

Croatia and the Pile-Dwelling Fever: Rediscovered 19th-Century Narratives from Budinščina

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ABSTRACT

One of the earliest documented accounts of pile-dwellings in present-day Croatian territory dates to 1885, when Šime Ljubić, the director of the Archaeological Department of the National Museum in Zagreb, discovered sharpened wooden piles embedded in an artificial island of a fishpond on the property of Mr. Petar Horvat in the village of Budinščina in north-western Croatia. Ljubić observed that the piles were arranged in regular patterns and identified them as remnants of a prehistoric pile-dwelling, drawing comparisons to the Terramara pile-dwellings in Italy. He conducted preliminary archaeological excavations at the site and subsequently presented his findings at a conference in Klagenfurt, Austria. These results were later published in two brief reports in 1885 and 1887. In late 1885, Luigi Pigorini, an Italian archaeologist engaged in research on the Terramara sites and a key figure in the 19th-century “pile-dwelling fever,” read Ljubić’s first report and initiated correspondence. This paper aims to present Ljubić’s discoveries by utilizing archival materials and archaeological artifacts housed at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb. A significant portion of the article includes transcripts of the original letters exchanged between Ljubić and Horvat, as well as between Ljubić and Pigorini, thereby contributing historical context and highlighting the renewed scholarly interest in prehistoric pile-dwellings in the region.

Keywords

Croatia | Europe | Pile-dwellings | Prehistory | Wetland archaeology |



Houses on pile-dwelling | photo Wikimedia Commons (Andreas F. Borchert)

Croacia y la fiebre de los palafitos: relatos redescubiertos del siglo XIX de Budinščina

RESUMEN

Uno de los primeros registros de palafitos documentados de la actual Croacia data de 1885, cuando Šime Ljubić, director del Departamento de Arqueología del Museo Nacional de Zagreb, descubrió pilotes de madera afilados incrustados en la isla artificial de un estanque en la propiedad del Sr. Petar Horvat en Budinščina, en el noroeste de Croacia. Ljubić observó que los pilotes estaban dispuestos siguiendo patrones regulares y los catalogó como restos de una cabaña prehistórica, estableciendo comparaciones con las cabañas palafíticas de Terramara, Italia. Ljubić realizó excavaciones arqueológicas preliminares en el yacimiento y posteriormente presentó sus hallazgos en una conferencia en Klagenfurt, Austria. Estos resultados se publicaron en 1885 y 1887 en dos breves artículos. A finales de 1885, Luigi Pigorini, un arqueólogo italiano que investigaba los yacimientos de Terramara, figura clave en la “fiebre de las viviendas sobre pilotes” del siglo XIX, leyó el primer informe de Ljubić e inició una relación epistolar con él. Este artículo presenta los descubrimientos de Ljubić a partir de materiales de archivo y artefactos arqueológicos conservados en el Museo Arqueológico de Zagreb. Nuestro artículo incluye transcripciones de las cartas originales que se intercambiaron Ljubić y Horvat, y Ljubić y Pigorini con la intención de facilitar contexto histórico y destacar el renovado interés académico por las viviendas prehistóricas sobre pilotes en esta región.

Palabras clave

Croacia | Europa | Palafitos | Prehistoria | Arqueología de humedales |

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The location of Budinščina in north-western Croatia

THE 19TH CENTURY “PILE-DWELLING FEVER”

The European “Pile-Dwelling Fever” emerged in the mid-19th century following the recognition of prehistoric lake-dwellings in the Swiss Alpine region (Keller 1854), marking a significant shift in the study of prehistoric societies. Initially lead by Swiss antiquarians, the movement began as a romanticized exploration of the ancient past. Over time, however, the interest shifted into a more rigorous archaeological approach, transitioning into to a scientific discipline grounded in empirical evidence. The mid-20th century development of dendrochronology (Ferguson *et alii* 1966; Huber 1967), with over 100.000 tree-ring analyses conducted to date (Hafner *et alii* 2020), played a pivotal role in refining our understanding of these structures and their precise chronological placement within prehistory.

The expansion of pile-dwelling research from Switzerland to Austria (Ruttkay *et alii* 2004), France (Pétrequin and Bailly 2004), Germany (Schlichterle 2004), Italy (Marzatico 2004), and Slovenia (Velušček 2004) in late 19th and early 20th centuries exemplified the international impact of this archaeological phenomenon. By the early 21st century, prehistoric pile-dwelling research culminated in the inclusion of 111 pile-dwelling sites across the Alpine lakes and wetlands on the UNESCO World Heritage list (Hafner 2014). This recognition underscores the global significance of these sites, reflecting their value in understanding prehistoric European societies (Sherratt 2004).

In this paper, we present archival evidence suggesting a similar “fever” may have occurred in Croatia, based on two sets of correspondence: (1) letters and letter drafts written in Croatian between Šime Ljubić and Petar Horvat, a Budinščina local and owner of the land where the alleged pile-dwelling was found; and (2) letters and letter drafts written in Italian between two historical figures from Croatia and Italy – Šime Ljubić and Luigi Pigorini. The topic of the correspondence revolved around an excavation of a prehistoric pile-dwelling site in Budinščina, north-western Croatia. Evidence of the excavation also comes from Ljubić’s handwritten financial report and itinerary on his trip to Budinščina. All the letters and the report are held in the archives of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb (AMZ), Croatia.

