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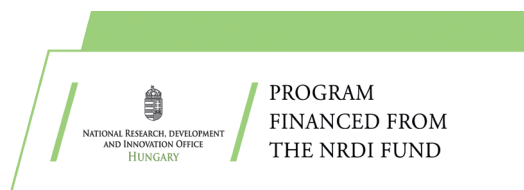
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TARTALOM – INDEX

FROM LOCAL TO MICROREGIONAL AND BEYOND: SPATIAL STRUCTURES IN AND AROUND THE EARLY MEDIEVAL CARPATHIAN BASIN

Papers submitted to the session organised at the 28th EAA Annual Meeting, Budapest, Hungary,
31 August–3 September 2022

Edited by Ivan BUGARSKI – Erwin GÁLL – Gergely SZENTHE

Ivan BUGARSKI

- Space use in Syrmia during the Migration and Avar periods 7
Térhasználat a Szerémségben a népvándorlás korában és az avar korban 29

Bartłomiej Szymon SZMONIEWSKI

- Central places or ritual places and the oldest hillforts in Slavic territory
in Central and Eastern Europe (5th/6th–7th centuries) 31
Központi- vagy rituális helyek, és a szláv terület legkorábbi magaslati erődjai
Közép- és Kelet-Európában (5/6.–7. század) 55

Roman SAUER – Falko DAIM – Katharina RICHTER

- Petrographical and mineralogical analyses of pottery from the cemetery of
Mödling-An der Goldenen Stiege (Lower Austria): Methods and preliminary
results 57
Mödling-An der Goldenen Stiege lelőhelyről (Alsó-Ausztria) származó
kerámiák petrográfiai és ásványösszetételi elemzése. Módszerek és
előzetes eredmények 78

Zsófia BÁSTI – Bence GULYÁS

- Burials with sheepskins in light of the changes between the Early and
Late Avar periods 81
Juhbőrös temetkezések a kora és késő avar kori változások kontextusában 107

Réka FÜLÖP

- Typological analysis of beads from selected Late Avar cemeteries 109
Késő avar kori temetők gyöngyanyagának tipológiai elemzése 134

Pia ŠMALCELJ NOVAKOVIĆ – Anita RAPAN PAPEŠA

- Make me a star. Crescent hoop earrings from the southwestern edge
of the Khaganate – Identity and status markers 135
Csillagok, csillagok... Csillag alakú csüngővel ellátott fülbevalók
mint az identitás és a társadalmi helyzet markerei az avar kaganátus
délnyugati peremvidékén 159

Erwin GÁLL – Levente DACZÓ

- Asymmetrical relationship between a peripheral region and the Late Avar Khaganate: The Sighişoara microregion in the Early Middle Ages (7th/8th–9th centuries) and the importance of microregional research 161
- Aszimmetrikus regionális kapcsolatok a késő avar kaganátusban. Segesvár kistérsége a kora középkorban (7/8–9. század) és a mikroregionális kutatás fontossága 192

Natália GERTHOFFEROVÁ

- ‘Nitra-type’ cast earrings in the Middle and Lower Danube region 193
- „Nyitra-típusú” öntött fülbevalók a Közép-Duna-medencében és az Al-Dunánál 204

Milica RADIŠIĆ – Viktorija UZELAC

- The southernmost exceptional archaeological discovery from the Hungarian Conquest period: The significance of several finds from the Bačka region (Serbia) 207
- A legdélebbi jelentős honfoglalás kori lelet. Néhány Bácska területén előkerült tárgy jelentőségéről 235

Cristina PARASCHIV-TALMAȚCHI

- Considerations on the production and distribution of pottery in Dobruja at the beginning of the Middle Ages 237
- Gondolatok a dobrudzsai kerámiaelőállításról és -terjesztésről a középkor elején 252

* * *

Kristóf István SZEGEDI – György LENGYEL – Tibor MARTON

- The problem of ‘Epipalaeolithic’ in the Carpathian Basin: Lithic finds from Hont-Várhegy, Northern Hungary 255
- A Kárpát-medence „epipaleolitikumának” kérdéséhez: pattintott kövek Hont-Várhegyről (Észak-Magyarország) 265

János Gábor TARBAY – Zoltán KIS – Boglárka MARÓTI

- X-ray and neutron radiography of Late Bronze Age weapons and armour from Western Hungary 267
- Késő bronzkori, nyugat-dunántúli fegyverek és páncélok röntgen és neutronradiográfias vizsgálata 280

János Gábor TARBAY – Tamás PÉTERVÁRY – András KOVÁCS – Bence SOÓS

- A Late Bronze Age collar from Somló Hill: Preliminary report on Somló hoard VII 283
- Késő bronzkori nyakék a Somlóról. Előzetes jelentés a VII. depóról 310

Bence SOÓS – Balázs LUKÁCS – Csilla LÍBOR

A unique Early Iron Age brooch from Somló Hill	313
Egy különleges kora vaskori fibula a Somló-hegyről	324

