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Preliminary investigations of changes in pottery technology through prehistory on the tell site Damića gradina (Slavonia, Croatia)

Preliminarna istraživanja promjena u lončarskoj tehnologiji kroz prapovijest na lokalitetu tel Damića gradina (Slavonija, Hrvatska)

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Analysis of ceramics artefacts may disclose a social, economic and political context of the specific area and period being studied. The subject of this study is ceramic material, found in Stari Mikanovci, which belonged to different prehistoric cultures that lived and rebuilt on the same spot forming a mound (tell Damića gradina). This multi-layered tell site represents a very good example of settling continuity from the Neolithic to the beginning of the Roman period. It was occupied during Sopot, Baden, Vučedol, Vinkovci and Bosut culture, and ends with fortified settlement in the last phase of the middle La Tène period (second half of the first century). The main goal of the study is reconstruction of technological processes of pottery production in different cultures

that lived in the same place during approx. 6000 years and used the same raw material. Technology of pottery production considers: (1) preparation of clay paste (mixing of clay with different temper material); (2) modelling techniques; (3) firing methods; and (4) styles of decoration. The purpose of investigation is to define to which extent technological processes were conditioned by economic, social or traditional factor, i.e. to which extent they were matter of choice. Different archaeometric analyses (mineralogical, petrographic and chemical) of pottery fragments were essential step in the reconstruction of the technological process and their results indicate recipes for the clay mixture and the firing regime.