



VIMINACIVM
2014.

Kada je arheološka ekipa maja 2009. godine dobila obaveštenje sa površinskog kopa „Drmno“ da su mašine naišle na velike kosti, nije ni sanjala da je to početak priče koja će ih odvesti u prošlost mnogo dalje od Rimljana čiju su provincijsku prestonicu istraživali u neposrednoj blizini.

Već posle nekoliko minuta kopanja u rastresitom pesku, utvrđeno je da su u pitanju ostaci mamuta. Sa svakim satom istraživanja postajalo je jasno da se pomalja očuvani skelet koji je odmah popularno nazvan Vika. Nakon milion godina tame provedenih na dubini od 27 m, ponovo su je obasjali zraci Sunca. Multidisciplinarna ekipa koja se okupila bila je svedok izuzetnog otkrića u svetskim razmerama – pred njima se pojavio potpuno očuvan skelet mamuta u anatomskom položaju (vrsta *Mamuthus trogontherii*), jedan od svega nekoliko očuvanih u celom svetu.

Dugotrajnim istraživanjima priča se konačno sklopila. Mamut je otkriven u pradelti Morave u rastresitom pesku koji je i najzaslužniji za savršeno očuvani skelet. Životinja, stara preko 60 godina, zaglibila se u priobalju reke i nije imala snage da se izvuče. Iznemogla, legla je i uginula dok je telo polako tonulo u mokri pesak. Upravo zato do nje nisu mogli dopreti strvinari. Zbog izuzetne očuvanosti i položaja tela skelet je konzerviran i zaštićen *in situ*, odnosno na samom mestu nalaza, u malom improvizovanom muzeju. Na žalost, komplikovanost podizanja skeleta u jednom bloku zajedno sa podlogom na kojoj leži, uslovlila je duge pripreme tako da se njeno izmeštanje na prostor novog paleontološkog muzeja očekuje tokom proleća 2013. godine.

I taman su se arheolozi vratili svojim osnovnim istraživanjima rimskih ostataka, kad ih novo izuzetno paleontološko otkriće leta 2012. godine, ponovo vrati u dublju prošlost. Doduše, ovog puta ne tako duboku kao u slučaju Vike, ali svakako blizu stotinu hiljada godina dublju od proučavane rimske kulture.

A kako je počelo? Prilikom obilaska površinskog kopa „Drmno“ na istočnim obodima Viminacijuma, u lesnim profilima, arheolozi su uočili presečene masivne mineralizovane kosti mamuta. Otkrivene su na dubini od dvadesetak metara tako da su bile neophodne posebne pripreme terena za iskopavanja. Tokom leta uklonjeno je skoro 300.000 kubnih metara zemlje i formiran je veštački plato na kome su sprovedena sistematska istraživanja. Ekipa, poput alpinista, vezana čeličnim sajlama i užadima radila je danonoćno na ivici provalije. Iskopavanja su iznela na svetlost dana složeni ekosistem iz pleistocena fokusiran na obližnju reku sa najmanje pet jedinki mamuta i velikim brojem kostiju jelena, konja, bizona i drugih pleistocenskih sisara. Slojevi u kojima su otkrivene kosti stari su najmanje 130.000 godina. Za razliku od odlično očuvane Vike, mamuti sa Noska (lokalni toponim), iz mилоšte nazvani Nosko, Trbuško i Đomla, ostali su nakon uginuća da leže u savani gde su delove njihovih tela razvlačili strvinari. Rasute i oštećene kosti bile su na širokom području izložene atmosferskim uticajima pre nego što su ih prekrile naslage lesa. Uz veliki napor arheologa sve kosti su izmeštene, a najveće i najosetljivije (lobanje i kljove) su isečene sa blokovima zemlje i u velikim čeličnim sanducima premeštene u zonu budućeg paleontološko-arheološkog parka Viminacijum.

Izgradnja paleontološkog muzeja počela je ove jeseni i svi mamuti otkriveni na Viminacijumu biće izloženi u njemu. Ovaj muzej biće srce paleontološkog parka, koji će funkcionisati kao deo već postojećeg arheološkog parka Viminacijum. Posebna pažnja prilikom prezentacije biće posvećena deci i njihovom viđenju ledenih doba na prostoru Srbije.

In 2009, when the members of the archaeological team were informed by the miners of the strip-mine “Drmno” that machines came across huge bones, they did not even suspect that it would be a beginning of a story which would take them back into the past, much more distant than Roman times and the Romans, whose provincial capital they were already excavating nearby.

