Sanctuary and Survival at Golemo Gradiste: Use and Re-Use of a Late Antique Church in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Abstract: In the southeast corner of the Late-Antique province of Dardania lies an abandoned settlement at the centre of which is a large Christian Basilica and an associated residence. Although the church was barely in use for a century before approaching "barbarian" tribes caused the site to be abandoned, the church enjoyed a prosperous existence, fashioned with all of the accoutrements of a rural provincial church. While several of its architectural oddities may be explained by the presence of a well-travelled bishop or architect, it is the life after the initial destruction of the church that has furnished some of the most interesting questions regarding its re-use. This talk, therefore, explores the life of this church in its prime, but also the destruction and subsequent phases of re-use, both as a place of shelter for the surviving town-folk and as an intramural burial site for several of its residents.

Classical Association of Vancouver Island

The Classical Association of Vancouver Island is UVic’s organization for people interested in the Greek and Roman worlds. Everyone is welcome. To join CAVI and be on our mailing list, please contact: Dr. Brendan Burke (bburke@uvic.ca) or Tracy Sobotkiewicz (grsadmin@uvic.ca) and tel: 250 721 8514.