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The Shipwreck of Gnalić: Revealing the Story Behind

At first glance, the interpretation of the ship's contents and history seemed straightforward; however, only a detailed, interdisciplinary investigation of diverse sources – including scientific analyses of the glass materials – revealed the true story of the vessel and its cargo.

Within the international project The Heritage of the Serenissima under the Culture 2000 programme, a multidisciplinary team undertook one of the first comprehensive studies of the Gnalić wreck and its finds, building on the rescue campaigns carried out since the 1960s and subsequent archival research. The ship – identified as the *Gagliana grossa*, lost in 1583 – sank a few miles south of Biograd (Croatia), carrying a rich, mixed cargo.

Although the vessel transported a wide array of commodities – ceramics, metalwares, textiles, and raw materials – the predominant component of the cargo was glass. Thousands of glass items were recovered, including Italian tableware, drinking vessels, window-glass 'crowns', mirror plates, and an intriguing set of objects with Eastern characteristics. Drawing on archaeometric analyses alongside archival evidence, recent work re-examines trade mechanisms, supply chains, and consumption patterns in the Eastern Adriatic during the late sixteenth century.

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