined, costly, and diversified ceramic adornment of Mazepa's main residence in Baturyn.

I contend that the method of decorating the façades of this structure with ceramic rosettes was borrowed from Kyivan ecclesiastical architecture between 1696 and 1700. This corresponds with Yu. Sytyi's assertion about the production of all the ceramic ornamental details of the Honcharivka palace, including the rosettes, stove and floor tiles, and heraldic slabs, by experienced artisans or *kakhlari*, whom the hetman summoned from Kyiv. Undoubtedly, they made these ware from local clay while in Baturyn. Yet these masters could have brought with them the carved wooden molds which they employed to fashion rosettes for some contemporaneous churches in Kyiv.

In the 17th-18th centuries, in



Richly illustrated booklet providing the update on excavations in Baturyn, published by "Homin Ukrainy" in 2017.

National Executive of the League of Ukrainian Canadians, is the president of the Ucrainica Research Institute.

The W. K. Lypynsky East European Research Institute Inc. in Philadelphia awarded a generous grant for the archaeological investigation of early modern Baturyn in 2016-17. In 2005-17, the Chernihiv Oblast State Administration also contributed annual subsidies for the excavations in the town.

In 2016, nearly 70 students and archaeologists from the universities of Chernihiv, Hlukhiv, and Sumy were involved in the Baturyn excavations. Past summer, the archaeological expedition there decreased to 50 members due to the absence of students from Sumy. The expedition was headed by archaeologist Yurii Sytyi of Chernihiv National University.

historian of Ukraine-Rus', Prof. Martin Dimnik (PIMS), has also collaborated in this research.

In 1625, when the Chernihiv-Siversk land was under Polish rule, the Baturyn castle, the nucleus of the emerging town, was founded. Subsequently, a sizeable and sturdy fortress was constructed around the castle. It became the political, military, and administrative capital of the Cossack state in 1669. Baturyn flourished and reached the peak of its urban development during the reign of Hetman Ivan Mazepa (1687-1709), who was the best-known and most respected of all Ukrainian hetmans in the West.

In 1708, with Sweden as an ally, Mazepa led a revolt to liberate central Ukraine from increasing Russian domination. In retaliation, tsarist forces, aided by a traitor, broke into the Baturyn fortress,

14,000 Ukrainians in total. By the order of Tsar Peter I, the complete destruction and depopulation of Mazepa's capital was to serve as a demonstration of the severe price to be paid for disloyalty to the tsar's authority. His intent was to terrify and demoralize all of Ukraine.

Half a century later, Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky (1750-64) privatized and rebuilt Baturyn, and renewed its status as the capital of the Hetmanate. Although, in 1764, the Russian Empire abolished this Cossack realm, Rozumovsky continued to reconstruct and repopulate the town, promoting its economic growth until his death in 1803. After this last upsurge, the former hetman capital fell into decline, but it has begun to revive in independent Ukraine.

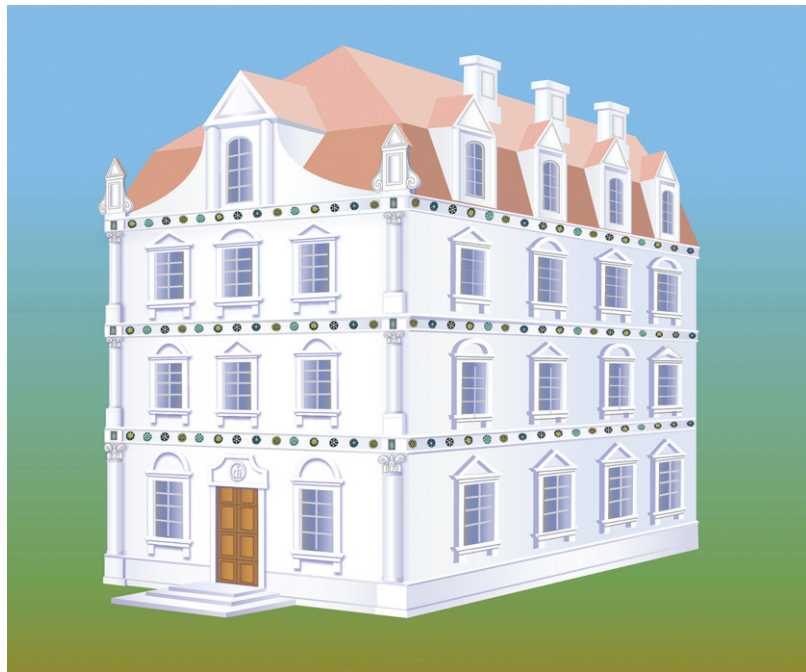
Since 2009, with the reconstruction of the impressive fortress citadel, hetman palaces, the state treasury house, court hall, and churches, as well as the establishment of several modern museums of antiquities, Baturyn has become a popular tourist attraction. Over the past three years, the influx of visitors to the town's museums and historical sites from Ukraine and abroad has increased, reaching up to 150,000 sightseers in 2016.