ŠIME LJUBIĆ: THE FOUNDER OF CROATIAN PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Šime Ljubić (1822-1896) was a historian, philologist, archaeologist, and a foundational figure in the development of archival science as a discipline. He graduated in philosophy and theology in 1846 in Zadar and, in 1847, became a chaplain on the island of Hvar, where he established a private gymnasium and a public reading room. Ljubić continued his education in Vienna, earning

degrees in Slavic language and literature in 1854 and history and geography in 1857. From 1857, he worked as a professor at the gymnasium in Split and became the curator of the Split Museum in 1858. Between 1858 and 1861, he worked at the Venetian archives, followed by teaching positions in Osijek (1861-1863) and Rijeka (1863-1867) before moving to Zagreb in 1868, where he became a curator at the National Museum. In 1872, he was appointed director of the museum, a position he held until 1892. Ljubić is credited with establishing prehistoric archaeology in Croatia, publishing the first prehistoric catalogue of the National Museum's collection in 1876 (Balen-Letunić and Rendić-Miočević 1999; Petrić 1998; Smičiklas 1898; Solter 2016). In the same year he attended the Eighth Congress of the International Association of Anthropology and Pre-Historical Archaeology (CIAAP) in Budapest (Congrès international d'anthropologie et d'archéologie préhistoriques, 1877), where he may have met Luigi Pigorini, who also attended, although this is not confirmed. His first public presentation on Budinščina took place in 1885 at the Congress of the Austrian Association of Anthropology and Pre-Historical Archaeology in Klagenfurt, and he published his findings in the *Bulletin of the Croatian Archaeological Society* in 1885 (Ljubić 1885).

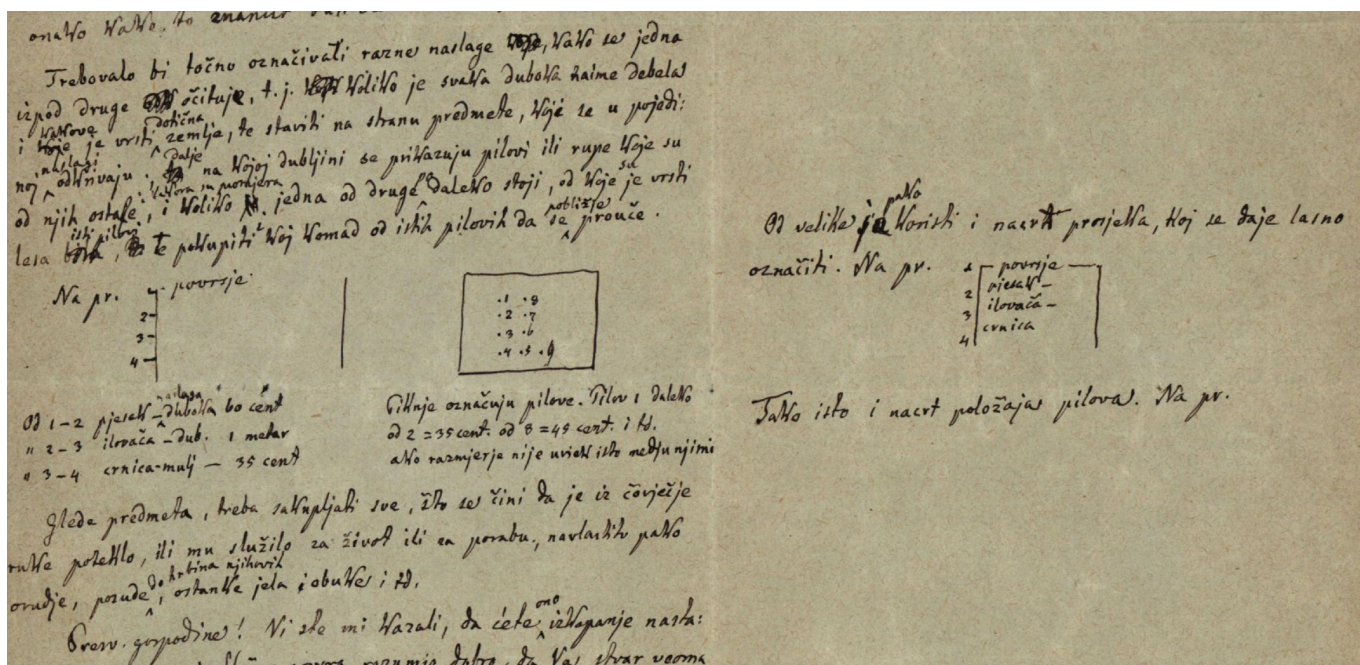


Šime Ljubić | source Solter, 2016

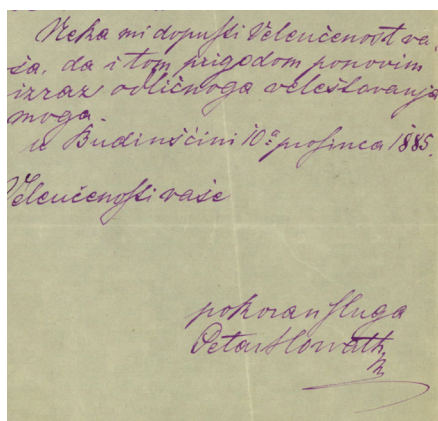
THE EXCAVATION IN BUDINŠČINA AND ITS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The presented information on the excavations that took place in Budinščina is sourced from Ljubić's published reports (Ljubić 1887, 1885) as well as from his correspondence with Petar Horvat and a handwritten financial report and itinerary of his trip to Budinščina, held in the AMZ archives (original transcripts of the letters in Croatian below, marked as Source 1, Source 2 and Source 3).

