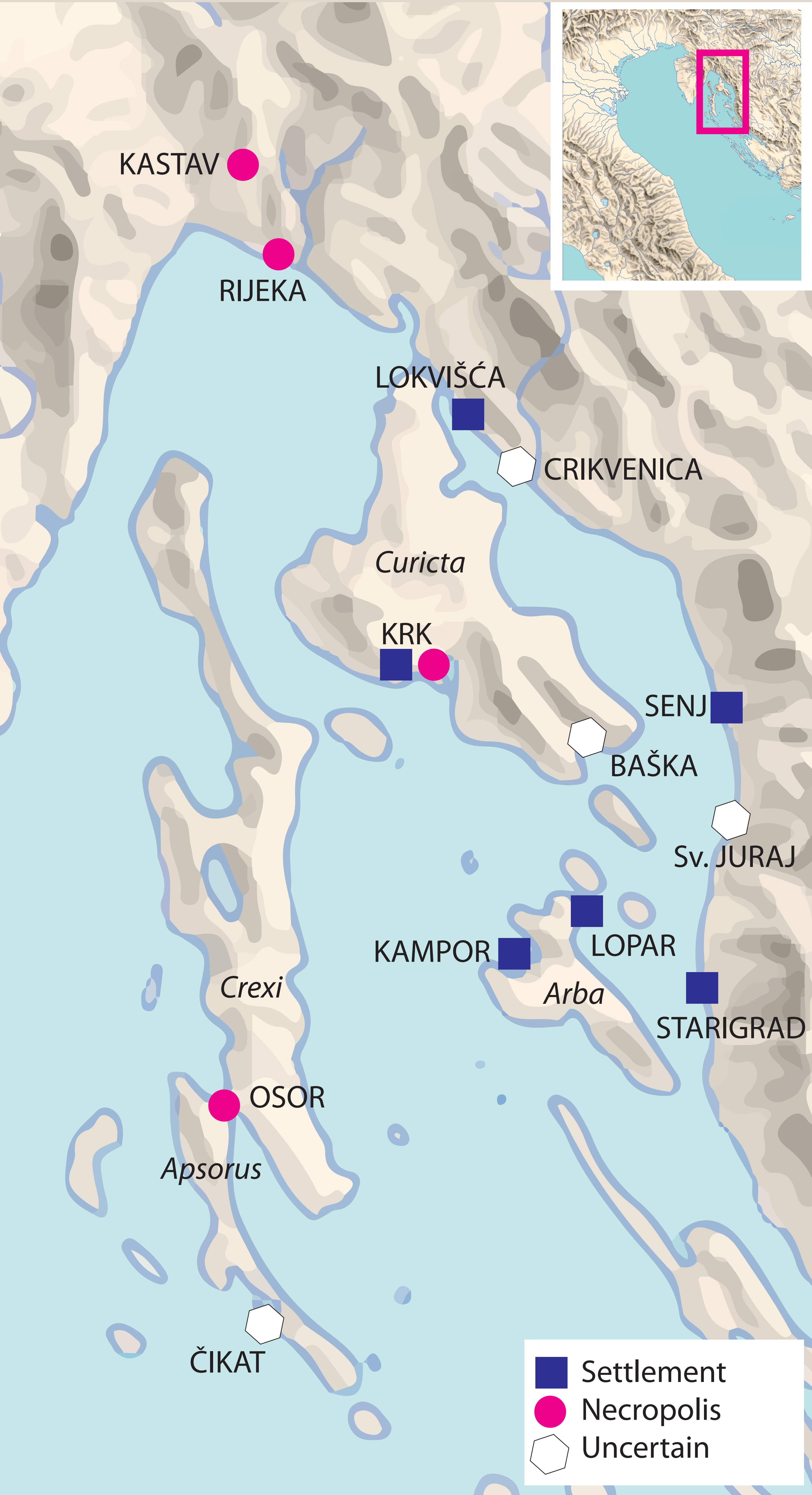


FINE WARES AS INDICATORS OF CULTURAL CONTACTS IN THE KVARNER AREA (NORTH-EASTERN ADRIATIC) BETWEEN THE 4TH AND 1ST C. BC

GORANKA LIPOVAC VRKLJAN, Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb
ANA KONESTRA, Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb
RANKO STARAC, Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral, Rijeka

