"Hotel – St. George's Square TIMISOARA" Capitalize on the results of archaeological research – first stage

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ABSTRACT

The paper presents some tangible evidence and past realities in close correlation with the evidence brought to light by excavations, archaeological researches and the management of works, as well as interpretations based on them. It summarizes data collected based on the project of a 4 star hotel, , the documented information as well as, the information to be made available by the archaeologists team contracted to carry out the archaeological discharge, due to the start of the works on the basis of the Authorization for preventive archaeological research: No. 79 / 05.05.2016, issued by the Ministry of Culture, RAN Code: 155252.06, but also due to the legal obligations regarding the obligation of the beneficiaries to ensure the archaeological discharge related to the investment project situation.

Starting with March 2016, I had temporarily fulfilled the role of Project Management Consultant for the construction of a 4–star Hotel in the Cetate Area of Timisoara, for a year, on the basis of a service contract, until the works in the site were temporarily suspended for about 11 months at the end of 2016, independent of the way the works were carried out, and the archaeological discharge was completed at the date of works suspended, in proportion of approx. 75% of the required area of the project.

The purpose of this paper, was first of all, a pragmatic one, to understand how the history of Banat region and Timisoara, and more precisely of the studied area „CETATE", has evolved to the present day, determining the architectural furnishing of the central urban space, with the cultural influences specific to the Ottoman administration – after 1552, and the administration of the territory by the Austro–Hungarian Empire, after October 18, 1716, when Prince Eugene of Savoy made his triumphal entry into the city of Timisoara.

Keywords: capitalization, archaeological research

I. INTRODUCTION

The documentation considered the research on the first stage of archaeological discharge of the site between the defined limits of the rehabilitation, consolidation and reconstruction project. Following the request made by the author, in favor of the beneficiary, that after the completion of the Final Reception at the Termination of Works, some parts of the artefacts brought to light by the team of archaeologists shall be displayed in the Lobby within the reception area of the Hotel, in common agreement with the Timis County Directorate of Culture, a favorable answer was received in principle and the issues related to the conditions of their exposure and presentation should be clarified by the date of receipt of the investment. The sources of documentation of this project are Extenso Land Book excerpts, historical books, historical maps, reports and studies, press articles, etc.

The perimeter affected by the buildings, supposed to be built under the project, is located in the existing building complex, bounded to the west by Str. Florimund Mercy, south of Str. The Prosecution from Timisoara and St. George's St., to the east of Str. Martyr Bishop Augustine Pacha, the northern side by Str. Eugeniu de Savoya (Fig. 1). The main street front of the buildings included in the project is located in St. George's Square (Prolongation of the Street Proclamation in Timisoara, adjacent to the A.J.P.S. Timis headquarters & the headquarters of some commercial companies or other individuals and companies).

The process of continuous development and redevelopment of the central area of Timisoara carried out in several stages, brought the vestiges of the old city to light. The archaeological excavations made in this area focused strictly on the current surface occupied by the tram lines, objectives of archaeological interest being also seen in the Liberty Square, 9 Mai Street and St. George's Square.

The recent archaeological researches of this area are now completed and will be the subject of a unitary monograph. Their geo-referencing, even in a relative manner, can give important clues about the municipalities that can be identified in a certain area (Fig. 2).