Already after a few minutes of excavation in sand, they realized that those were remains of mammoths. With every further hour of excavation, it became clear that they were dealing with a fully preserved skeleton, immediately named Vika. After a million years of darkness, spent at a depth of 27 meters, it was sunlit again. The multi-disciplinary team, which was gathered at the site, witnessed an exceptional discovery of global importance – a fully preserved mammoth skeleton in anatomic position appeared in front of their eyes (the *Mamuthus trogontherii* species), one of the only few preserved examples worldwide.

After a long-lasting excavation, the puzzle was finally put together. The mammoth was discovered in the pre-Morava delta, in sand, owing to which the skeleton remained perfectly preserved. The animal, more than sixty years old, was stuck in the river-bank mud and was not able to move. Tired, it lied down and died, its body slowly sinking into the wet sand. This is why it was not accessible to carnivores. Due to its exceptional state of preservation and its position, the skeleton was conserved and protected *in situ*, actually at the very spot it was discovered at, in a small improvised museum. Unfortunately, it is very complicated to lift a skeleton in a single block, along with the soil it lies upon, so the transport of this skeleton to the newly established paleonthological museum is to be expected in spring 2013.

And, as soon as archaeologists returned to their basic excavation of Roman remains, a sudden new paleonthological discovery of the summer of 2012 again carried them further into the past. Actually, not so distant as when Vika was concerned, but still some hundred thousand of years further back compared to the Roman culture of the site.

And how did it all begin? While surveilling the work of the “Drmno” strip-mine, at the eastern edge of Viminacium, cut-through massive mineralized mammoth bones were noticed in loess profiles. They were discovered at the depth of some twenty meters and therefore it was necessary to prepare the terrain for an excavation. During summer, almost 300.000 m³ were removed and an artificial plateau was formed for a systematic research. Like Alpinists, the team members, tied to steel ropes, worked day and night at the edge of abyss. An excavation conducted in this area revealed a complex eco-system from Pleistocene, focused on the nearby river, with at least three to five mammoths and a huge amount of deer, horse, bison bones and bones of other Pleistocene mammals. Layers in which bones were found were at least 130.000 years old. Contrary to the well-preserved mammoth Vika, the mammoths from Nosak (local toponym), popularly called Nosko, Trbuško i Đomla, remained lying in the savanna area, dragged away and eaten by carnivores. Scattered and damaged, lying all over the area, the remains were exposed to weather conditions before they were covered with loess layers. With great efforts, all the bones were removed, while the biggest and most sensitive ones (skulls and tusks) were cut along with blocks of soil and transferred into the zone of the Archaeological park Viminacium. Here, they shall be exhibited in a great paleonthological museum, the construction of which has recently begun.

This autumn, the building of the paleonthological museum begun, with the intention to exhibit all of the mammoths discovered at Viminacium. This museum shall represent the heart of the paleonthological park, operating as a part of the already existing archaeological park Viminacium. Within the future exhibition, special attention shall be paid to children and their vision of the Ice Ages at the territory of Serbia.



Fotografija / Photo

Profil površinskog kopa “Drmno” u kome su otkriveni mamuti

Profile of the coal mine “Drmno” in which mammoths were discovered

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Fotografija / Photo

Mamut, popularno nazvan Vika, otkriven 2009. godine. Jedan od nekoliko potpuno očuvanih skeleta u svetu

Mammoth, popularly called Vika, discovered in 2009. One of the few completely preserved skeletons in the world

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JANUAR
JANUARY



Fotografija / Photo

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FEBRUAR
FEBRUARY



Fotografija / Photo
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MART
MARCH



Fotografija / Photo

Nosak, veštački napravljen plato na dubini od dvadeset metara na kome su izvršena paleontološka i geološka istraživanja

Nosak, artificial plateau made on depth of twenty meters where paleontological and geological research were conducted

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APRIL
APRIL



Fotografija / Photo

Mamut 1, nazvan Nosko, otkriven 2012. godine. Kljove, lobanja i delovi skeleta u trenutku otkrića

Mammoth 1, called Nosko, discovered in 2012. Tuscs, scull and parts of the skeleton in the moment of discovery

