

The centers of the early Christianity in Macedonia: uncovering and interpretation

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The study of the Early Christianity on the territory of Republic of Macedonia based on archaeological evidence, has started a century ago when the first Early Christian basilicas were discovered in the Late Antique cities and bishop sees: Stobi, Scupi, Bargala, Heraclea Lyncestis and Lychnidos. Among them Stobi, Lychnidos and Bargala were in the main focus, especially Stobi with its eight basilicas. Most of the studies done so far were limited to preliminary reports of the excavation, description and analysis of the architecture, architectural or interior decoration (mosaics and marble architectural elements) and chronology of the Early Christian churches.

This paper will present an overview of the research undertaken by many scholars in the previous century regarding various aspects of the Early Christianity, with the main goal to set a solid base for further investigations and analysis of various topics, especially the impact of the Early Christianity in urbanism and shape of the Late antique cities and in everyday life.