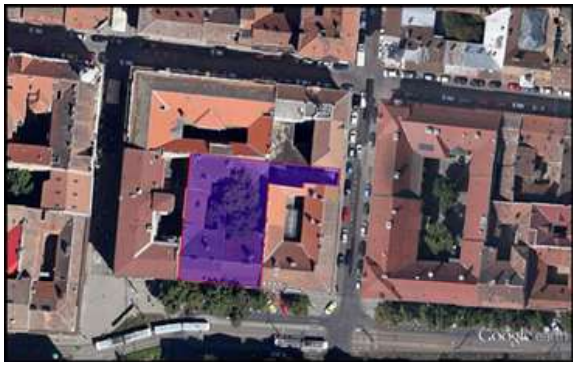

Fig. 1. St. George's. The area affected by the project, Google Earth 2016

Fig. 2. Areas researched archaeologically in the perimeter of the project

In the sense of what has been said above, the overlaying of the PERETTE Map (Fig. 3) over the current situation, as well as their corroboration with the vestiges already identified in the field, complements the information obtained, but at the same time offers an opportunity to estimate the possible vestiges under the current city. In the perimeter affected by the future construction and consolidation and refurbishment interventions, we can see the presence of the intersection of medieval streets. Two of these streets, Lane Tulip (Fig. 3, Item 2) and Lane Selari Workshop (Fig.3, Item 3), are already known through the segments identified on Florimund MERCY Street and St. George's Square. The first street (Fig. 3, 3) had an NV–SE orientation, linking the central area of the city to the northwest, while the second street (2) passed the Mosque of the Sultan, then intersected with the Great Barn Lodge.

The plan of the old fortress (Fig. 4) indicates that the investigated perimeter is at a consider-

able distance from the military elements of the Vauban fortification, being in the civilian area. We can consider that, after consulting the bibliographic and cartographic sources, within the perimeter affected by the urban project of Rehabilitation. The following periods can be categorized from the archaeological point of view: The modern period (after 1716) can identify a possible shattered layer, resulting from the town–planning arrangements made by the Habsburg authorities; Ottoman period (1552–1716); other epochs.

Fig. 3. Overlay of PERETTE map (1716), over the current situation

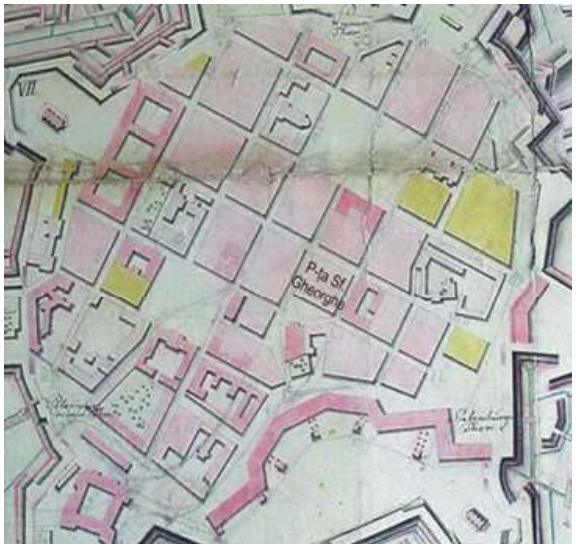

Fig. 4. The plan of the Cetate neighbourhood

The area affected by archaeological research works of 2016 can be observed in the topo metric data in the Stereo 1970 system (Fig. 5).

NAME	No.	X(m)	Y(m)
The buildings included in the project St. George's Sq. 2–3–4	1	479843.400	206861.561
	5	479886.800	206907.072
	6	479882.014	206906.366
	9	479883.727	206884.428
	10	479852.446	206880.339
	12	479856.042	206855.117

Fig. 5. Topometric data in the Stereo 1970 system of the area affected by archaeological research

II. SITE, RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, SPECIAL MEASURES

a) For the entire area undergoing rehabilitation, the research strategy included the following steps: delimiting the area that was excavated to complete the archaeological discharge and plot its boundaries. This operation implied the marking with a total station of the corners of the surfaces that were investigated. The extent of these areas was determined by the scale of urban excavation works, according to the project and the preventive research authorization. All the collateral excavations were closely followed by the archaeologists. To complete the research on the whole surface, the resumption of the construction works, they were conditioned by the continuation of the preventive research work, the resumption of the legal steps and procedures.

b) Mechanical demolition of the overhead part of existing buildings. A mini excavator was used in this operation at first. This stage was carried out under the close supervision of specialists. The resulting rubble was discharged, outside the investigated area, at the same time, according to the requirements of the Timis Culture Directorate, stipulated in the Notice no. 171 – Z – 08.07.2015, were dismantled under the care and under the close supervision of the general designer: D–Proiect SRL, respectively of Dr Arh. Bogdan Demetrescu, the ornaments of the facades, which were stored for their restoration, by Mr Mihai Iatan, MLPAT specialist in the restoration of historical monuments. Ornaments will be repositioned on the new facades of the reconstructed building, these operations being subject to another study. The ornaments of the

facades have been identified and catalogued as such:

• D01 Cornice console (Fig. 6), 22 pieces, of which 3 were broken off;

• D02 Lower cornice console ornament (Fig. 7), 19 pieces, complete;

• D03 Flower ornament (Fig. 8), 22 pcs., complete;

• D4 (Fig. 9), D5 (Fig. 10), D6 & D7 could not be recovered, being initially made of brick and plaster, to be restored according to the details received through the facade architecture project.