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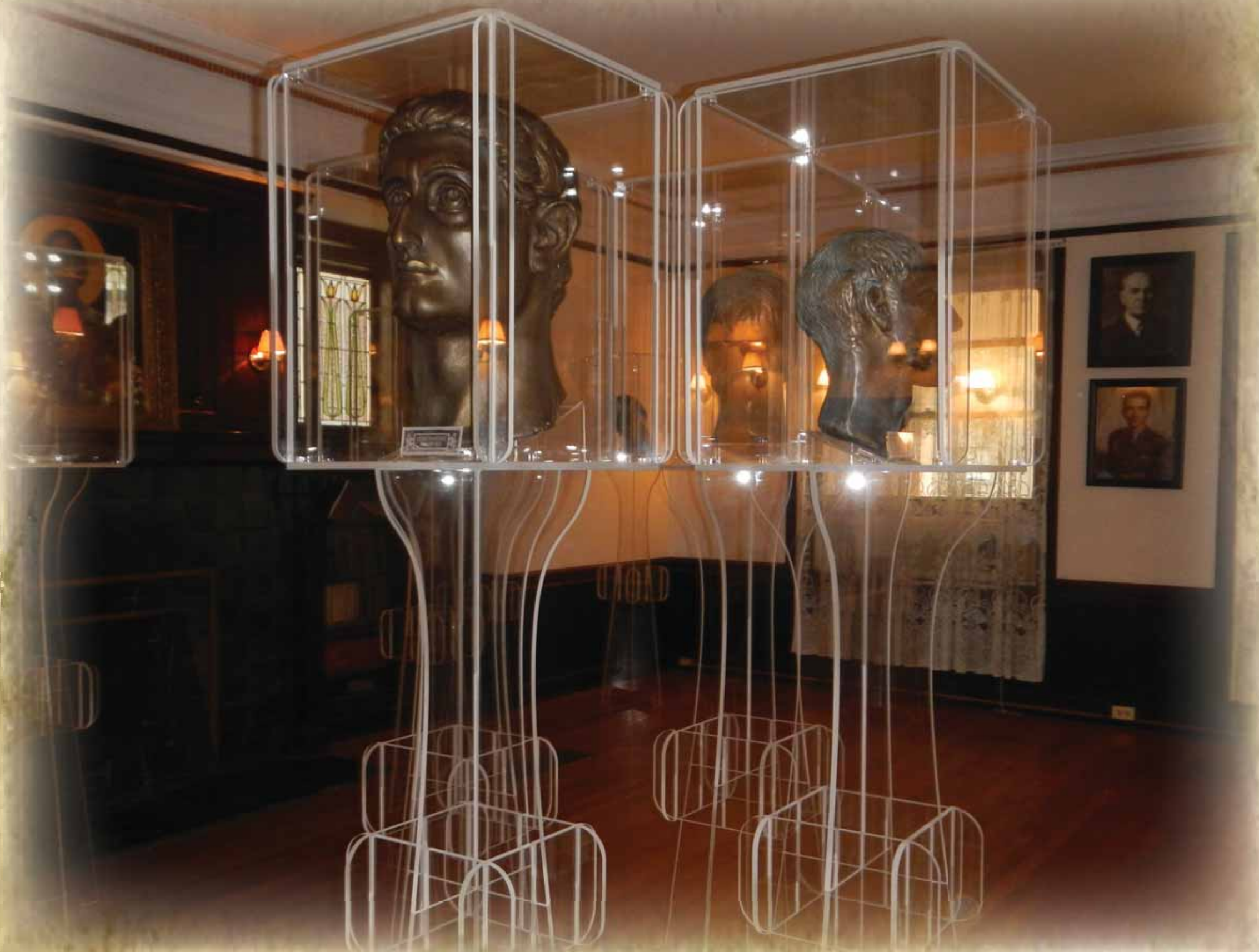
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Fotografija / Photo
Mamut 1, nazvan Nosko, otkriven 2012. godine. Potpuno očuvana kljova dužine preko 4 metra
Mammoth 1, called Nosko, discovered in 2012. Fully preserved tusk over 4 m in length

