

South Gate of Kale Skopje

CMHB 2007 Case Study



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Abstract

This Case Study concerns one of the latest discoveries by the author of this paper: A gate from the South part of a Fortress which is placed in the centre of Skopje, the capitol of the Republic of Macedonia.

Skopje Fortress is called Kale. The word “kale” derives from the Turkish word “kale”, which means “a fortress”.

South Gate is a part of the Inner City Wall structure. It is one of the main entrances of total three Gates on Kale and it is opened towards the main city square.

The construction has been damaged through the centuries and no activities were conducted for its preservation.

The treatment of this construction is a subject of discussion of several generations of specialists, but without a concrete solution until now.

This Case study gives conservation and restoration proposal as well as a Maintenance Program and Maintenance Plan not only for the South Gate but also for the South Inner City Wall of which the Gate is a constituent part.



Introduction

Skopje, the capitol of the Republic of Macedonia, has a plenty of cultural-historical monuments that have been carried its spirit and identity for ages. One of these long-lasting beauties, is Skopje Fortress, a mark and symbol of the city of Skopje. At the same time it is one of the most circulating and visited places in the city, since daily walks at this location are a habit that lasts and represents a part of the living culture of Skopje citizens. They are really proud of it. It is always at their sight and they are walking there every day. They enjoy its romantic night lights and always call it as "our Kale"

Kale Skopje is located on a small hill in the centre of the city. Around it there are houses and buildings with different shapes and functions, in different architectural style, from different chronological periods. One of the most remarkable structures is the VI century Stone Bridge, which is 300 m far from the Fortress and connects the Left and the Right side of the city.

Kale Skopje is an archaeological site since the first excavation in 1953. There were also excavations in 1966 and 1967. In 2007 enormous excavation was conducted after 40 years of silence. That excavation brought new a light on the Kale history and opened a new door of knowledge about this magnificent structure.

The hill of Kale is surrounded by two city walls: Inner and Exterior.

South Gate is a part of the Inner City Wall structure. It is one of the main entrances of the total three Gates on Kale and it is opened toward the main



city square. In the medieval period it was used only as an entrance for pedestrians.

Yet, South Gate is one of the most important strategic points of defence from the various attacks in the medieval period as well as in the period from XV century to II World War

Today, the Gate has no function any more. But, the plan is to restore it and to return its prime function as a main entrance in the Fortress.

Background

History

The history of Skopje is very dramatic. The city survived many structural, economical, military, ethnical, architectural and most of all historical changes, as well as demolishing earthquakes, massive floods, destroying fires and many invasions.

The history of Kale as an inhabited location starts in the middle eneolithic period (3.000 BC), as a small rural settlement with many inhabitants.

The first city wall was made in the VI century, after the big earthquake in the year of 518. The earthquake ruined the roman city Scupi, from where people moved to the present Skopje area taking not only their personal belongings with them, but even the stone material from the ruins of the old town. With that stone material taken from the public buildings, the theatre and the temples, they built the first City wall on this location.

The period of construction of the Fortress exactly matches the period of the emperor Iustinian I, who – according to some sources- built eight and renovated 61 fortresses. It is also known that Iustinian was born in the area of Skopje, in a village called Taurisium. All those facts mean a great challenge for scientists and researchers, to search the mysterious (lost) city of Iustiniana Prima, which probably used to exist exactly at this location.

The VI century is also a century of the barbaric raids and tries for demolition and conquest of fortified cities, which did not miss Skopje Fortress. So, before it was completely constructed, the Fortress was either demolished or damaged to a great extent.

Since then, the Fortress was never abandoned. It was used continuously in different purpose. So, it was built/ re-built numerous times.

The next huge structures were made in X/XI century, which are still yet to be uncovered by the archaeologist. It was the time when the Byzantine Empire re-occupied and ruled this region again. In that period, they were building over the remains of the early-Christian constructions. After that, there was a tempestuous period with wars and riots.

In the XII century, when Skopje had its economical, political and artistically blossom, the Inner City Wall was re-built, so the borders of the city were extended. It had non-ordinary shape, following the topography of the hill. The South Gate was built in this century for the first time (at least in this shape as we have discovered it).

In the XIV century there was a big re-built of the city walls. In that year the Gate was also re-built, but not on the same foundations of the XII century. It was moved slightly towards the south, for 0, 35 m, and threshold was placed 1, 65 m above the XII century threshold.

The complete impression of the city and the Fortress and its magnificent beauty is presented in the words and travelogues of Evlija Celebija, who visited Skopje in 1660. He wrote: "It is a fortified city, a very strong and sturdy fortress with double walls. The city gate and the walls are built from chipped stone that shines as if it were polished. One can not see so much refinement and art in the construction of any other city. The Fortress lies in the middle of Skopje. It is a tall structure of a shedadovska construction and five-side shape. The Fortress is protected by seven bastions and three demir



(iron) gates on the south and east side. There are many guards in the entrance hall. The doors and walls of entrance hall are decorated with different arms and tools needed for the arms.”