On August 6th 1885, Ljubić was supervising the construction of a railway which passed through Budinščina. He decided to visit Mr. Petar Horvat, a local who earlier that year, sent him pieces of ceramic and copper artefacts that he allegedly found while cleaning an islet within a fishpond on his property. Based on the archaeological finds, Ljubić suspected to find a prehistoric site, to which he was even more convinced after his visit to Horvat's estate. While he was there, he discovered ceramic fragments and other artefacts as well as rows of wooden pylons lying at a similar distance from each other. He immediately suspected that this is a prehistoric pile-dwelling, comparable to the Italian Terramare (Ljubić 1885). Later that month, from the 19th to the 22nd of August 1885, he attended the Congress of the Austrian Association of Anthropology and Pre-Historical Archaeology in Klagenfurt (Austria) and informed the attendees about the discovery (Source: Šime Ljubić's handwritten report held in the AMZ archives). Everyone in the meeting, including count Gundakar von Wurmbrand, who excavated the pile-dwellings in Lake Attersee and Lake Keutschacher in Austria (Ruttkay *et alii* 2004; von Wurmbrand 1872) and



From Ljubić's letter to Horvat (Source 1) where he gives him instructions on the principles of archaeological excavation



From Horvat's letter to Ljubić (Source 2)

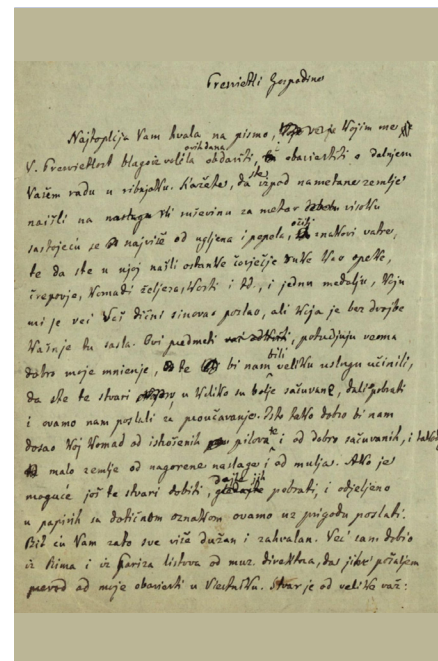
Karel (Dragotin) Dežman, a well-known Slovenian archaeologist who excavated the prehistoric pile-dwellings in the Ljubljana Marshes (Leghissa 2021; Velušček 2004), agreed that it was, in fact, Terramara. On August 24th, the day after his return from Klagenfurt, Ljubić wrote a letter to Horvat (Source 1), emphasising the importance of the site and encouraging him to continue excavating the islet in the pond, giving him instructions on how to follow archaeological layers, collect finds and record the exact locations and dimensions of the remaining wooden pylons. Ljubić expressed his gratitude and thanked Horvat for his service and willingness to contribute to this important scientific discovery.

Later that year, on December 10th, Horvat responded to Ljubić's correspondence (Source 2), beginning by expressing his gratitude for receiving a copy of the fourth issue of the *Bulletin of the Croatian Archaeological Society*, in which Ljubić had published his initial report on the site at Budinščina (Ljubić 1885). Horvat proceeded to detail his subsequent findings following Ljubić's visit to his property. He reported that after excavating to a depth of approximately 1.5 meters without uncovering any cultural remains, he and his assistants encountered a 1-meter-thick stratum of charcoal and ash, which contained a variety of man-made artifacts, including pottery fragments, stone tools, and pieces of metal and bone. Beneath this layer, they discovered a deposit of grey mud, within which were vertically placed, sharpened wooden pylons (referred to by Horvat as oak) ranging in diameter from 20 to 30 cm. These pylons, which appeared to be, in Horvat's words, "as fresh as if they

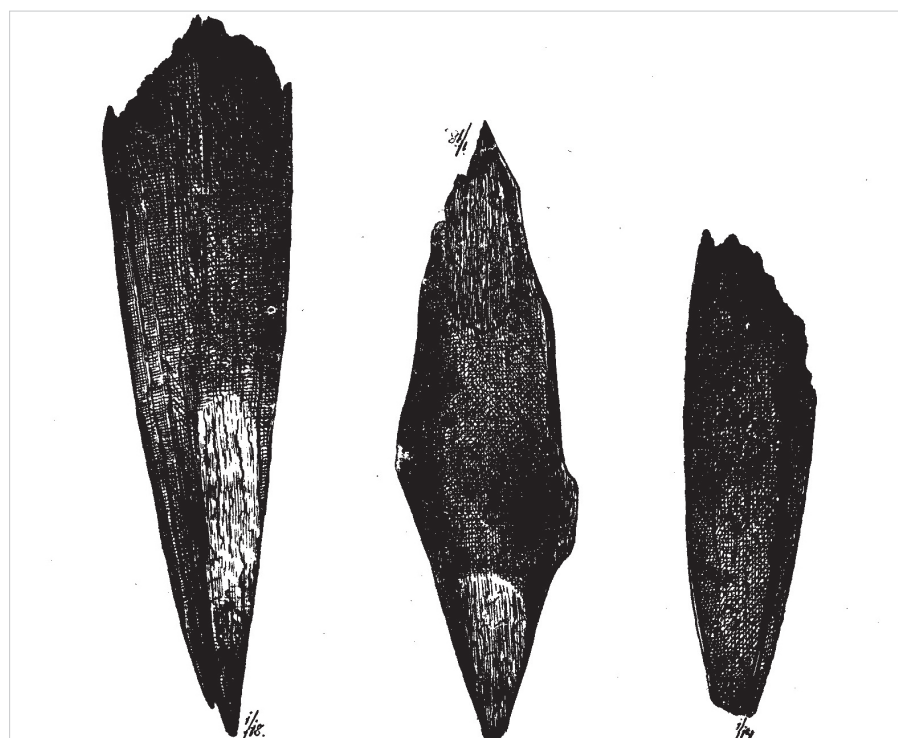
had just been felled” were arranged at intervals of approximately 1 meter. Horvat concluded his letter by expressing his willingness to allow further excavations on his land, although he specified that such work should be conducted under the supervision, funding, and direction of the museum, rather than at his own expense. He also extended an offer to provide accommodation for the museum staff, should they decide to proceed with the excavation.