Fig. 6. D01

Fig. 7. D02

Fig. 8. D03

Fig. 9. D04

Fig. 10. D05, Solbanc window, floor II

c) Mechanical scraping of the surface. In this operation, a mechanized means provided with a trough bucket was used, under the close supervision of the archaeological team. The operation was repeated level with level (about 10 cm per level) until reaching the culture layer of the archaeological complexes/the projected urban digging rate, at which time it intervened to investigate these layers.

d) Manual scrubbing of anthropic layers. They were made by the unskilled auxiliary staff, dredging layers of approx. 20 cm. each, at the indications and under the supervision of the specialized personnel. When archaeological structures or complexes were discovered, the excavation of the hacking machine ceased and the excavation started by the specialist staff to release them according to the usual procedures.

e) Manual scraping of the surfaces delimiting the complex. When the archaeological layers were uncovered within the limits of the urban excavation depth, the work was carried out with the shovel by unskilled labourer (estimated time: 0.20 h/m2). An archaeologist with experience from the archaeological team has coordinated this operation to delimit archaeological complexes. The operation was repeated, level with level, until reaching the sterile soil.

f) Delimitation of archaeological complexes. It was carried out by observing the differences in colour, consistency, granulation, etc. by the expert archaeologist, assisting of the specialist archaeologists. Once the complexes were delineated, they were identified in the Stereographic System 1970 and each complex, and a sheet of archaeological objectives was drawn up according to the procedures of the Archaeological Research Report.

g) The excavation of the archaeological complexes (61 in the first stage) was carried out with the specialized personnel together with the experts coordinated by the excavation technicians. Their approach was made with the spatula (estimated time: 4–8 h/complex). The drainage of the complex fillers was carried out with the handrail (estimated time: 0.20 h/m2, the time being variable depending on the distance where the sinking soil deposit was temporarily established). The scintillation and palynological sampling

operation required an additional period of time varying from one area to another. At a depth of more than 1.75 m, digging required additional safety measures (support of the slope profiles).
h) Documentation of the archaeological complex. The operation was carried out according to the standards and procedures, the thoroughness of data collection being essential (estimated time for written documentation: 0.40 h/complex, estimated time for drawing documentation: 1 h/complex, estimated time for photo documentation: 0.10 h/complex, with a record of digital photo number). In the case of drawing long profiles of the investigated surface, the estimated time with the determination of the succession of archaeological levels is approx. 0.30 h/linear meter and involves 2 qualified persons). In parallel with the classic documentation method, the total station for the general plan was used. Photogrammetry was performed each time the findings required these samples. The documentation process continued in the office, where the written and photo documentation was organized in a database.
i) Collection of dating samples (C.14) and special samples (pollen samples, geological samples, ceramic samples, DNA samples, anthropological determination, archaeological determination). The harvesting of the above-mentioned samples is an important operation that requires, apart from the classical documentation, the use of a total station to determine the sampling site (verification of the stratigraphic position assigned during the excavation). The packing was done carefully and the storage boxes were marked with permanent markers (estimated time for C.14: 0.15 h/sample, the lowest cost of a sample C.14 AMS was EUR 290 plus shipping costs and packet insurance at Poznan 14C Laboratory, Poland). Pollen samples were taken and analyzed in Germany (estimated cost: 40–50 euro/sample, plus shipping and packing costs). Geological samples that indicate human actions on the environment but also provide clues for the clay sources of ceramic production (Belgrade ceramic cost: EUR 8/sample, plus shipping costs). In the case of DNA samples (burial tombs), the costs vary, with an average of approx. 400 euro/sample. Until the date of this documentation, there were no graves in the researched area, but it is now possible, after the resuming of the works, to find such evidence. If identified, animal bone fragments will be separated during the wash–drying process of the archaeological material brought into the base and determined by an archaeozoologist.
j) Discovered artefacts are stored in a precursor phase in plastic bags, where the tickets with data that allow identification in the complex are deposited. These artefacts were washed at the research base or in the laboratory of the West University of Timisoara and dried. Estimated time for ceramics conservation: 2 h/complex, estimated time for metal artifacts: 16 h/complex). Ceramic artefacts are marked and processed statistically for combustion technology, related shapes and decorations. Special or typical materials were drawn and photographed. Packaging and storage of archaeological materials: ¼ h/complex.
k) The restoration of the discovered archaeological materials will be the subject of further works based on the documentation and conclusions drawn from the research.
l) All ceramic materials will enter complexes when working on restoration, so for ceramics/glass: approx. 40 h; and for metal: approx. 24 h. Although it was not the case until the date of this documentation, if the nature of the later discoveries would impose (in the case of the city walls, the structures of some edifices or the public facilities), it will be proposed to preserve them in situ and integrate them into the architectural ensemble of those areas, this subject being discussed with the design team.
m) Customized research strategy at the work point. The research meets the requirements of the builder and will cover the whole area on which the soil will be exposed, according to the Authorized Investment project. According to the building survey provided by the builder and confirmed by the beneficiary, one–third of the part under the building has a basement arrangement with a share of –2.80 m. In this area interventions will continue in the soil at –0.75 m and –3.16 m, respectively. In the surface unaffected by the basement development, it will intervene in the soil up to the share of –6.09 m and

