

Popular science summary

The creation of the Venetian State (*Serenissima Repubblica di Venezia*) is one of the phenomena that continue to attract the attention and trigger discussions among scientists. Also the history of the political regime – the Venetian Republic leaves many question marks. For example – how the Byzantine officials, the Venetian doges were able to transform into rulers independent from the Byzantines. Murano Island – former *Ammuriana*, most likely settled by residents of one of the districts of a Roman city on the mainland – Altino, during their escape from the barbarians, is beside Rialto, Torcello, or Mazzorbo, a good example of settling within a short time on islands that have become island-cities of many thousands inhabitants.

The project *Ammuriana – Murano Island in the light of archaeological excavations* is designed to examine and define the role of Murano in the organism of Venice in the Early and Late Middle Ages. The basis will be archaeological materials discovered during Polish-Italian excavations (1983-1986) at Campo S. Maria e Donato in Murano, in front of the facade of the church illuminated by available historical sources. The basilica dedicated to Santa Maria e Donato (erected probably in the 7th century) is a jewel of Venetian Romanesque architecture.

Due to the global fascination with the Venetian culture (especially that Venice is on the UNESCO World Heritage List), it is necessary to show the development and evolution of this specific culture on the background of the creation of cities on the scale of one of the urban organisms together forming Venice.

The research objectives are to interpret the stratigraphic configuration discovered and scientific studies on architectural structures and burials of the churchyard cemetery (first of all on their chronology) as well – preparing for the use and publication of very important, insufficiently researched archaeological sources for the early history of Venice.

It is also significant that the research concerns the hypothetical location of the baptistery (an octagonal building, known from written sources) and the entire complex of the magnificent early medieval Romanesque basilica Santa Maria e Donato, belonging to the canon of ancient Venetian architecture, thus it concerns one of the monuments important for the entire European culture. The Baptistery probably functioned until the 16th century, when it fell into disrepair.

The Polish presence in the archaeological research of the Venetian Lagoon began with the pioneering works on the Torcello Island in 1961. Italian researchers have a large experience in research on archaeological sites similar (in terms of the natural environment, the character of settlement and chronology) to excavated on Murano. So, the cooperation of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Venice will enable researchers to study archaeological and historical data obtained jointly by Polish and Italian scientists, thanks to which they will gain knowledge of historical material important for understanding historical processes occurring in early medieval Europe, in particular in the field of the formation of cities and the emergence of Romanesque architecture.

Apart from the publication of monograph, a presentation of the board exhibition: *Between sky and water* is planned as a summary of the results of work on the project. One of the tests of the effectiveness of the knowledge transfer will be the reception and reaction to the content placed in the board exhibition.