In his final letter (Source 3), Ljubić expressed his satisfaction with Horvat’s findings, which he considered to corroborate his initial hypothesis that the site represented a prehistoric pile-dwelling. He requested that the artifacts, along with samples of the pylons and soil, be sent to the museum for further analysis. He also mentions that directors from museums in Rome and Paris had sent him letters asking for translations of his 1885 report. The letter from Rome was written by Luigi Pigorini, which we will discuss in more detail below. Unfortunately, there were no letters from Paris related to this topic preserved in the AMZ archives. Continuing with his letter, Ljubić acknowledged Horvat’s conditions regarding any future excavations at the site, agreeing to them and noting that such arrangements would be made at a later time, when both his own and the museum’s schedules permitted.

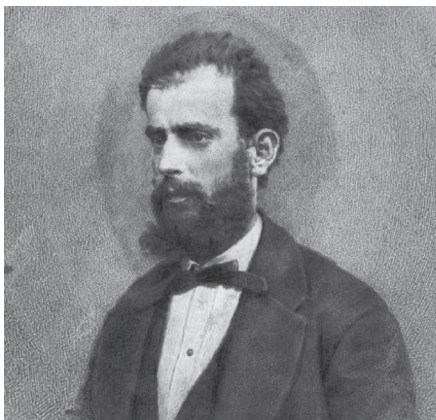
The final evidence of excavations on the site in Budinščina comes from Ljubić’s second published report (Ljubić 1887). There he mentions that



From Ljubić’s response letter to Horvat where he asks for samples of pylons and soil and mentions letters from Rome and Paris (Source 3)



Drawings of wooden pylons that Horvat sent to Ljubić | source Ljubić, 1887



Luigi Pigorini | source Tarantini 2021

GRANDE-BRETAGNE.	
EVANS M. J., F. R. S., président de la Société de Numismatique, North Mills, près Londres. H. de la Reine d'Angleterre.	
EVANS, Madame.	
EVANS, J. Mesdemoiselles.	
FRANKS, A. W., F. R. S., conserv. des antiquités nationales, Londres.	
ITALIE.	
CAPELLINI, le professeur, ancien président, Bologna. H. Hongaria.	
PIGORINI LUIGI, docteur, directeur des fouilles, Rome.	
BERTOLONI GIUS., professeur de botanique, Bologna. H. Hongaria.	
LANCIA, DUC DE BROLO, Fréid., délégué, Palerme. H. de Budapest.	
MALVEZZI, comte de, docteur, membre de la R. Déput. d'Histoire, Bologna. H. Hongaria.	
de l'université.	Kerepes, pharmacie de savator.
LEHOCZKY TIVADAR.	SZIVOS BELA, prof., rue Vár-
LÁSZLÓ A. H. de l'Aigle d'Or 9.	megosház 1. I. étage.
LIPP VILMOS.	SZENTKLÁRAY JENŐ.
LJUBIĆ S. Zagreb.	SZUKÁCS BELA, étudiant.
LUKÁCS MORIC.	SAMARJAY EMIL.
MAKRAY LÁSZLÓ. H. Pannonia.	SZABÓ DENES.
MIHALDI ISTVÁN. H. du Cor-de-	SCHIEDER, Dr., Szekesfehervár.
Chasse.	SZABO JOSEF, Dr.
M. MOGYORÓSY JÁNOS.	TORMA SZOFIA, Mad., Hôtel
MAILÁTH BELA, r. Zsidó 36.	Pannonia.
MIHALYI JÁNOS. Szarvassz.	TARICKY ENDRE, chez les R.
NYÁRY JENŐ, le baron.	P. Servites.
OVÁRY PÁL, Dr.	TEUTSCH G. D., Dr., superintend.

A list of participants at the Eighth Congress of the International Association of Anthropology and Pre-Historical Archaeology (CIAAP) in Budapest (Congrès international d'anthropologie et d'archéologie préhistoriques, 1877)

1

The original measurement provided in the report is 0.86 cm; however, this would imply that the thickness of the wood is only 8.2 mm, which appears contextually inconsistent. Based on the accompanying drawings, the authors have inferred that this was likely a typographical error and that the intended measurement is 0.86 m, which would correspond to a thickness of 86 cm. The same assumption applies to the measurements of the second and third pylons.

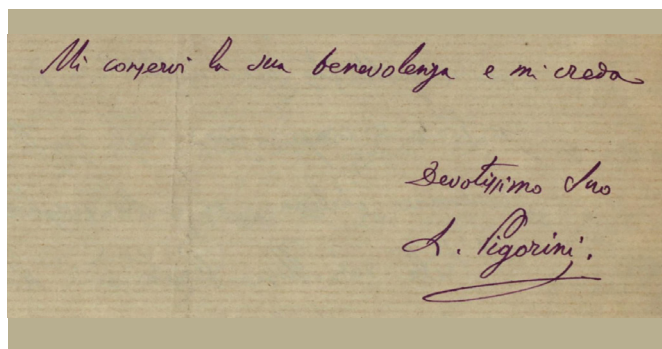
Horvat sent him three of the pylons (as Ljubić asked him in his final letter), the drawings of which were added to the report. Ljubić describes that all three samples were oak. Their tops were burnt, and bottoms were sharpened into a point. They vary in length and size with the largest being 1.90 m long and 0.86 m thick¹, the middle being 1.35 m long and 0.82 m thick and the smallest being 1.0 m long and 0.65 m thick.

THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LUIGI PIGORINI AND ŠIME LJUBIĆ

No other known records of the excavations at Budinščina exist, either in the form of letters or official reports. However, the first report came into the possession of Professor Luigi Pigorini, a prominent figure in the Italian scholarly movement surrounding the study of pile-dwellings and a leading participant of the Italian “Pile-dwelling fever” (Pigorini 1897). Pigorini, who conducted extensive research on Bronze Age pile-dwellings in Emilia Romagna, was instrumental in advancing the field. In 1875, he founded and directed the Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico in Rome, which continues to bear his name. Furthermore, Pigorini is renowned for being the world’s first permanent university chair in Prehistory, a position he occupied from 1877 at the Sapienza University in Rome (Tarantini 2021), making him one of the most important historical figures in the history of archaeological scholarship. As aforementioned, a year before he was appointed this role, in 1876, he attended the Eighth Congress of the International Association of Anthropology and Pre-Historical Archaeology (CIAAP) in Budapest, where he and Ljubić might have already met in person prior to their correspondence.

The presented information is exclusively sourced from the letters between Luigi Pigorini and Šime Ljubić held in the AMZ archives (original transcripts in Italian below, marked as Source 4 and Source 5).

On December 11th, 1885, Pigorini initiated correspondence with Ljubić, expressing interest in the contents of his first report on Budinščina (Ljubić, 1885), which he had received the previous day (Source 4). Although the report was written in Croatian, Pigorini was particularly captivated by the findings, prompted by the compelling title that included the term “Terramara,” referring to a type of archaeological site with which he was highly familiar as the lead archaeologist of the Terramare excavations in Italy. In his letter, he elaborated that he had dedicated an entire room in his museum (the Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico in Rome) to the Italian Terramare sites, alongside a display of other similar artifacts from various parts of Europe. He had already received exhibits from Budapest (Hungary) and Leeuwarden (Frisia, Netherlands), which had been incorporated into the display. In this correspondence, Pigorini requested that Ljubić send a few examples of finds from Budinščina, to represent a Terramare

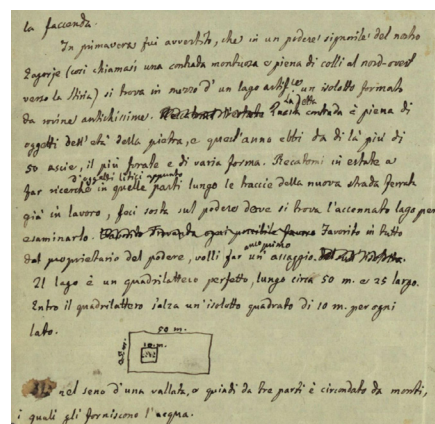


Parts of the letter Pigorini sent to Ljubić (Source 4)

site in Croatia. He assured Ljubić that, should he decide to send any fragments, they would be displayed with care and prominently credited to him as the donor. He further emphasized that the museum was well-regarded and frequently visited by distinguished archaeologists and paleontologists, who would contribute to disseminating knowledge about Croatian pile-dwellings on an international scale.

In his reply (Source 5), Ljubić expressed regret for his inability to fulfill Pigorini's request, explaining that his work at Budinsčina had been interrupted, requiring him to leave the site prematurely and leave the excavation in the hands of the landowner. He went on to provide a detailed description of the site, including its dimensions: a small pond measuring 50 by 25 meters, containing a 10 by 10 metre islet. The first excavation layer was approximately 1.5 meters deep, consisting of dirt without any notable finds, which the landowner believed was the fill from the pond's excavation. Beneath this layer, Ljubić encountered a layer of charcoal and ash containing numerous artifacts, as well as post holes filled with sawdust. Upon further investigation, he discovered that the sawdust-filled spots were wooden pylons, preserved in a remarkably well-preserved state, describing them in his words "as though they had been placed there yesterday". However, due to issues with water flooding the trench, he was unable to continue his work and was forced to leave, though he expressed his intention to return. In closing, he proposed that this site could be considered a Terramare and requested Pigorini's expert opinion on the origin of this unusual find.

Regrettably, there are no further references to the Terramara site in Budinsčina by either Ljubić or Pigorini during that period. The site was first mentioned almost 75 years later by Stojan Dimitrijević (Dimitrijević 1961), a prominent figure in Croatian archaeological history (Težak-Gregl 2014), known for his critical contributions to the synthesis of prehistoric chronologies in the region. Although archaeological work at the pile-dwelling site in Budinsčina was never resumed, the village itself gained renown as one of the most significant sources for Bronze Age archaeology, briefly discussed below.



From Ljubić's response to Pigorini where he describes the site in Budinsčina (Source 5)

BUDINŠČINA IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF LOCAL PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Among the findings referenced in the letters, only one pottery fragment has been preserved in the AMZ depot that can be definitively identified as originating from the Budinščina excavations conducted by Ljubić. This fragment is a piece of linear band pottery described by Dimitrijević in his analysis of linear band pottery in the region (Dimitrijević 1961). Dimitrijević characterises Ljubić's Terramara site as the remains of a Neolithic settlement, which was likely destroyed either during the excavation of the pond sometime in the past or during the Roman occupation of the land. The latter interpretation is supported by the presence of several Roman pottery fragments allegedly derived from the original Budinščina excavations by Ljubić, also housed within the AMZ depot.



A fragment of linear band pottery described by Dimitrijević as originating from Ljubić's excavations in Budinščina | source Dimitrijević 1961

In terms of later prehistory, Budinščina is a well-established site for the study of the Central European Bronze Age. To date, seven significant Bronze Age hoard sites have been identified within this small geographical area (Pavišić 2010; Vinski-Gasparini 1973). The biggest hoard found in Budinščina contains over 260 metal objects, primarily weapons and ingots (Vinski-Gasparini 1973), indicating its role as a strategically important location during prehistory. Furthermore, the potential discovery of a Neolithic pile-dwelling, which holds promise for advanced dendrochronological analysis, suggests that continued research could yield crucial new insights into European prehistory, particularly in this under-explored region of northwestern Croatia.