The South Gate was first time excavated in 1967 when only XIV century structure was uncovered. Since then, no excavations were conducted and no conservation was made. That is why that part of the Gate started to fall down.

Geography

In the centre of the Macedonian capital Skopje, there is a small hill, only 380 m a.s.l. On that hill there stands one of the symbols of Skopje - Skopje Fortress called Kale.

Around Kale there are houses and buildings with different shapes and functions, in different architectural style, from different chronological periods and different artistic and historical values.

The river Vardar, the biggest and the longest river in Macedonia, flows through its western side. On the same side of the city, there is a road that leads through the caves towards the water located at the riverbank. Since there is an abyss at this side of the city, as scary as the depths of hell, there are no trenches, nor there can be one. On the east, southeast and north side of the city, there are deep trenches. On that side in front of the East Gate, there is a wooden bridge that lies over the trench. The guards used to lift the bridge using the windlass, which provided for defence of the Gate. Above the Gate there is an inscription, giving more information about the reparations of the gate that took place in the past. (I.e. year 1446)

There is neither site nor location that dominates the Fortress. It lies on tall rocks, so that one can see the whole plain.

Climate

Despite that Macedonia is Mediterranean country; the climate in Skopje area is continental. The climate is changing like all around the world, but the winters are still cold and dry and the summers are wet and very hot. The estimated temperature is around -10 degrees by Celsius in the winter and around 45 degrees by Celsius in the summer.

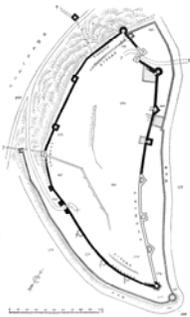
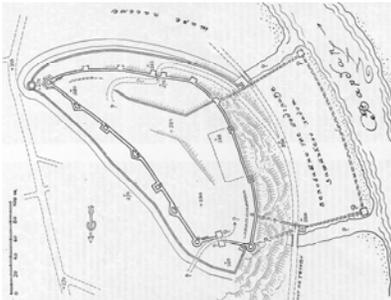
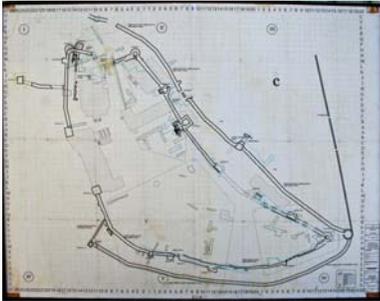
Disasters (natural and human causes)

Skopje is one of those unhappy cities which have been demolished by natural disasters several times. Since the year of 518 there were many earthquakes which were destroying the city through the centuries. There was one in the X and one in the XV century.

Skopje survived many river floods, fires and demolitions.

The biggest destruction happened in 1689 when the Austrian general Piccolomini burned Skopje completely down. The history marks two reasons for that. The first: Piccolomini lost the battle from the Ottomans who ruled Skopje in that period and he did not succeed to conquest the City. So, not wanting to leave "one of the most wonderful towns" to his enemy, he chooses to leave ashes behind his army. It is written that Piccolomini was sitting on a horse and watching Skopje burning in to the fire from a far distance. His words inscribed in the history of Skopje were: "I am very sorry for such houses that I have never seen in this war. The temples are made from the most beautiful marble and porphyry, decorated with the shiniest lights with golden frames, which no one could ignore, even not in Rome. I am very sad about the magnificent antique, the paradise gardens and the places for fun."

In the XVIII century the Fortress was caught in fire again. The archaeologists believe it was even bigger than the Piccolomini's one. After that there was another re-built.



But, the biggest catastrophe that history remembers is the earthquake in the year of 1963. In that one the Fortress was significantly affected and damaged.

After that, Kale was forgotten for about 40 years and then made popular again. But, all the time- it was always present, keeping and hiding the voices of the past times in its cracks and crevices, voices about eternal circle of destruction and re-creation.

Protection

Kale Fortress and everything included in is protected by law. According to the national classification of Macedonian cultural heritage it is recognized as a “monument entirety”. A pro po, South Gate as a part of the Fortress, is also protected. But, neither of them is listed in the World Heritage List, despite their great and numerous values. This is why no international cultural heritage organization is interested in this Monument.

Speaking about physical protection, the Skopje government provides guard protection all the time at the site. There is also project proposal for electronic surveillance with is yet to be realized.

Architecture (and/or Construction etc...)