–6.32m respectively, archaeological research being carried out until the sterile soil is reached. The archaeological research was carried out until the work was suspended and it continued after the works were resumed, together with the rehabilitation and modernization works because of the special working conditions. The restricted space, conditioned by the presence of neighbouring buildings, respectively the preservation and consolidation of the basements and perimeter walls of the existing buildings at the time of the project start-up, but also the partial preservation and reinforcement of the building from no. 3 of St. George's Square, between the axis DE, 8–11, from the investment architecture project, the depth to which it will be lowered, as well as the continuous need for the clearing of the surfaces, required and will require a special logistics that cannot be provided by the archaeological research staff. For these reasons, the beneficiary's support was requested, which, through the general contractor ILA Vorhaben SRL, has ensured and will continue to provide the necessary logistics.

At the same time, when the archaeological layer in the area descends to a depth of about 3.10 m, it was necessary to support the building as well as the banks of the archaeological research areas. Thus, works for the consolidation of the perimeter bounded by the topometry data in Stereo 1970, the area affected by archaeological research works by SBR Soletanche Bachy Romania, a subsidiary of Soletanche Bachy France, specializing in land consolidation works, under the close supervision of the team of archaeologists.

Given the above, the contractor's contest for the archaeological discharge of the perimeter was and will continue to be necessary. At the same time, in order to reduce the costs of the work, which are borne entirely by the beneficiary, it was considered that the best variant of carrying out the archaeological discharge works is the realization of the work, together with the rehabilitation works of the building, the liberation of sectors and their teaching, progressively, in the manufacturer's use.

The research team consisted of:

a) Specialized staff: 1 expert archaeologist and 2 specialist archaeologists.

b) Technical auxiliary staff: 4 students and / or master students.

c) Conservation / Restoration: 1 specialist

d) Unskilled staff: 15 workers.

e) The need for ancillary materials was sent to the beneficiary, with the signing of the archaeological research contract, and was handed over to the team of archaeologists by means of a handover protocol. The completion period of the researches in the completed and completed stage was 45 days.

III. ANALYZES, INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Summary regarding the researches carried out, in the Timisoara municipality, Timis county, St. George's Square, no. 2–3–4: Site Type 113 (Urban Settlement), Chronological Ranking 43 (medieval age) 432 (Late Medieval Age) 5 (Modern Age).

The team of archaeologists who carried out in–situ research consisted of lect. Dr Arhg. Dorel Micle – scientific officer, arch. Andrei Stavilă – member of the research team, arch. Octavian – Cristian Rogozea – member of the research team, Bogdan – Alin Craiovan, Cristian Oprean, Constantin Boia (West University of Timisoara). Authorization for preventive archaeological research: No. 79 / 05.05.2016, RAN Code: 155252.06. Campaign duration: 21.06 – 04.08.2016.

Preventive archaeological research in the historical centre of Timisoara dates back to 2006. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of archaeological researches in the Cetate area increased continuously. Rehabilitation works in the historic centre have led to the opening of numerous preventive archaeological sites.