structed his principal residence there, an imposing brick palace (20 m by 14.5 m) with three stories and an attic. In 1708, Russian troops plundered and burned this outstanding piece of Ukrainian architecture.

Analysis of the excavated Honcharivka palace debris and written sources, along with the 1744 drawing of its ruins, has allowed researchers to establish the architectural design and decoration of this structure. At Mazepa's behest, his main residence was likely built and adorned primarily in the style of the mature Central European baroque. My research, however, has shown that the embellishment of this palace's façades with glazed ceramic rosettes represented a distinctive attribute of Hetmanate architecture.

While excavating the remnants of Honcharivka's villa in 1995-2013, many fragments of such rosettes were found. These plate-like ceramic details have a semi-spherical central part and flat circular rims. Their convex facing is ornamented with relief rosettes, i.e. stylized flowers of various patterns, and covered by white, yellow, green, turquoise, and light or dark blue enamel.

In 2017, this writer and graphic artist Serhii Dmytrienko of



Mazepa's palace in Honcharivka, the suburb of Baturyn before 1708. Hypothetical reconstruction by V. Mezentsev, computer graphic by S. Dmytrienko.

thetical colour reconstructions of six types of intact rosettes. Each type has its own specific relief flower or geometric ornament and predominantly three or four subtypes with variations of colour glazing, up to 21 subtypes altogether.

These details were nailed to the frieze of the entablature in a row alternating different types or



Hetman of Ukraine, Ivan Mazepa, with his coat of arms as Prince of the Holy Roman Empire. Computer collage by S. Dmytrienko.

subtypes. According to the author's reconstruction of the Honcharivka palace exterior, these friezes on each of its three stories were decorated with rosettes of various diameters, ranging from 30 cm to 40 cm. S. Dmytrienko has estimated that approximately 264 rosettes were mounted on the palace façades.

Specialists have pointed to the perfect technical and artistic quality of the heating stove tiles or *kakhli*, the rosettes, and the slabs bearing Mazepa's coat of arms from the Honcharivka palace. They recognize them as valuable pieces of Ukrainian baroque architectural majolica. The rosettes represented one of the most numerous and typologically diverse categories of ceramic embellishment of this edifice.

My conclusions regarding the ornamentation of the Honcharivka palace by six types and from 16 to 21 subtypes of rosettes with a palette of six colours of enamel complement the results of earlier research on the application there

keeping with the Kyivan model, and possibly with the involvement of Kyivan craftsmen, several monastic churches in the Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Poltava regions were also embellished with ceramic rosettes. In fact, the Honcharivka palace was the only known residential building in Ukraine which was ornamented with ceramic rosettes (excluding later imitations on dwellings or *kam'tanytsi* of the Cossack era).

Thus, the exclusive application of this specific method of adorning 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, highly artistic glazed ceramic polychrome revetments, and unusual combination of Western and Ukrainian baroque decorations, the principal hetman residence stood out among the secular buildings of the Cossack state.

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

EXCAVATIONS AT BATURYN IN 2016-2017

CERAMIC ADORNMENTS OF HETMAN ARCHITECTURE

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This year, archaeologists partly excavated the foundation of some hitherto unknown destroyed brick structure at Mazepa’s manor in Honcharivka. Its investigation and identification will be completed next summer.