Because of a turbulent life in this area and all those historical changes, the architecture has a constant need for intervention: reconstructions, additions, re-build new objects. So, in the XXI century ruins we can mark so many cultural changes on the architecture, which was made through 16 centuries.

Traditional Architecture

The South Gate and the South City wall were constructed in a traditional Byzantine XII and XIV century tradition.

South Gate is a part of Inner South City Wall structure. It is a complex of different architectural elements created in different periods.

The Gate itself is flanked with two towers which are parts of the defence system of the Inner City Wall. In the central position there is a threshold – a massive travertine block (1, 6 m x 0, 70 m x 0, 34 m). It is placed on a strong substructure made from small stones (gravel) and solid soil. On both sides of the threshold two jambs are built from rectangular stones. The west jamb is preserved to the higher level (about 0, 50 m above the threshold), and the eastern one to a lower (above 0,25m above the threshold). On the highest row of the jambs there is a preserved brick from the arch above the threshold.

Behind the threshold towards the North, there is an entrance corridor, which is only 5 m uncovered. The rest is still uncovered, but it will be opened in the next year archaeological excavation.

The Gate complex is made of different stones: local yellow travertine is mostly used, than river stone, stelae (usually marble from antique buildings) and occasionally bricks and tiles. The travertine is cut in big rectangular blocks, placed horizontally, with nice surface from the exterior side. As for medium, high quality strong and white lime (hydrostatic) mortar was in use on the Gate structure, but for the City wall, the mortar quality is questionable. On some parts, it was replaced by different mortar with grey colour, because it was probably falling down. It is just another proofe that the Gate and the City wall were not built in the same period, but both were continuously used and re-used through the centuries.

Modern Architecture

There is no modern architecture on this building and no intervention was done in the modern time. Although the building is reconstructed several times during the centuries, the last intervention was performed in the late XVIII and the begging of the XIX century. This information we know from





the historical sources, but the latest archaeological excavation proved that this phase is just a minimal intervention of the XIV structure, which was probably falling down, so it was needed to be “conserved”.

Modern architecture is not recommended here.

Problems

South Gate and The Inner City wall is badly damaged. All the corps of the Wall is preserved, except the Path on the top, including the "armeries". Inner and exterior side of the wall show four phases of re-built, but each of them needs to be repaired because there are cracks and fallen stones from the structure. The medium, which is hydrostatic mortar, is severely damaged on the 3rd and 4th phase, but 1st and 2nd phase are very well preserved, so the stones and the mortar stay in situ with no threats on them.

The main problem for conservation of this Building is to choose which phase should be presented with the reconstruction. There are two solutions:

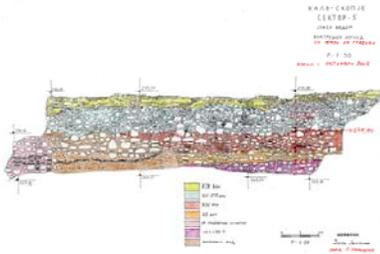
- Reconstruction of only XII century phase
- Reconstruction of XII and XIV century phases together

The third problem, to be mention is that the South Gate has no functional use any more. As long as it is not in function, nor any activities of protection to be conducted, it would be destined to fall down. The time is consuming it and leaves the Gate with more and more damages. So, it is a priority of all a conservation to be made as soon as possible. Not only conservation, but also a restoration is needed. After it is restored, the Gate should be used as a main pedestrian entrance for “a walk through the history of Skopje”.

Hypothesis

Presenting all the phases of building construction, may cause un-unique result, because the material used in different ages is neither compatible nor similar to each other. Practically, with presentation of all the phases we would implement various styles which will lead to eclectic result. With that we will not achieve the main goal: presentation of the historical construction.

In this sense, the proposal is to select only one (the most significant) phase. It would be the XII century construction which will be presented only on the South Gate. Not losing the other phases, we will conduct presentation of the other phases on the Inner City wall, where we can interpret XII , XIV, XV and XVIII/XIX century construction.



Method

Solving the main problem for conservation of this Building (the choice of which phase should be presented with the reconstruction), would dictate the method of treatment. The suggestion is to choose the XII century construction. According to this, the chosen methodology is the following:

Investigation:

Archaeological excavation conducted in 2007 contributed to the complete knowledge for the South Gate. Archaeologists excavated all necessary elements for the South Gate to be reconstructed. The most important element is the threshold which is placed in the central position of the Gate. It is flanked with two jambs from which we have the base and a part of the upper construction. That will give us enough elements for the whole reconstruction on the arch above the threshold.

The door lintel above the arch was built with local lime stones. Those stones have rectangular shape, but some of them have certain edges appropriate just exactly for the edges of the Gate.

The top of the Gate wall would end in the same shape like the XII century City Wall, with the rectangular armeries.