Site: "St. George's Square" no. 2–3–4 ", is located in the central area of Timisoara, in the Square of the same name, this is the circumscription of the Cetate neighbourhood. The excavations had a preventive character, being determined by the rehabilitation works of two of the historical buildings in the area, as well as by the reconstruction of the building of the Martir Bishop Augustin PACHA, through the regeneration of the urban tissue, a part of the whole building in St. George's Square, No 4, which in 1990 col-

lapsed following the interventions a new neighboring building located on Martir Bishop Augustin Pacha no. 3, the archaeological investigations being carried out in the inner courtyard of the buildings at the abovementioned addresses.

The research focused on a relatively narrow surface of only 15 × 3.7 m, being conditioned by the foundations of the current constructions. The research of the anthropic deposits implied the deepening of the soil in artificial excavation layers up to the clearing of clear complexes, thus defining five digging plans, which was possible by documenting 75 archaeological complexes whose functionality is linked to living spaces (surface or buried), supplies pits later transformed into pits, food stores and wooden structures (possibly one of the streets of the medieval city).

Elements to indicate the presence of surface dwellings have generally been few, as a matter of fact, consisting of pavement fragments, foundation ditches, the spatial layout of pillars or wooden structures. A representative complex of this category emerged in Plan 1 of digging, by what was conventionally called C.21 (Pl.3 / 1).

The perimeter of the dwelling is clearly delimited on three of its sides by massive wood poles with diameters between 0.5 and 0.6 m, around which are depicted their pits, whose diameters reach up to 0.90 m. The western side of the complex was affected by modern buildings.

The structure thus delimited is also distinguished by what has been preserved from the "filling" of the dwelling, which is, in fact, a thick layer of 4–5 cm of organic matter (straw mixed with manure), contrasting with the compact clay of grey colour, specific to the culture layer. From the point of view of the planimetry the dwelling was a rectangular one, the maximum dimensions surprised by us being of 3.40 × 2.20 m.

Regarding the location of deepened dwellings, these were documented in the lower levels (4–5 digging plan, i.e. between –2.60 and –3.10 m) of the medieval dwelling. They are generally characterized by a rectangular shape with rounded corners, which descends from the level of contouring with 0.80–0.90 m, having a filling consisting of a mixture of manure, straw and seeds (cherry, apricots or grapes).

Representative complexes of this category include those conventionally designated C.51a and C.58 (Pl.1; Pl.3 / 3–4). In the case of the first-mentioned complex, only the eastern half of it was captured, the rest being affected by the previous modern constructions. At the same time the dwelling is superimposed on a pit (C.51), the two complexes being differentiated by the specific characteristics of the fillings.

The dwelling was rectangular with rounded corners, decreasing 96 cm from the level of contouring, the preserved dimensions being 1.92 m × 1.50 m. On all three sides, the dwelling retained a floor of clay spilt, about 20 cm wide, this being at a depth of 50 cm. The second dwelling for example (C.58) was rectangular with rounded corners, which deviated from the level of contour by 0.80 m, the preserved dimensions being 2.50 × 2.40 m.

Inside the house, no pit posts were found, these being most likely placed outdoors without being identified by archaeological research. The filling of the complex was a homogeneous, compact, brown, consisting of a mixture of manure, straw and wood.

Storage of food was made in supply pits (e.g. C.31, C.54 or C.55), which were transformed after decommissioning in landfills (Pl.1). Inventory pits were mostly identified in the lower planes, their characteristics being related to a cylindrical shape, maximum diameters of 1.5 m and depths between 0.9 and 1.5 m from the contouring levels. And in this case, after decommissioning, the pits were used as domestic pits.

Generally, the artefacts thus identified are related to the presence of ceramic fragments, medieval shoe fragments, or osteological materials (Pl. 1, P.3 / 4).

In the site research, a complex whose functionality was considered to have been, the fountain (C.34) was also surprised.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The complex was contoured in the second digging plan (–1.80 up to –2.20 m) based on the colour difference between the filling of the complex and that of the culture layer (Fig 11).

The complex has a rectangular planimetry and a maximum depth of 2.60 m (Fig. 12).