RECENSIONES

Rózsa DÉKÁNY

Beszédes József: Római kori sírkövek Carnuntumból és városi territoriumáról	327
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TÓTH Boglárka

Jiří Košta, Jiří Hošek, Petr Žákovský: Ninth to Mid-Sixteenth Century Swords from the Czech Republic in their European Context. Part I: The Finds. Part II: Swords of Medieval and Early Renaissance Europe as a Technological and Archaeological Source	331
--	-----

Beszédes József: Római kori sírkövek Carnuntumból és városi territoriumáról (Römische Grabsteine aus Carnuntum und seinem Stadtgebiet) [Roman gravestones from Carnuntum and the territory of the town]. *Studia ad archaeologiam Pazmanensia* 19. Budapest, 2020. 502 pp.

Rózsa DÉKÁNY¹ 

Hungarian research on the Roman heritage of Pannonia focuses primarily on investigating finds and monuments within the current state borders; however, researchers have also been engaged with analysing topics that fell outside of this focus in the period of modern archaeological research. The town Carnuntum was one of the most important centres of Pannonia after the Roman conquest of the area. Once the province was divided in two parts during the reign of Trajan, Carnuntum became the provincial capital of Pannonia Superior. If no other reason, being the former centre of the Roman province that included the whole of today's Transdanubia makes Carnuntum a key site for research on Romans in general. As the mixed Roman and Romanised population had many ties to the province, studying the monuments of Carnuntum also enhances our knowledge of that.

Excavations have been carried out in the area of Carnuntum since the 19th century, becoming increasingly frequent and extensive. In the 20th century, not only the acquisition of finds but also their preservation and publication became more and more important (Obermayr 1967, 7–19). Several significant works on the epitaphs from Carnuntum preceded József Beszédes's studies. A fair number of epitaphs have been published in the third Supplement of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* (CIL); Eduard Vorbeck discussed separately the military and, later, the civil inscriptions in his two-volume catalogue (Beszédes 2020a, 16).

Carnuntum and its municipal territory are one of the richest sources of stone monuments in Pannonia. While this find group, mostly gravestones, can be key for the archaeology of military history and epigraphy, no study has been dedicated to its comprehensive analysis (Beszédes 2020b, 2). Several corpora and catalogues have been published on stone monuments, but these have become more and more

obsolete with time – especially volumes II–IV of the *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani* (CSIR). Another important corpus is the first volume of the Supplement of Carnuntum in CSIR Österreich, presenting religious stone monuments (Kremer 2012). This work sheds light, through discussions of various find groups, on the position of the former centre in the cultural network of the Roman Empire and of Pannonia within. Previously working with Martin Mosser on the evaluation of the gravestones of Legio XV Apollinaris, József Beszédes was involved in this research (Beszédes, Mosser 2002). The monograph in focus, published in 2020, continues this work and contemplates the same topics.

The volume revolves around 634 already published Roman Period tombstones from Carnuntum and its municipal territory (*territorium*). It contains all epitaphs on stone monuments from Vorbeck's two-volume catalogue. In addition, the internet database called *Ubi Erat Lupa*, in the creation of which the author also participated, served as a source of recently discovered finds (Beszédes 2020a, 11). The book does not include illustrations of every tombstone in the catalogue, but most of them can be found in the database at lupa.at (Harl 2021, 293).

The book consists of a general analysis (pp. 9–198) and a find catalogue (pp. 199–502). The discussion is divided into twelve chapters, completed with a summary in German. The catalogue includes individual descriptions of the 164 tombstones from Carnuntum and its *territorium* and images of some.

The introductory chapter (1. *Bevezetés / Introduction*, pp. 11–12) is followed by an overview of research history (2. *Kutatástörténet / Research history*, pp. 13–20) and the geographical setting of Carnuntum and its history (3. *Carnuntum és városi territoriumának természetföldrajzi és településtörténeti vázlat / geographical and settlement historical data*, pp. 21–16).

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An important element of the analysis is the history of the troops (legionary and auxiliary) stationed in Carnuntum, presented in Chapter 4 (*4. Carnuntum csapattörténete / military history of Carnuntum*, pp. 27–30). It is also relevant because a significant part of the examined tombstones can be linked to the military (Beszédes 2020b, 4). The second part provides a classification and dating of different grave monument types, starting with a presentation, including their characteristics and rate of occurrence, of the tomb types appearing in Carnuntum and its *territorium* and shedding light on the complexity of the different variants through specific examples (*5. Síremlékfajták / types of grave monuments*, pp. 31–40). As context cannot be omitted from the assessing of grave monuments, the sixth chapter discusses burial forms and grave types appearing in and around Carnuntum (*6. Temetkezési formák, sírtípusok / burial forms and grave types*, pp. 41–44). The seventh chapter focuses on elements of dating value of the grave monuments (*7. A síremlékek keltezési támpontjai / aspects for the dating of grave monuments*, pp. 45–52).