Programme:

The programme for the further activities is set: The Gate and the Inner South City Wall, including the three towers (11, 12 and 13) will be first conserved and then reconstructed. After that the complex will be revitalized.

Project:

The first project proposal was refused by the authorities. So, a new one is preparing in the moment. The team of professionals for conducting the project consist: 1 archaeologist, 1 architect and 1 civic engineer.

The project is addressed to the Ministry of Culture and the Institute for Protection of the Cultural Heritage. Those will be sponsors as well as consultants.

Building:

Conservation and restoration will be conducted in 2008, starting from April 1st.

Experience:

The gained experience will be implemented in rest of the Inner City Wall and the Towers around the Fortress.

Maintenance program

Using the Dick Sandberg's Practical Binder, the Maintenance Program for the South Gate and the Inner City Wall, including the three towers (11, 12 and 13) is set. The following is just a short version of the total Maintenance Program for the mentioned constructions.

1. Summary

South Gate is a part of the South Inner City Wall complex, as one of the important entrances in the Fortress. It is discovered first time 40 years ago, but in 2007 archaeologists discovered new facts and undiscovered phase of it existence.

The Gate is badly damaged and very urgent conservation should be conducted. Restoration is recommended in a purpose for the Gate to be revitalized again.

2. Information about the building

Data of the building

Municipality: Centre

Place: Skopje

Placement: Kale Fortress

2.1.1 Floor plan of the complex of the South Gate, Inner City wall and the Towers

Section of the complex of the South Gate, Inner City wall and the Towers – frontal position

Legal protection

Previous legal protection

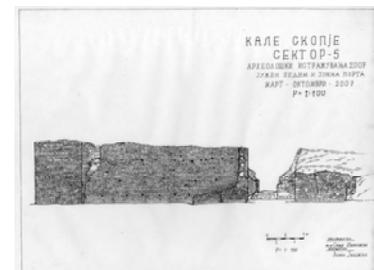
Since 1952 the Fortress is recognized as a monument of culture and with Act 36/1952 it is protected by law given to the ownership of the State (Macedonia).

In 1989, Kale's ownership transferred to the City of Skopje as a "monument of culture with an exception values".

Present legal protection

Kale is registered in the National Central Register by the number 99/1992.

Today the procedure for the complete legal protection is still not finished, because of some unsolved legal problems about the central part of the Fortress. The act of Protection is already filed to the authorities. We are still waiting for the reply. According to the national classification of Macedonian cultural heritage it is recognized as a "monument entirety" with special importance for the national cultural heritage. A pro po, South



Gate as a part of the Fortress, is also protected. But, neither of them is listed in the World Heritage List, despite their great and numerous values.

The legislation

See Act 46 from the Law for Protection of the Cultural Heritage (Sluzeben vesnik na RM, 24/2004)

Ownership: City of Skopje

Users:

- Skopje citizens
- Skopje Summer Festival

3. *Values and threats analysis*

Cultural values

Kale Skopje, including the Gate has great cultural values. They are the witness of the past, in a matter of 15 century continuous existence, as well of the all dramatic historical changes of the Fortress as well as the City of Skopje.

As an archaeological site, the Fortress is reviling the secrets of the past in its architecture and all the archaeological findings.

Other values

Kale is not only a monument of culture. It is also a park where Skopjanians take their families for walk and spend even a short picnic on its green grass.

For the Skopje citizen, Kale is a lend mark in which they enjoy in their every day view and in its romantic night light.

Skopje people always address it as: "our Kale".

Threats

South Gate and The Inner City wall is badly damaged. All the corps of the Wall is preserved, except the Path on the top, including the "armeries". Most of the material from the South Gate is fallen down and only the lower part is preserved. The Inner and exterior side of the City wall show four phases of re-built, but each of them needs to be repaired because there are cracks and fallen stones from the structure. The medium, which is hydrostatic mortar, is severely damaged on the 3rd and 4th phase, but 1st and 2nd phase are very well preserved, so the stones and the mortar stay in situ with no threats on them.

4. *Goals*

Maintenance goals

After the treatments of conservation and restoration, the South Gate will be revitalized and re-used again. In that purpose the Gate will be presented as a productive architecture with its own sustainability. Simply said: people will pay money to see it and to walk under its arch and the money will be used for the further maintenance of this structure.

Other goals

Stop the demolition of monuments of culture

5. *Description of special maintenance requirements*

There are parts of the Gate which must be protected in a special way. If the XII century phase of the Gate is to be presented, then the XIV century phase should be presented in an alternative way as well. So, if the actual reconstruction of the XIV century phase is not appropriate to be presented, than it could be done in a 3D ideal electronic presentation which will be engendered on a screen just next to the XII century phase actual reconstruction.