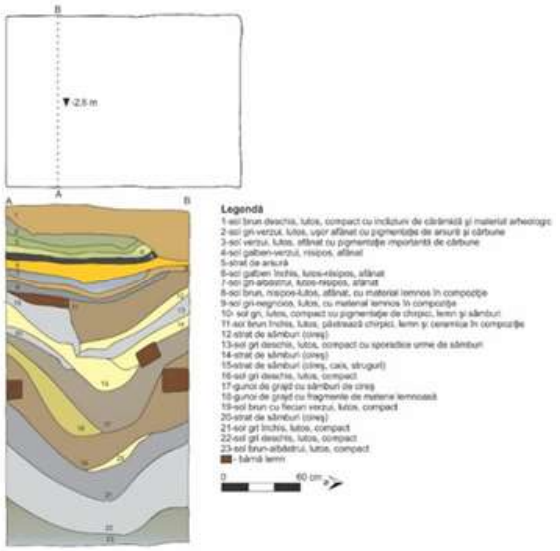

Fig. 11. C34 Complex, layers description

Fig. 12a. Documentation digging plan

In order to protect the top of the pit, it was reinforced with a log, made of wooden planks supported by a four–trunk tree structure, identified at 1.20 m from the current ironing level. Beneath the beam structure, the guiding wheel is missing. The stratigraphy of the complex was composed mainly of layers of organic matter (straws, kernels from different fruits and manure). In the depth range between –1.78 m and –2.38 m, whole ceramic vessels were identified, all of them having an almost vertical position.

In connection with the medieval building of Timisoara, a wooden structure (C.52) was framed as part of the intersection of four cartographically documented streets in the area (Tulip Street, Selari Atelier Street, Gym and Water Gate), the poor conservation status does not allow, however, a clear assignment in one direction or another.

The structure has been identified in the eastern side of the section, with an NV–SE orientation, being largely destroyed by a monument belonging to the modern buildings, which are the subject of the investment project Rehabilitation and reuse works.

Fig. 12b. Documentation digging plan

The modern age was evidenced by the presence of two complexes, consisting of the inner courtyard made of brick and crushed tile (C.1) and a lime pit (Pl.1 / C.16).

The ceramic material discovered by the research is a varied one, both from the point of view of the forms, of the decoration, as well as from the chronological point of view (Fig. 13). Typically, the largest share was the pot-shaped pot, followed by prunes, pickles and plates.

The most common decor for pot-shaped vessels is the vertical incisions, parallel to each other, placed on the shoulder of the vessel (Pl.4 / 2–6), sometimes accompanied by incisions in the soft nail paste (Pl.4 / 2) or strongly twisted girdles and disposed under the lip of the bowl (pl.4 / 6).

The plates are made of kaolin paste and painted with green or blue cobalt, made with floral or geometric motifs (Pl.4 / 1)

As far as the chronological placement of these materials is concerned, they vary from the 12th–13th centuries (Pl.4 / 2), the 14th–16th centuries (Pl.4 / 3–7), going until the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern age, centuries XVII–XVIII (Pl.4 / 1).

Fig. 13a. Special Material Photos

Fig. 13b. Special Material Photos

Fig. 13c. Special Material Photos

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Due to the development of real estate within the area " St. George's Square no. 2–3–4 ", in the Cetate neighbourhood of Timisoara, the excavation research was carried out. Archaeological research concentrated in stage I on a relatively small surface, revealing 75 archaeological features of various functionalities.

These are houses, warehouses, warehouses, storage pits and urban utilities (Fig. 14). According to the ceramic samples from the excavation of the dwelling, it is considered that the most intense dwelling could be documented as being between the 15th and the 18th centuries.

Fig. 14a. Photo Complex C34

All site documentation (complex datasheets, graphic and photo documentation, proven C 14 samples, deoxyribonucleic acid, archeological, anthropological, geological respectively ceramic determinations) will be analyzed and presented in a scientific study that will express not only on the state of the archaeological research, but also a clear message of the support enjoyed by the National Patrimony, in the spirit of the La Valetta Convention of January 16, 1992, to which Romania also joined.

Fig. 14b. Photo Complex C34

Fig. 14c. Photo Complex C34

Fig. 14d. Photo Complex C34 5

Fig. 14e. Photo Complex C34

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