The 2016 excavations in the former fortress and the southern suburb of Baturyn discovered remnants of wooden dwellings of the burghers and Cossacks, 11 silver and copper Polish and Russian coins, three fragments of copper rings, four copper buttons, four bronze and brass clasps and six decorative appliquéés from Cossack leather belts, sabre-knots, and horse harnesses, a fragment of a bronze sabre hilt guard, four lead musket bullets, four flint pieces from flint-lock rifles, an iron horse stirrup, a lead seal,



Front and back of the 17th-century patterned bronze neck cross found in the southern suburb in 2016.

and a ceramic game chip of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Last year, in the southern suburb, a 17th-century bronze neck cross was unearthed. It bears the relief of a three-barred Golgotha cross with the symbols of the Passion of Christ on both sides. In the fortress, a carved stone mold for casting neck crosses was also found. Yu. Sytyi has maintained that these items were manufactured in Baturyn before its destruction in 1708.

In 2016-17, the expedition continued excavating the site of the household of Judge General Vasyl Kochubei (after 1700) in the town’s western end. After 1750, Rozumovsky owned this manor and commissioned three wooden edifices there. In Yu. Sytyi’s view, these served as offices for the hetman’s administration, which were dismantled in the 19th century.

Archaeologists have uncovered portions of brick foundations, which supported the timber walls of two of Rozumovsky’s buildings. The heating stoves (*hruba*) there were faced with artistic ceramic tiles. Last summer, two fragments of narrow tiles from the second part of the 18th century were found there. They feature



Half of a large glazed ceramic stove tile depicting a man and a floral ornament in late baroque Dutch style. Rozumovsky’s palace-museum in Baturyn.



Discovery of a pot while excavating the remnants of a 17th-century structure in Honcharivka. Photos of the 2016 excavations and finds by Yu. Sytyi.

elaborate floral motifs executed in dark-blue enamel on white and yellow backgrounds.

In 2016, within the fortress, archaeologists unearthed half of a small flat rectangular ceramic stove tile, which was glazed cobalt-blue and white, and bears the images of a house and a large flower in baroque Dutch style. Stove tiles of the same shape, size, colouring, and manner of glazed painting from the second half of the 18th century have been found in considerable numbers in Kyiv, Nizhyn, and the Rozumovsky buildings in Baturyn. At the museum in his Baturyn palace, five intact analogous stove tiles are on display. They feature depictions of early modern Western European country houses, towers, stylized birds, and flowers.

Perhaps these narrow and small rectangular tiles discovered at Baturyn in 2016 were applied as decorative horizontal bands and cornices between rows of larger tiles revetting the heating stoves of Dutch design. Representative finds of such sizeable tiles from



Fragment of a stove tile painted with multicoloured glaze. Presumably a local Baturyn product from Rozumovsky’s era. 2007 excavations in the citadel. Photo by V. Mezentsev.

Rozumovsky’s buildings in Baturyn are exhibited in his palace-museum. They are glazed predominantly cobalt and white, but occasionally brown, green, yellow, and beige. These tiles boast skillful realistic and stylized drawings of people in 18th-century European dress, flowers, and landscapes of early modern Western European cities and ports with sailboats, as well as sophisticated plant and geometric ornaments, all executed

in the late baroque Dutch style.

Rozumovsky likely imported the best and most expensive tiles glazed cobalt and white from Holland for finishing the heating stoves and fireplaces at his ambitious palatial residences and offices of hetman administration. He could have also used some cheaper imitations of the fashionable Dutch tiles, which were manufactured in Russia from the early 18th century, and possibly locally in Baturyn since 1750. Conceivably, the flat tiles glazed brown, green, yellow, and beige of Rozumovsky’s era found in Baturyn represent Ukrainian ware. In their paintings, some influences of the style, images, and ornaments of Dutch glazed ceramics along with its national folk interpretations in the multicoloured enamel techniques are visible.