6. *History*

History of the building

The Gate was probably built in the X/XI century, but there is no archaeological prove of its existence. The Gate is known that was built in the XII century and than re-build in the XIV century, both phases are not founded on same foundations. In the XVIII century the Gate threats were only fixed.



Previous restoration works

No previous restoration work has been conducted on the South Gate, not on the South Inner City Wall.

7. Present situation

South Gate is badly damaged and there is a danger that the architecture would not hold it much longer.

The Gate is also un-used as well.

8. Description of interior

South Gate is not a typical building with exterior and interior. But, if we say that the front is the exterior, then we may consider the entrance corridor as an interior. It was discovered in 2007 archaeological excavation, only of 5 m length toward the North. The width is only 5, 5 m. The corridor was probably paved, but no pavement is discovered yet. From both sides the corridor is bordered with walls made from stone and mortar.

9. Register of printed and not printed sources and of persons

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- Vulik N., Justiniana Prima, GSND V, Skoplje 1929

List of persons:

- prof. Ivan Mikuleik PhD, conducted the excavation in 1967
- m-r Jovan Shurbanovski, Director of the Museum of Skopje, where Skopje historical archive is kept
- prof. Dragi Mitrevski, general manager of the project "Kale 2007-2010"
- Ms. Sanja Ivanovska, MA, leader/coordinator of the excavation in 2007 (Sector 5)



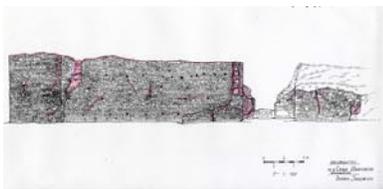
Maintenance plan

It is based on five steps of action:

Step 1: Collection of documentation

It is already done. As we have done the archaeological excavation last year, all the needed documentation is prepared and available:

- Floor plan of the Gate and the Inner City wall
- Sections of the Gate
- Sketches

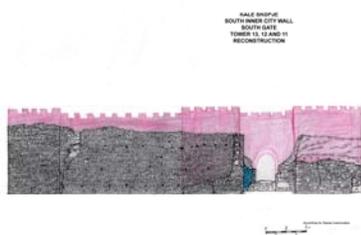


- Computer drawings
- Photodocumentation
- Videos from the excavation
- Publications
- Archive from 1967 excavation
- Old photos of the Fortress (before 1963 earthquake)

Step 2: **Treatmans marked** on the copies of documentation

On a copy of a section 1 of the South Gate, all the constituted threats and damages on the architecture are marked in red. Those marks are the conservation pint which will follow next.

On a copy of a section 2 - elevation of the South Gate, the missing part is reconstructed, which means implementing stone material from the building stored during the archaeological excavation. That would be the restoration proposal for this building.



Step 3: **Priority chart**

Knowing that conservation and restoration is a big thing to be done at once and in one year and it cost big money, the situation dictates to make two years plan for those activities. That is why Priority chart is needed to be prepared.

Activities→ Building↓	Conservation		Restoration		Presentation		Cost by building
	p./t	cost (€)	p. /t	cost (€)	p.	cost (€)	
Tower 13	3 6.'08	2.000	3 7.'08	2.000	3 8.'08	1.000	5.000
South Inner City Wall	2 4./5.'08	5.000	2 5.'08	5.000	2 9.'08	1.000	11.000
Tower 12	4 4.'09	3.000	4 6.'09	6.000	4 9.'09	1.000	10.000
South Gate	1 4.'08	5.000	1 5.'08	5.000	1 10.'08	1.000	11.000
Gate corridor	6 8.'09	1.000	6 8.'09	3.000	6 10.'09	1.000	5.000
Tower 11	5 5.'09	3.000	5 7.'09	5.000	5 9.'09	1.000	9.000
TOTAL:		19.000		26.000		6.000	51.000 €

(legend: P-priority; T-time schedule; x.'y-month.'year)

The first 3 P's should be finished from April 1st to October 30th 2008, and the second 3 P's would be conducted in 2009.

Step 4: **Recapitulation**

There should be a recapitulation form prepared of the result from the first 3 steps:

Results→ Building↓	Conservation			Restoration			Presentation		
	Done	New options/ problems	Control/ Inspection	Done	New options/ problems	Control/ Inspection	Done	New options/ problems	Control/ Inspection
South Gate									
South Inner City Wall									
Tower 13									
Tower 12									
Tower 11									
Gate corridor									

Step 5: Additions

In front of the South Gate there is a piece of land which was excavated last year. No archaeological remains were found so the land was covered with dirt. Now it is flat and with no usage. It would be very appropriate on this position to build a small montage baraque which will be used as a small tourist centre with toilette facilities, for tickets selling and a souvenir shop. As the tourists enter from the new gate near the Low West Tower (Diznney), the path will lead them to this addition. Tourist will buy tickets here, use a toilet or buy a souvenir. From there they may enter the fortress through the reconstructed South Gate and continue their tour on.



