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New finds of lead seals from Caričin Grad (Justiniana Prima)

The seven previously known seal finds from Caričin Grad, including one unpublished, comprise the largest group of early Byzantine *bullae* recovered from an excavated site in North Illyricum. The finds were published from 1939 to 1955, mainly in Starinar, then revised in 1977 by Vladimir Kondić and Vladislav Popović, and lastly by Cécile Morrisson in the 2010 Caričin Grad III volume depicting the Acropolis and its monuments.¹

In past five years the number of seals at Caričin Grad has more than tripled, bringing the total to 28. They were found during the excavations at the Acropolis ramparts undertaken before restoration took place, and the excavations of the north plateau of the Upper Town. The majority of new finds are imperial and ecclesiastical *bullae*.

The new seal finds from Caričin Grad represent an important group in comparison with other finds from Northern Illyricum. The sigillographic evidence thus indicates that Caričin Grad was an important city. This is clearly underlined by the findings of five imperial seals of Justinian I, and especially of four *bullae* of Archbishop John, well-attested in historical sources as the primate of Justiniana Prima.

¹ V. Kondić et V. Popović, *Caričin Grad, utvrđeni grad u vizantijskom Iliriku*, Beograd 1977; C. Morrisson, Les sceaux en plomb, in: *Caričin Grad III. L' Acropole et ses monuments (cathédrale, baptistère et bâtiments annexes)*, eds N. Duval et V. Popović). Collection de l' École française de Rome 75, Belgrade – Rome, 2010, 408-412.