Locations of all mentioned pile-dwellings in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

OTHER CONTEMPORARY RECORDS OF PREHISTORIC PILE-DWELLINGS IN THE REGION

Budinščina and Ljubić's findings are not the only case of prehistoric pile-dwelling discoveries in the region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Figure 12). In 1894, near the village of Andrijevci on the left bank of Sava River in north-eastern Croatia, archaeologist J. Brunšmid also reported a pile-dwelling (Brunšmid, 1900). He then mentioned further recordings of waterlogged sites in Donja Bebrina on Sava River and the Retfala village near Osijek. In 1977, an excavation in Andrijevci supported his hypothesis with additional findings placing them into prehistoric periods, including a wooden platform placed on short piles rammed into the ground (Majnarić-Pandžić 1993).

Two of the most famous prehistoric pile-dwellings in the region were discovered in the late 19th century in modern-day Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first one is a prehistoric multi-layered pile-dwelling on the river Sava in Donja Dolina in today's northern Bosnia and Herzegovina near the town of Gradiška. The site was very systematically excavated within 5 excavation campaigns

between 1901 and 1904 by the archaeologist Ćiro Truhelka, who published all of his findings in an impressive series of articles (Truhelka, 1906a, 1906b, 1903, 1902, 1901). Due to the presence of vast fertile areas near the river, the position of the settlement was suitable for agriculture and animal husbandry, and the mobility of the river caused the creation of a long-lasting, large prehistoric settlement, which over time became one of the most important prehistoric trade centres along the Sava and in this part of Europe. Although the oldest finds in Donja Dolina date to the Eneolithic (3rd millennium BC) and the early Bronze Age (2nd millennium BC), a more permanent settlement and its accompanying necropolis was not established there until the Late Bronze Age (around 1200 BC), which lasted until the 1st century AD, when it was definitely abandoned.

The Ripač pile-dwelling is located on the river Una, close to the town of Bihać. The pile-dwelling is believed to have been built and inhabited by the Prehistoric tribe of Japodi (Japodes) which reached its peak the 1st millennium BC. It was excavated and published by Wenzel Radimsky in the late 19th century (Radimsky 1897, 1895). He was mostly focused on the rich material culture typical for the Japodi tribe however, he did send some of the wooden finds for an analysis and compared his findings to the famous Ferdinand Keller's reports (Keller 1854) on the Swiss pile-dwellings.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The correspondence presented here constitutes a historically significant source, offering valuable insight into the state of archaeology as a scientific discipline in Croatia during this historical period. Ljubić emerges as a highly esteemed researcher, standing on par with numerous other prominent figures in the field of archaeology, frequently cited in accounts detailing the origins of pile-dwelling research in the Alpine region. Drawing upon the letters, his reports and other mentioned records of pile-dwelling sites in the area, the authors assert that the so-called 'pile-dwelling fever' of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which has traditionally been confined to the Alpine lakes and their surrounding environments, can and should be extended to encompass Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, adding value and significance to the already rich history of European pile-dwelling research.

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Parts of the correspondence containing personal communication and information not related to the excavation have been redacted.

LETTER TRANSCRIPTS BETWEEN ŠIME LJUBIĆ AND PETAR HORVAT (CROATIAN LANGUAGE)²

Source 1

August 24th 1885: Šime Ljubić's letter to Petar Horvat the day after returning from the congress in Klagenfurt.

Br 13b

Petru pl. Horvatu u Budinščini

Na antrop. sastanku u Celovcu, odakle sam se sinoć vratio, imao sam prilike govoriti o izkapanju u Vašem ribnjaku, te me uzradovalo, što je jednoglasno prihvaćeno moje mnijenje, na vlastito od poglavitoga strukovnjaka u ovoj struci prach. nauke, grofa Wurmbrandta Štajerskog upravitelja, i Dešmana ravn. muz. u Ljubljani da se tu radi o umjetnoj sgradjevini na pilovih (Terramare), kakovieh se jedino našlo u gornjoj Italiji. Ako je tako, onda ovo otkriće bilo bi od zamašne vrijednosti za predhist. znanost, te bi valjalo ovo izkapanje tjerati dalje ukoliko moguće i izpod vode, ali onako kako to znanost dan danas zahtjeva.

Trebalo bi točno označivati razne naslage, kako se jedna izpod druge očituje, t. j. koliko je svaka duboka naime debela i kakova je vrsti dotična zemlja, te staviti na stranu predmete, kojie se u pojedinoj ??? odkrivaju. Dalje na kojoj dubljini se prikazuju pilovi ili rupe koje su od njih ostale, kakova su promjera i koliko jedna od druge daleko stoji, od koje je vrsti lesa isti pilovi, te pokupiti koj komad od istih pilovih za se pobliže prouče. Na pr.

Od 1-2 pijesak – naslaga duboka 60 cent

Od 2-3 ilovača – dub. 1 metar

Od 3-4 crnica-mulj – 35 cent

Piknje (?) označuju pilove. Pilov 1 daleko od 2=35 cent. Od 8=45 cent. i td. ako razmjerje nije uvijek isto među njimi.

Od velike ?? koristi i nacrt projekta, koj se daje lasno označiti. Na pr.

Tako isto i nacrt položaja pilova. Na pr.

Glede predmeta, treba sakupljati sve, što se čini da je iz čovječje ruke poteklo, ili mu služilo za život ili za porabu, navlastito pako orudje, posude do hrbina njihovih, ostanke jela jabuke i td.

Prezv. gospodine! Vi ste mi kazali, da ćete ono izkapanje nastaviti, a ja sam iz vašeg govora razumio dobro, da Vas stvar veoma zanima, te da ste i u stanju izvesti radnju do kraja kao i na koj drugi stra???kounjak. Molim Vas dakle i u ime muzeja i domaćeg napudka?? vama i znanosti u obće da se tomu iztraživanju, kad Vam bude lazno, posvetite, a vase požrtvovanje doprinjeti će Vam it u sladku utjehu, da ste in a polju predh. znanosti znali vješto i plodonosno koračati i uspjeti.