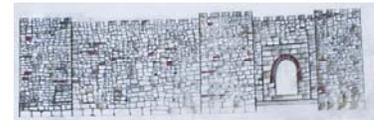
Results

With the conservation of the Gate and the City Wall, the destruction of the two monuments will be prevented. Their condition is very bad and without treatments they could be lost forever. Conserved Gate and City Wall will be also restored. With that, both would be presented to the public with all their beauty of existence, as they were built for the first time.

The South Gate and the South City Wall are on the front side of the Fortress which can be seen from the central position in Skopje, especially from the main city square. So, the view of the Fortress will be complete when the front part is restored.

From the aspect of productivity, they will be profitable after their conservation and restoration. The South Gate could be the pedestrian entrance to the visitors of the site, where tickets and souvenirs can be bought.

After those two structures are taken care of, we can continue to implement the positive experience from the previous to the next structures, and continue to conserve and restore the rest of the inner city wall and towers around the site, with the same examples, strategy and experience.



Discussion & Conclusions

South Gate is a challenge for the scientist as well as for the conservators who can give many solutions to this problem. But, we must have in mind that easy solutions sometimes give problems impossible to be solved. One of those problems is the choice of the phase of building which should be presented with the restoration. Maybe the new fresh wave of the coming generation is bringing non-compromizing solution which might be the "better" result.

However, it is proven that presentation of many phases on one structure brings eclecticism of the artistic element in completely not-defined new style, which the history can not recognize. So, instead of inventing new style of architecture with elements from each existing phases, we should be a bit more courageous and selfconfident and not only to make a strong choice to pick only one to be presented, we should also find solutions for the other which are not going to be actually presented.

References

South Gate of Kale Skopje is unique building with no analogy to another, neither in Macedonia, nor in the region around. There are similar fortresses in the country which have been constructed by the local tradition. So, we can have examples from them, especially from the reconstructed Samoil Fortress in Ohrid.

Skopje Fortress (Kale) in Historical Sources

*The urban settlement of Skopje at Kale for the first time occurred in the sources as *Skopje Army* at the end of IX century. (Иванов, Й., **Богомилски книги и легенди**. Софија: 1970, p. 283)

*The folk tradition on the name of the city after the coming of the Slavic tribes has created its legend. According to the legend presented by G. Kajdamov (Легенди за Македонските градови. Скопје: 1981, p. 10) the fortified city that was on today's Skopje fortress was protected by high walls and it was difficult to get inside. One would have to attack with arrows and spears. When attacking the fortified city, the leader of the Slavic army commanded: *Attack the fortress with spears*. The command "*co konja*" (*with spears* in Macedonian) was repeated many times by the leader of the Slavs. The words of the leader remained in the memory of the soldiers and the population for a long time. That is how the city started being called Skopja, Skopie or Skopje. – **Folk Legend**.

* *Uskufia (Skopje) is a big city with endless processed fields, with an abundance of grapevines and grains. It a day trip far from the city of Koritus on the north-east. Fardarij (Vardar) runs between them.* – Arab geographer and traveller **al-Idrizi (1100 - 1165)**

* *And he raised the church of Our Lady of Ljevis, called Prizren episcopate, and also the church of Annunciation of Holy Mother of God, which is Gracanica episcopate, and the church called Troerucica in the famous city of Skopje, and the church of St. George at the Serava river, and the church of St. Constantine in the City of Skopje...*

- In his book "Lives of Kings and Archbishops of Serbia", the **archbishop Danilo (1270-1337)** who held this position from 1324 to 1337 also gives interesting data on the city of Skopje, and especially significant are the construction activities of king Milutin described here:

* *"The king gives the monastery land in the city of Skopje and on various locations in the Skopje district, bought from Kostadin Lipsiot and three members of the family of a Theodor: yard in the city, fields, villages, grapevines, hay fields, gardens, watermills, all bought for 300 perpera, except for the sales tax (inomin buy-out) and other expenses (eksod)."*

*"He gives 'no-man's' properties of former large land owners in the Skopje district: Kalud's places in Skopje and its surrounding, the village of Sulne-exalimou on Pasarel, Ilijas and Ananizeso and their properties, then the exalimou of father Kvocil and **Hrptat pigr (tower)** in front of the **palace** for the monastery soknica (ekonomat)."*

*"The property of the Byzantine land owner Apokafk: **Apokafkov's church of St. George** and the surrounding broad space of the Serava river to **Round Tower with the ruins of 60 houses**, Apokafk's court between the properties of lords Paskal and Holevat, to Round Tower and **city gate – Kapicale**."*

- **Serbian king Mulutin's charter**, given to the monastery of St. George – Gorg of Skopje in **1299/1300** (The references to the city fortifications of the Kale are typical, while the churches of St. Holy Mother of God Troerucica and St. Constantine are also mentioned).