Last year, in the fortress, for



Bronze and brass clasps and decorative appliquéés from Cossack belts and horse harnesses, and a copper button from the 17th-18th century discovered in Baturyn in 2016.

the first time in Baturyn, archaeologists unearthed a remarkable tiny porcelain figure of a gentleman in 18th-century European clothing. This statuette was masterly fashioned in a realistic manner, although without small details, and painted in blue, red, apple-green, gold, dark-bronze, and black colours. I believe that it was a product of the porcelain factory in Meissen, Saxony, and brought to Baturyn during Rozumovsky’s time. The figurine could have stood on display in the house of either a Cossack officer (*starshyna*), a member of the gentry (*shliakhta*), or a well-to-do burgher, and served as a child’s toy. These finds of valuable German porcelain sculpture and Dutch-style glazed ceramic stove tiles provide insight into the European commercial and cultural connections of Baturyn, as well as the Westernization and prosperity of its elite during the last town’s vibrancy under Rozumovsky.

Yu. Sytyi published an important article this year about the excavations by our expedition of cemeteries in the Baturyn outskirts. He argues that most of the 25 buried inhabitants of the 17th-18th centuries, exhumed in the Teplivka suburb in 2005, were victims of the 1708 Russian attack on the hetman capital. Archaeologists uncovered there skeletons of children, men, and women of various ages – members of several families.

In a southern suburb, in 2006, they excavated the remains of a child inside a timber structure that was burned in 1708. In previous years, in several parts of Baturyn, archaeologists also unearthed human remains buried near or amidst the ruins of burnt dwellings of the 17th or early 18th centuries. Yu. Sytyi has positively identified these buried residents as casualties of Tsar Peter’s punitive action.

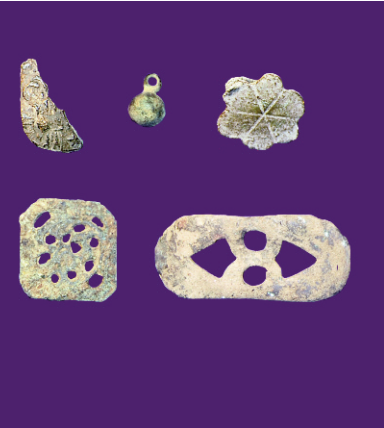
In Honcharivka, this year, our expedition investigated the remnants of a wooden dwelling of the early 18th century, which was burned together with the neighbouring Mazepa villa in 1708.



Excavations of the 17th-18th-century dwellings of Cossacks and burghers in the former Baturyn fortress as well as the brick foundation of the administrative office of Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky at Vasyl Kochubei’s household in 2016.

An iron cannon ball was found inside this structure, a reminder of the artillery shelling suffered by the town that year.

In summary, the 2016 excavations in Baturyn have yielded a number of rare and significant artefacts for the study of ceramic



decorations of residential and administrative buildings of the hetman capital, as well as the culture and lifestyle of hetmans, Cossack officers, gentry, and burghers there. New archaeological data has also advanced our knowledge



Fragments of small ceramic stove tiles from the second part of 18th century with glazed images in the Dutch style. 2016 excavations in Baturyn.

of the local manufacturing of metal ornaments, neck crosses, arms and accoutrements of the hetman’s Cossacks and their horses, and the architectural majolica in the town, as well as its trade imports and artistic influences from Western Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. The review of findings from the graves excavated by our expedition in the suburbs has provided archaeological evidence of the killing of entire families during the extermination of the population of Mazepa’s capital.

The recent detailed examination of its history and antiquities is presented in the richly illustrated booklet *Arkheolohichni doslidy Baturyna 2016 roku. Keramichni ozdoby palatsu Ivana Mazepy* (Archaeological Research of Baturyn in 2016. Ceramic Decorations of Ivan Mazepa’s Palace), Toronto: “Homin Ukrainy”, 2017, 32 pp. in Ukrainian, 75 colour illustrations. This publication is available for purchase for \$10 from the office of the National Executive of



Excavations of the 17th-18th-century dwellings of Cossacks and burghers in the former Baturyn fortress as well as the brick foundation of the administrative office of Hetman Kyrylo Rozumovsky at Vasyl Kochubei’s household in 2016.

the League of Ukrainian Canadians in Toronto (tel.: 416-516-8223, email: luc@lucorg.com) and through the CIUS Press in Edmonton (tel.: 780-492-2973, email: cius@ualberta.ca, http://www.ciuspress.com/catalogue/history/361/arhaeologheichni-doslidi-baturina-2016-r).