Since *stelae* make up the largest part of the grave monuments from Carnuntum and its surroundings, József Beszédes devoted a separate chapter to them, presenting the possibilities of typological classification (*8. Sztélétipológia / Stele typology*, pp. 53–64). *Stelae* can be examined based on their shape, decoration, division, and structural elements. In the presented framework, the analysed examples are classified into four groups based on the characteristics of the upper closing and subgroups based on finer details; altogether, 45 different stele types were distinguished in Carnuntum and its *territorium* (Beszédes 2020a, 53, Fig. 4, *Carnuntum és territoriumának sztélétipológiai táblázata / table of the stele types from Carnuntum and its territorium*).

Although the typology of grave *stelae* is not new, such a structured analysis of gravestones of Carnuntum had not been presented before. It enables a more accurate dating of specific pieces and facilitates the analysis of analogies from the province in the context of the Empire.

The latest results and the conclusions drawn from the analysis of all monuments are presented in Chapters 9–11 (*9. Carnuntumi lelőhelyű sírkövek / Tombstones from Carnuntum*, pp. 65–122). Dividing the gravestones into two groups (those with and without inscriptions) and distinguishing between military and civilian gravestones, the author came to the following important conclusion: Military grave

monuments are almost exclusively *stelae*, while the grave markers of civilians are much more varied, including other monument types (e.g., grave titles, altars, and statues) besides a large proportion of *stelae*. In addition, military and civil tombstones in Carnuntum do not show significant differences in design, making it likely that they were made by the same workshops (Beszédes 2020a, 119).

In Chapter 10, the author presents the tombstones from the *territorium* arranged in alphabetical order of the names of their findspots; the descriptions include information about the geographical setting of each (*10. Carnuntum városi territoriumáról előkerült sírkövek / tombstones from the territorium of the town Carnuntum*, pp. 123–170). A separate chapter is dedicated to a detailed and comprehensive evaluation of the grave monuments found in the *territorium* (*11. A Carnuntum territoriumán előkerült síremlékek kiértékelése / analysis of the former*, pp. 171–190). Beszédes concludes that the 1st–early 2nd-century AD record of the *territorium* is much more varied in both design and decoration than that of Carnuntum and explains that with the inhabitants of the municipal territory having been ethnically more diverse than the Romanised population around the legionary camp in Carnuntum (Beszédes 2020b, 9). Motifs common in Carnuntum and the settlements along the Amber Road – Medusa’s head, dolphins, mixed marine creatures, plant frames, wreaths, and rosette (a very popular decorative element in Carnuntum) – occur only sporadically on tombstones of the local population (Beszédes 2020a, 174). The pieces with mythological reliefs are most likely related to veterans (Harl 2021, 294), while the depictions of chariots, hunting scenes, and full-length depictions of the deceased in a sitting or standing position are common on tombstones of the local Celtic population (Beszédes 2020b, 9).

Most gravestones of the native population from the *territorium* cannot be dated using the method applied to the ones from Carnuntum because they do not include military troop names or other inscriptions indicating a historical connection. In addition, civilian fashion did not change enough over the years for its depictions to be suitable for precise dating (Harl 2021, 294). Overall, the dating of the tombstones from the *territorium* is much more imprecise than that of the pieces from Carnuntum.

The structure of the catalogue follows that of the evaluation, presenting first tombstones from Carnuntum and then the pieces from the *territorium*.

The list of tombstones from Carnuntum starts with military tombstones with inscriptions, sorted by troops (Cat. 1–230), followed by pieces related to civilians (Cat. 231–303), fragments with inscriptions (Cat. 304–352), and tombstones without inscription (Cat. 353–416). Tombstones from the *territorium* are arranged alphabetically in the names of their findspots and types.

As is customary for catalogues and corpora, the object descriptions include data on the findspot, place of storage, material, dimensions, inscriptions (if there are any), and the relevant literature. Importantly, the stones are dated more accurately than ever before, and the descriptions of many are particularly detailed.

The volume was published in Hungarian, which is rare amongst the works on Carnuntum. However, the

summary in German at the end makes it accessible for non-Hungarian readers, too. The well-structured plates and diagrams also help in understanding the chapters (Harl 2021, 293). Nevertheless, the author intends to publish a German version in the future (Beszédes 2020a, 9).

József Beszédes' book excels amongst the Hungarian works dedicated to the analysis of gravestones because, besides presenting a collection of the gravestones from Carnuntum and its *territorium*, it presents an analysis of their epigraphic and sculptural aspects. The typological classification and the analysis give a deeper insight into the history of the troops stationed in Carnuntum and the ethnic changes of the population, while the joint epigraphic and sculptural examination of the tombstones enabled their more precise dating than ever before.

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