Vaše previe??ti najkarniji i najpokorniji sluga i štovatelj,

24/8 85

Š. Ljubić

Source 2

December 10th 1885: Petar Horvat's response to Šime Ljubić's initial letter.

Veleučeni i veleštovani gospodine!

Oprostite prije svega, što sam na velećenjeno pismo vaše tako dugo ostao dužan odgovor.

Na pripislanom mi broju 4tom vjesnika hrvatskoga arheološkoga društva, zahvaljujem se najljubnije.

Što se tiče tragova naselbine u mojem ribnjaku, koje vi nazivati izvolite "Terramara" mi smo posle odlazka vaše veleućenosti dalje kopali sve do vode ter smo pronašli, da se u visini od prilike 1 ½ metra nalazi zemlja, koja je očevdno nametana prigodom, kad se je ribnjak dublje kopao. Izpod te naslage nalazi se ruševina (?) u visini od blizu 1 metra sa sastojeća najviše od ugljena i pepela, što je bezdvojbeni znak da je dotična naselbina nekoć postala žrtvom vatre. U toj naslagi nalaze se razni ostanci dolazeći od čovječje ruke, kano kamen, opeke, črepovje, komadi željeza, kosti i td., ali nismo ništa našli od kakove vriednosti osim jedne medaile olovne prikazujuće sliku razapetoga Isukrsta, sa plačućim ženami ter napisom kojega smisao mi ipak nije bilo moguće razabrati. Ta medaila nalazi se u ?kulismo?ga sinovca govina, koji će vam takovu sa inimi starinami priposlati. Osim toga nadjeno je tamo jedno olovno tane i jedan maleni odlomak kamena "Rauch Topas" zvanoga.

Izpod opisane naslage pepela nalaze se sam čisti mulj sivkaste boje bez ikakovog traga kakvoga predmeta dolazećega od čovječje ruke. U tom mulju nalazili smo redom zaoštrene hrastove pilove odprilike 20 do 30 cenimetara debele, ter tako sveže kano da su sad posečeni. Ti pilovi nalaze se redom u daljini odprilike jednoga metra zabijeni, gdje se ipak strogo na liniju nije pazilo.

Pošto se ruševina kroz cieli otočić proteže, to slutim da se ti ostanci pilovah kroz sav koliki otočić protežu izpod pepela.

Misli li vaša veleućenost da ti ostanci imadu za iztraživanje starinah u znanstvenom obziru kakovu vriednost, to izvolite u proljeće nastaviti to kopanje kroz cieli otočić, ali se od mene zahtievati nemože da izvadjam prekapanje na svoj trošak. Ja ću ostalom rado podupirati to poduzetje, kolikogod budem u stanju, te ću vam veleućenost, bude li odlučila izvadjati posao pod svojim nadgledom rado kod sebe viditi kao gosta, dokle god će posao trajati. Zauvjet stavljam jedino, da se razvozana zemlja ribnjaka kojega kanim opet vodom napuniti, na muzealni trošak, ili da se ona izravna kako je prije bila. A meni će biti ugodno ako poduzetje urodi što boljim napiskom (?).

Neka mi dopusti Veleućenost vaša, da i tom prigodom ponovim izraz odličnoga veleštovanja moga.

U Budinščini 10a prosinca 1885.

*Veleuččenosti vaše pokorni sluga,
Petar Horvath*

Source 3

No date indication: Šime Ljubić responds to Petar Horvat.

Presvietli Gospodine

Najtoplije Vam hvala na pismu, kojim me V. presvjetlost blagoizvolila ovih dana obdariti, obavijestiti o dalnjem Vašem radu u ribnjaku. Kažete, da ste izpod nametane zemlje naišli na ruševinu za metar visoku sastojeću se najviše od ugljena i pepela, očiti znakovi vatre te a ste u njoj našli ostanke čovječke ruke kao opeke, črepove, komadi željeza, kosti i td., i jednu medalju, koji mi je već Vaš dični sinovac poslao, ali koja je bez dvojbe kašnje tu sasla. Ovi predmeti potvrđuju veoma dobro moje mnijenje, te bi nam bili veliku uslugu učinili, da ste te stvari, u koliko su bolje sačuvane, dali pobrati i ovamo nam poslati za proučavanje. Isto tako dobro bi nam došao koji komad od istrošenih pilova te i od dobro sačuvanih, i takodjer malo zemlje od nagorene naslage i od mulja. Ako je moguće još te stvari dobiti, dajte jih pobrati, i odjeljeno u papirih sa dotičnom oznakom ovamo uz prigodu poslati. Biti ću Vam zato sve više dužan i zahvalan. Već sam dobio iz Rima i Pariza listova od muz. direktora, da ji?? pošaljem prevod od moje obavijesti u Viestniku. Stvar je od velike važnosti po znanost, te treba svakako da se stvar u nekoliko moguće sasvim iscrpi. Muzej prihvaća obručke Vaše predloge i zahtjeve, dapače uz osobitu zahvalnost. Ja bi tamo došao u vrijeme kad je lazno naći težake i jeftinije, t.j. kad ovi nemaju ozbiljnog posla kod kuće, te Vas preponizno molim, da me o tom u svoje vrijeme obavijestite.

LETTER TRANSCRIPTS BETWEEN LUIGI PIGORINI AND ŠIME LJUBIĆ (ITALIAN LANGUAGE)³

Source 4

December 11th 1885: Luigi Pigorini's letter to Šime Ljubić after reading the first published report on the Budinščina Terramare site.

Roma, li 11 dicembre 1885

Illustre commendatore,

Nel numero giuntomi ieri del periodico archeologico croato ho veduto un suo breve articolo sullo terramare della Croazia. Ella sa con quanto interesse io mi occupi delle terremare, e le sarà quindi facile di immaginare come io deplori di non conoscere la lingua nella quale l'articolo stesso è scritto. Il solo titolo però mi ha fatto nascere un vivo desiderio che non so tenermi dall'esprimere.