Next summer, archaeologists will renew their field explorations in Baturyn. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian government, burdened with heavy military expenses, will likely suspend its funding of this scholarly project from 2018 onwards. In a time of peace, the benevolent support of the Baturyn research by Ukrainians in Canada and the USA was very important, and in the present situation it will keep this project alive.

The late poetess Volodymyra Wasylyszyn and her husband, artist Roman Wasylyszyn (Philadelphia), Dr. George Iwanchyshyn and Dr. Wilhelmina Degroot (Toronto), Andrew Maleckyj and Motria Kyzycz (New York), and Alexandra



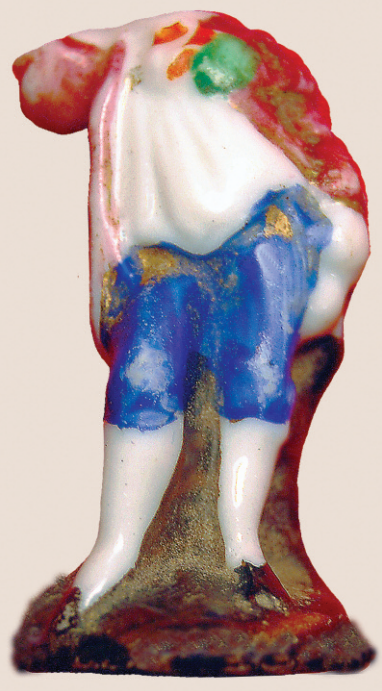
Tiles with glazed painting in Dutch style from the adornment of stoves in Rozumovsky’s buildings. Baturyn National Preserve. This and the next photo of a stove tile by V. Mezentsev.

Zolobeky-Misong (Livonia, MI) have been the most generous patrons of the study of Baturyn. In 2016-17, the archaeological research on the hetman capital and the preparation of related publications were supported with donations from the National Executive of the League of Ukrainian Canadians (Roman Medyk, president), the League of Ukrainian

Canadians – Toronto Branch (Borys Mykhaylets, president), the League of Ukrainian Women in Canada – Toronto Branch (Halyna Vynnyk, president), the Kniahynia Olha Branch of the Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada (Natalia Jemetz, president), the Buduchnist Credit Union (Oksana Prociuk, CEO and Chrystyna Bidiak, personnel manager), the Prometheus Foundation (Maria Szkambara, president), the Ukrainian Credit Union (Taras Pidzamecky, CEO), the Golden Lion Restaurant (Anna Kisil, owner), the Healing Source Integrative Pharmacy (Omelan and Zenia Chabursky, owners) in Toronto, the Canadian contributors to the Ukrainian Studies Fund Inc. at Harvard University, and the Ukrainian History and Educational Center in Somerset, N.J. (Natalia Honcharenko, director).

Continued support for archaeological investigations in Baturyn and the publication of its findings by Ukrainian organizations, foundations, companies, and private benefactors in North America will be most welcome. Canadian citizens are kindly invited to send their cheques with donations to: **Orest Steciw, M.A., President, Ukrainian Research Institute, 9 Plastics Ave., Toronto, ON, Canada M8Z 4B6.** Please make your cheques payable to: **Ukrainica Research Institute (memo: Baturyn Project).** American residents are advised to send their donations to: **Mr. Stan Kamski, Treasurer, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 59 Queen’s Park Cr. E., Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 2C4.** Please make your cheques payable to: **Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (memo: Baturyn Project).** These institutes will issue official tax receipts to all donors in Canada and the USA, and they will be gratefully acknowledged in related publications and public lectures.

For additional information about the Baturyn project, readers may contact Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev in Toronto (tel.: 416-766-1408; email: v.mezentsev@utoronto.ca). I kindly thank the Ukrainian communities in North America for their generous continuous support helping the project scholars to reconstruct the glorious and tragic history of the capital of Cossack Ukraine.



The 18th-century German porcelain statuette found in the Baturyn fortress in 2016. Photo by Yu. Sytyi.