"On the third day we left (Strumica) and we reached the town of Skopje that is in tribal areas... **Skopje has its fortress (upper city, tower) and developed lower city, varos(jeborija)... In Skopje we met king's mother-in-law; all Tribales obey and listen to him; the noble kaesaritsa was dressed in black as a sign of big grief."*

- **Nicephorus Gregoras (1295-1359) in his work "Roman History"**. Interesting descriptions and features of Skopje, as well as praising the hospitality of the people of the Skopje area, whose wild temperament, lack of education and barbarian character are overshadowed by the "peaceful way of life and ally benevolence that is especially expressed in the time of need."

Skopje fortress was drawn on the flag of the portolan of the Catalanian sailor **Angelino Dulcert in 1339. Skopje Kale was presented with four*

towers, flag and an inscription Scopi. - Александар Соловјев, Застава Стефана Душана над Скопљем године 1339, Гласник СНД XV-XVI , Скопље 1936, p. 347.

*"...In Skopje, the Ottomans first took only the upper town, the fortress for their needs. The first church sacrifice was the legacy of king Milutin in the Skopje fortress, **the church of St. Constantine and Helen**. Instead of a church, the first Turkish mosque in Skopje was built here with a thin minaret and a crescent... "*

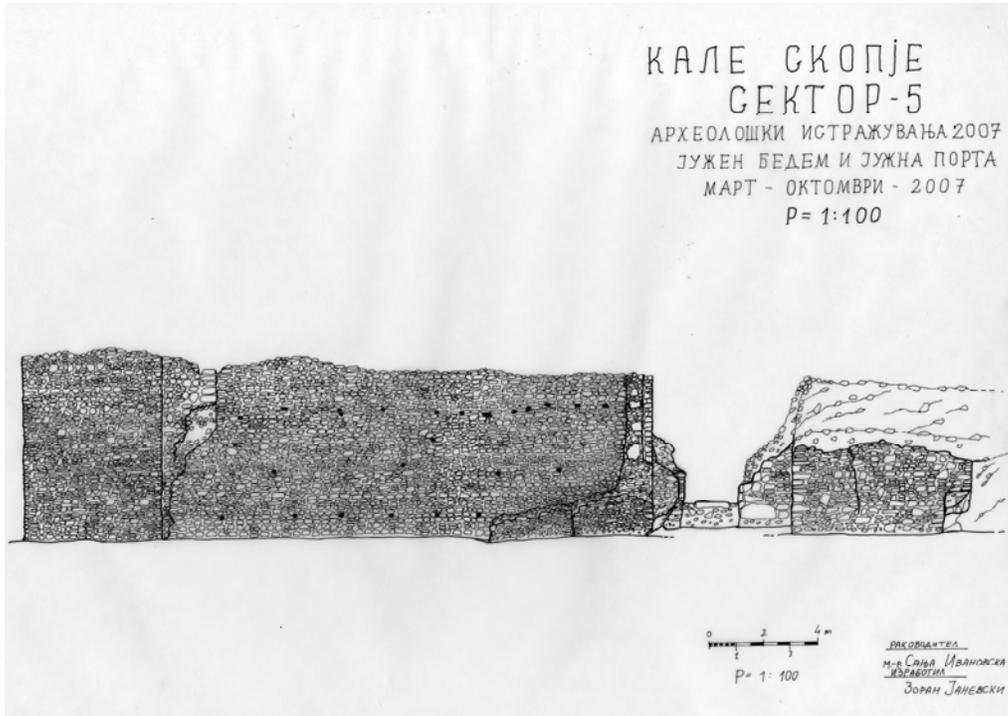
- *The handwriting of the triod of the Khludov collection in the Moscow Historical Museum no. 162, completed on 6 January 1392, on the day of the Ottoman conquest of Skopje.*

The city was encircled with walls and fortified with towers (pirgs)- **Logotet Gojko in the charter of the monastery of Holy Mother of God in Arhiljevica around 1355.*