The Kvarner gulf, the northernmost inlet of the eastern Adriatic, served from the earliest times, thanks to its favourable natural features, as a crossroad of paths, exchange routes and social communications. From the late Bronze Age onwards, primarily metal finds testify to its continuous contacts with Dalmatia, Istria and the western Adriatic, acting as a link between the coast and the north-eastern Adriatic hinterland (Blečić Kavur 2014). Imported pottery on the Kvarner, as evidence not only of the transfer of goods, but also of the transfer of ideas and cultural practices, makes its appearance with Daunian, and rare Greek wares, while from the 4th c. onwards the evidence is more diverse and indicative of provenience from different production areas.

From the mid-20th c. finds of Hellenistic, and earlier Daunian and Greek pottery from the Kvarner were first published, while an overview of occurrences dates to the early 2000s (Mihovilić 2002).



New data yielded by both excavations and surveys allowed the identification of new sites with the occurrence of pottery datable from the 4th c. BC onwards, as well as the definition of a more capillary distribution of later fine wares (2nd-1st c. BC) on both settlement sites and necropolises.

While Hellenistic relief ware (cups, craters etc.), Gnathia and similar black slipped ware were known from Krk, Kastav and Osor, the import of north/central italic black slipped ware, mostly plates, but also lamps, is a new occurrence so far established at coastal sites in Rijeka (Tarsatica), Lokvišća and Crikvenica (Ad Turres). The presence of Hellenist wares at Starigrad was recently established as well.

Recent excavations of an urban context at Krk yielded a full assemblage of Hellenistic and Roman republican wares typical of the 2nd-1st c. BC providing us with an overview of types and shapes that circulated in the area, and which add up to the finds of the previously excavated necropolis. On the island, relief ware is also present in the environs of Baška, while occurrences in the Arba-Senj area hint to the importance of the latter as a harbour and distribution centre.

The presence of Hellenistic ware on coastal sites, as far inland as Kastav, indicates that not only seaborne trade supplied these centres, but that land communications were active in the distribution of imports as well.

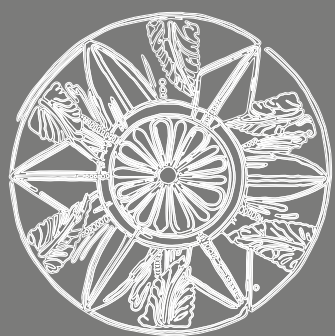


Fig. 1 - A showcase of wares from the Kvarner

Although the presence of Greek and Hellenistic pottery in the Kvarner area is not a novelty, a reassessment of data and new finds indicates their use in settlements and in necropolises, which is indicative of a widespread use of imported pottery within the autochthonous communities of both the coast and the islands. Their mixed provenience is indicative of contacts with both the southern and western Adriatic, and the wider Mediterranean area.

Bibliography:
Blečić Kavur, M. 2014, *Na razmeđu svjetova za prijelaza milenija. Kasno brončano doba na Kvarneru*, Zagreb.
Glogović, D. 1989, *Nalazi iz okolice Baške na otoku Krku*, *Izdanja HADa*, Zagreb, 97-102.
Mihovilić, K. 2002, *Grčki i helenistički nalazi u Istri i Kvarneru*, in: *Grčki utjecaj na istočnoj obali Jadrana* (N. Cambi, S. Čače, B. Kirigin eds.), Split, 499-519.

The authors would like to thank Senj Town Museum, Crikvenica City Museum and the Sambolich collection (Krk) for allowing finds review.



3rd IARPotHP
KAŠTELA
2017

