

PRODUCTION OF BUILDING CERAMICS AND LIME NEAR FORTRESSES IN THE "BLUE STONES" MOUNTAINS NEAR SLIVEN. CHEMICAL, PHISICO-CHEMICAL AND OTHER INVESTIGATIONS OF BUILDING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR THEIR PRODUCTION. (A STUDY OF ANCIENT CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS)

Georgi Gospodinov, Ivan Chomakov, Bogdan Rangelov.

Abstract

Evidence is presented of the existence of centers of production for construction ceramics and lime near late antique and early medieval fortresses "Marichino gradishte" and "Varlo gradishte" located in the Blue Stones Mountain near Sliven. This study is based on the results of complex chemical, physico-mechanical, structural and typological analyses of samples of building ceramics and lime found during ground surveys of the strongholds as well as the raw materials for their production found in the adjacent area. It also covers the traces of ancient production centers and the remains of technological equipment - ovens, and quarries for their raw materials.

On the basis of data from the complex surveys of thermally synthesized building materials made from different quality raw sources found in the area of the castles and of the reconstruction of the remains of furnace facilities conclusions are drawn about the level of technology and the scale of production of construction materials used in the area in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages.

В българските земи съществуват древни традиции в производството на строителна керамика и вар, които датират още от предримската епоха. /1/ Масово производство и употреба на тези строителни материали обаче настъпва в късната античност, през епохата на римското владичество. Производство на строителна керамика в Първото българско царство започва през IX-ти век. Никита Хониат отбелязва, че Преслав е изграден изцяло с печена тухла/2/. Дотогава за нуждите на своята монументална архитектура в българското царство се е преизползвала римска и византийска строителна керамика.