Nel Museo che dirigo ho consacrato una sala speciale alle collezioni degli oggetti delle terremare italiane, e come termini necessari di comparazioni vi ho posti anche

gruppi di oggetti provenienti dalle terremare esistenti fuori dell'Italia, come sono quella dell'Ungheria, e quelle della Frisia in Olanda dette terpen. Furono il Museo Nazionale di Budapest e il Museo Frisone di Leeuwarden che, accogliendo favorevolmente la mia preghiera, mi mandarono ciascuno una piccola serie degli oggetti che si raccolgono nelle terremare di ciascuno dei due paesi. Ora pertanto rivolgo la stessa preghiera anche a Lei per le antichità delle terremare della Croazia, e può essere certa che tutti quanti in Italia siamo, che coltiviamo la paleontologia, le saremmo grati assai assai se potessimo avere un saggio, sia pure piccolo, di quanto si rinviene nelle terremare di codesta regione. Non è neccessario, e mi vergognerei bene di pretenderlo, che mi siano spediti oggetti fra i più rari e i meglio conservati: basterebbe che fossero anche rotti, purchè avessero tali caratteri di lasciar vedere quello che siano nella loro forma intatta, e di offrire materia di comparazioni cogli oggetti che escono dalle terremare italiane, da quelle ungheresi, e da quelle olandesi. Si tratta del Museo preistorico di Roma, ove ad ogni anno capitano archeologi e paleontologi di ogni paese. Mi pare che anche per questo non le dovrebbe dispiacere di avere qui un gruppo di reliquie che attestasse a tutti l'importanza del fatto di avere scoperto le terremare pure nella Croazia. Quando volesse compiacersi di accogliere con favore la mia domanda (e Dio voglia che sia così), è inutile che io le dica che al gruppo di oggetti che potessi ricevere sarebbe unito un cartello col nome del donatore.

Mi conservi la sua benevolenza e mi creda
Devotissimo suo
L. Pigorini

Source 5

No date indicated: Šime Ljubić's response to Luigi Pigorini.

Illustre direttore e professore!

Ebbi la graditissima sua del 11 dicembre, e mi dispiace, che per ora non sono in caso di corrispondere alle sue riverite domande. Nell'articolo del mio giornale ho fatto conoscere soltanto di aver quest'estate scoperte le traccie d'una terramara in Croazia, e esporsi i motivi per cui non ho potuto tantosto condurre a termine il lavoro rispettivo, ossia il suo denudamento. Perciò non sono in caso di mandarla i desiderati oggetti. In primavera ai tempi buoni cercherò di condurre il lavoro al suo termine, e se vi saranno oggetti, senza dubbio farò parte a V. S. per il suo museo.

Intanto mi prendo la libertà di esporle in breve come sta la faccenda.

In primavera fui avvertito, che in un podere signorile del nostro Zagorje (così chiamasi una contrada montuosa e piena di colli a nord-ovest verso la Stiria) si trova in mezzo di un lago artificiale un isolotto formato da rovine antichissime. La detta ?? contrada è piena di oggetti dell'età della pietra e quest'anno ebbi da di là più di 50 ascie, il più forate e di varia forma. Recatomi in estate a far ricerche d'oggetti litici appunto in quelle parti lungo le traccie della nuova strada ferrata già in lavoro, feci sosta sul podere dove si trova l'accenato lago per esaminarlo. Favorito in tutto dal proprietario del podere, volli far anco un primo assaggio.

Il lago è un quadrilatero perfetto, lungo circa 50 m e 25 largo. Entro il quadrilatero s'alza un isolotto quadrato di 10m per ogni lato.

Sta nel seno d'una vallata, quindi da tre parti è circondato da monti, i quali gli forniscono l'acqua.

Il mio lavoro si limitava per allora a far un taglio traverso l'isolotto, per osservare i vari strati, di cui è formato. Il primo strato profondo 1 ½ metro era formato di terra comune vegetale. Il proprietario mi assicurava che questa terra proviene dal lago stesso, gettata sull'isolotto allorchè si andava nettando il lago, serve il quale a uso di peschiera. Di sotto questo primo strato trovai un secondo per circa un metro profondo, formato da rovine, in gran parte di carbone e di cenere, tra cui molti rottami di vasi, ossi, ecc. In questo strato ho ritrovato pure a un metro di distanza tra essi dei buccchi rotondi con diametro di 0.25 cm, e messa la mano in essi buccchi, ne estraessi pezzi di legno marcito e come segatura. Di sotto questo strato seguiva un terzo di terra grassa, non del tutto nera, piuttosto bigia. In questo terzo strato non trovai più buccchi vuoti con avanzi di marciti pali, ma invece i pali stessi e così ben conservati che sembrano messi pochi giorni prima. Siccome eravamo già collo scavo a livello dell'acqua del lago, e quindi per proseguire in giù era d'segno (?) anzi tutto con qualche lavoro arrestare essa acqua, onde non irrompa nel canale del scavo, il che domandava un qualche tempo, e d'altra parte altri impegni mi chiamavano altrove, così per allora posi fine al lavoro ma col proposito di proseguirlo quanto prima.

Da questi cenni V.S. sarà in caso di rilevare, se reale qui si tratta d'una terramara al modo di quelle dell'Emilia. Terrei per un favore speciale se V.S. si degnasse di comunicarmi il suo parere in proposito.

Siccome le terramare dell'Emilia si ascrivono agli Itali, così in fine di quel mio articoletto alla dimanda a qual popolo questa nostra appartenga?, risposi che a mio questa è probabile opera degli Itali stessi, i quali avranno lasciato questa traccia di se durante il passaggio da oltre Alpe in Italia.

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