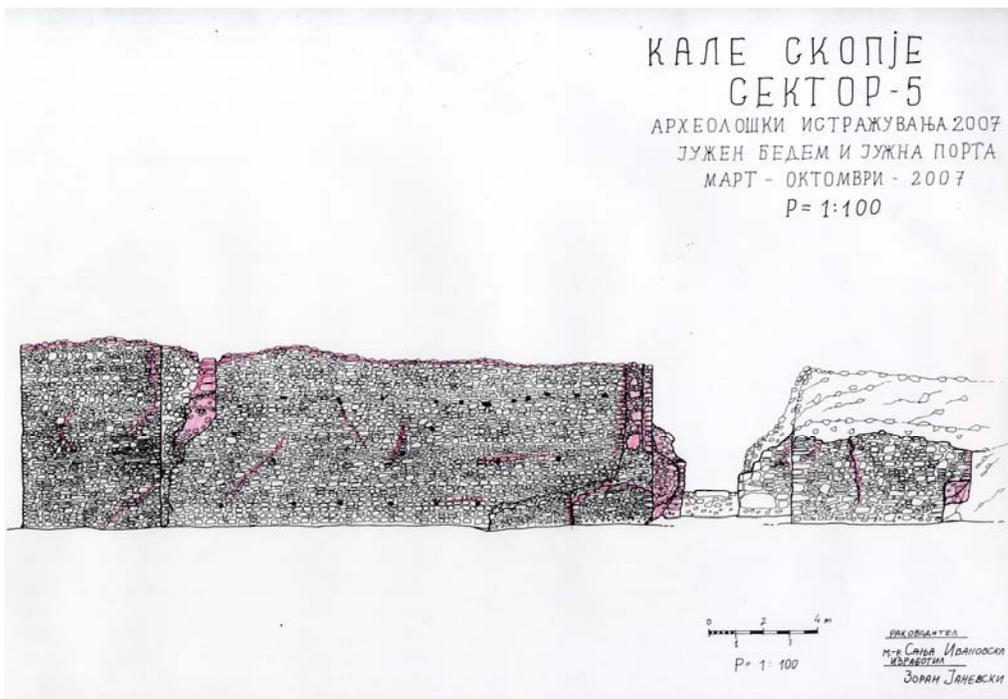
**"At night the gates were closed and the entry in the city was allowed only by exception."*

- **Theodore Metochite XIV century.** During his stay in Skopje he described the Serbian court, which was richly equipped according to the Roman principle. The ruler was surrounded by an entourage made of selected people, brave young men dressed in beautiful clothes, The king often set the table for his close companions and appeared in rich clothes decorated with pearls and gold. The table was filled with various food, served in gold and silver plates.

Appendix 1



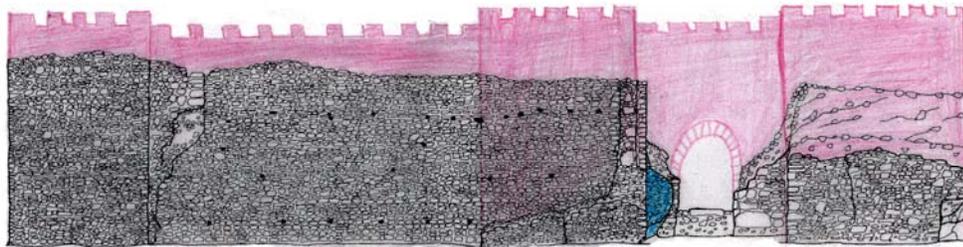
Section of the complex:
Tower 13, Inner South City Wall,
Tower 12, South Gate and Tower 11



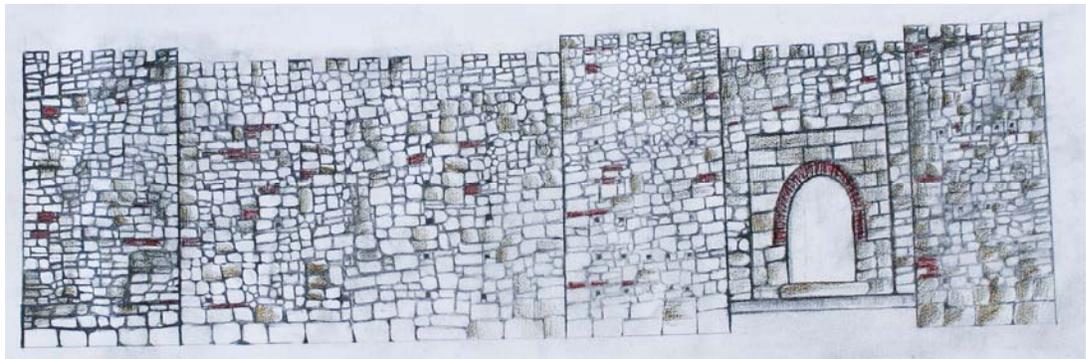
Threats on the complex

Appendix 2

KALE SKOPJE
SOUTH INNER CITY WALL
SOUTH GATE
TOWER 13, 12 AND 11
RECONSTRUCTION



According to Sanja Ivanovska
0 2 4 m



Reconstruction of the complex:
Tower 13, Inner South City Wall,
Tower 12, South Gate (XII century phase)
and Tower 11