

PREFACE

The development of metallurgy is one of the most significant achievements in the human history and therefore the study of early metal production, gives a special glimpse into the lifestyle, culture and conditions in which the ancient people lived and worked. This special issue of Metalurgija - Journal Metallurgy (MJoM) is dedicated to archaeometallurgical studies – a multidisciplinary scientific field connecting archaeology and metallurgy and enlightening historical aspects of metallurgical activities.

In the first part, it comprises the work of Serbian authors, giving a good intersection into the present archaeological research in this field and presenting some new results, too. The second part of the issue, presents the works of authors from Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Russia, showing the importance of scientific research and description of archaeometallurgical artifacts and objects, as well as some theoretical considerations of ancient metallurgical processes and even recent experiences in teaching history of metallurgy.

It is obvious that such a compilation could not be done without the active help of many friends and colleagues that I would like to acknowledge. First, for helpful discussion and advice, my sincere thanks to Dr Borislav Jovanović, leading scientist in the field of archaeometallurgy, whose reference works have laid the groundwork for enquiries into the problem of early copper metallurgy and ore processing technologies in the central Balkans. Further, I would like to thank Dr Dragana Antonović, MSc Sofija Petković, MSc Maja Živić and Prof. Dr Milorad Stojić, for their generous assistance and help. I am also grateful to all the authors present in this issue for their kind collaboration and cooperation.

More, I would like to record my special thanks to Prof. Dr Karlo Raić, Editor-in-Chief of MJoM, for his initiative to prepare this issue and understanding of the importance of archaeometallurgical studies, and to Mrs Slavka Vukašinović for technical preparation of this issue.

At the end, I hope that this issue of MJoM, dedicated to archaeometallurgy, will satisfy both interested groups - metallurgists and archaeologists, and help others in better understanding of this interesting problematic.

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