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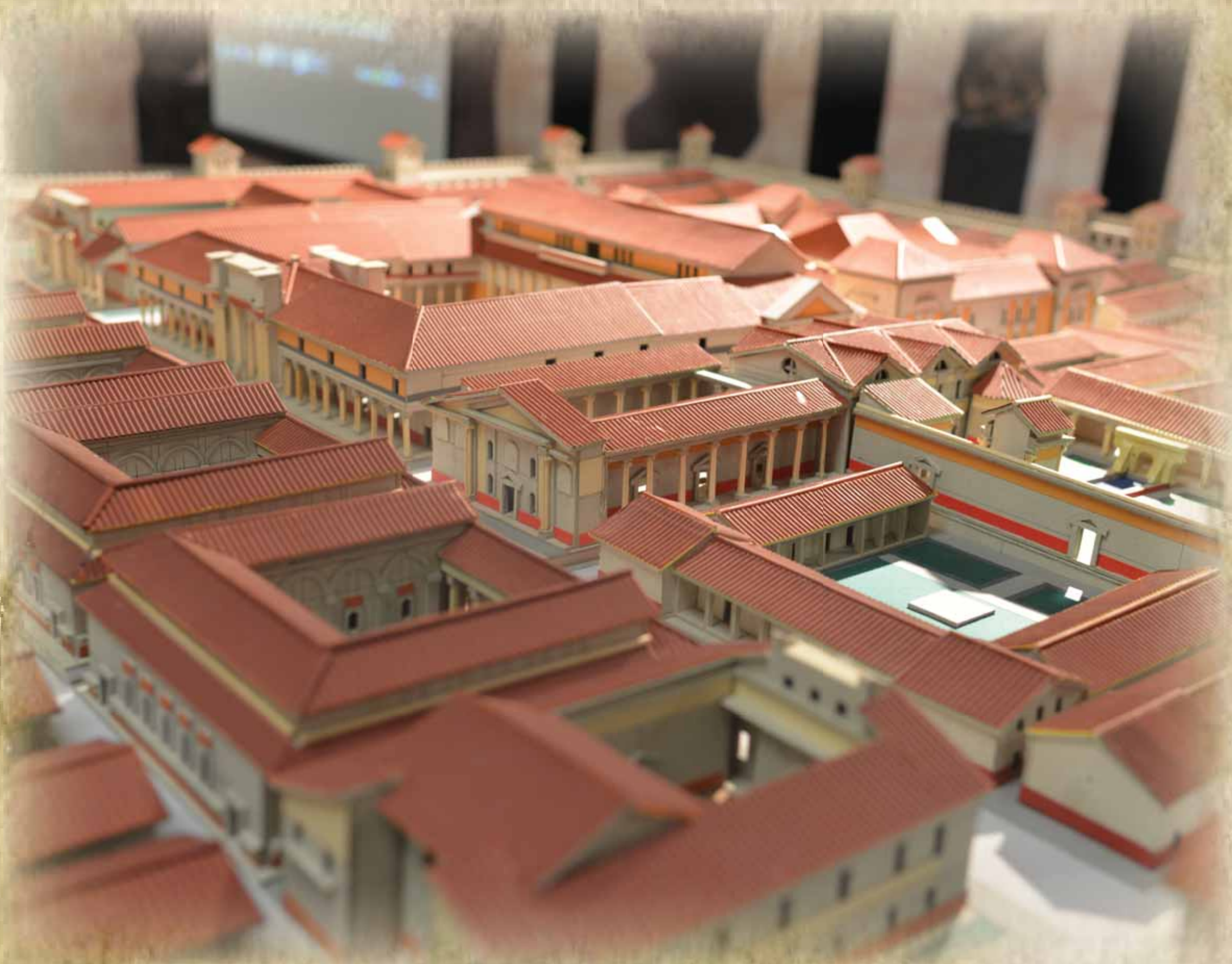
JUL
JULY



Fotografija / Photo
Lokalitet Nosak. Iskopavanja u sondi usečenoj u profil površinskog kopa Drmno.
Site Nosak. Excavations in a trench cut into the profile of coal mine Drmno

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AVGUST
AUGUST



Fotografija / Photo

Lokalitet Nosak (2012.) Legenda kaže da se ispod duge nalazi čup sa zlatom. "Naučno je dokazano" da se ispod dve duge nalaze mamuti. :-)

Site Nosak (2012) Legend says that under the rainbow there is a pot with gold. It is "scientifically proven" that under two rainbows there are mammoths. :-)

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SEPTEMBAR
SEPTEMBER



Fotografija / Photo
Lokalitet Nosak (2012.). Postavljanje čeličnih sanduka za izmeštanje kljova i lobanja
Site Nosak (2012). Positioning of steel boxes for relocation over the tuscs and skulls

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OKTOBAR
OCTOBER



Fotografija / Photo
Lokalitet Nosak (2012.). Podizanje čeličnih sanduka sa kljovama i lobanjama mamuta.
Site Nosak (2012). Lifting of steel boxes containing mammoth tuscs and skulls.

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NOVEMBAR
NOVEMBER



Fotografija / Photo
 Lokalitet Nosak (2012.). Podizanje čeličnih sanduka sa kljovama i lobanjama mamuta.
 Site Nosak (2012). Lifting of steel boxes containing mammoth tuscs and skulls.

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DECEMBAR
 DECEMBER

