## ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae





## DISSERTATIONES ARCHAEOLOGICAE

ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae Ser. 3. No. 1.



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## Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae Ser. 3. No. 1.

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# Short report on the excavations at Brigetio (Szőny-Vásártér) in 2013

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#### Abstract

Excavations in the 2013 season at the site Brigetio/Szőny-Vásártér $^1$  were concentrated on unearthing a cellar which had been found in 2012 as well as taking observations in the vicinity of the previously excavated metal-workshop nearby. According to these aims, we opened 12 sections – on both new and already excavated places – on a total surface of 210  $m^2$  (Fig. 1–2), where a cellar with collapsed wooden ceiling and remains of other organic materials, and several objects indicating metalworking activity were found.

#### Cellar

In 2009 a similar cellar was unearthed some metres to the west (H16–H17–I16–I17) in almost perfect condition (Fig. 3), moreover, in the last year we already found organic materials including various seeds in our new cellar, which indicated that additional important information on the economy and trade connections of the Roman town of Brigetio are more than expectable. The cellar is situated in sections L16–L17–M16–M17, measuring  $4.4 \times 2.6$  metres (Fig. 5). The walls of the cellar were made using unplastered stones of different size, as opposed to the above-mentioned cellar from 2009, which had elaborately plastered walls preserving even the imprints of nine wooden steps leading down from the entrance (Fig. 4).

- 1 The excavation was conducted by the Department of Classical and Roman Archaeology, Eötvös Loránd University and Klapka György Museum, Komárom under the overall direction of Prof. László Borhy MHAS (Eötvös Loránd University) and Emese Számadó, museum director (Klapka György Museum) with the sub-direction of Dávid Bartus PhD, senior lecturer (Eötvös Loránd University). Participants were Kata Dévai PhD, assistant research fellow (MTA-ELTE Interdisciplinary Archaeological Research Group), Nikoletta Sey, assistant research fellow (MTA-ELTE Interdisciplinary Archaeological Research Group); Gabriella Delbó MA, Krisztina Hoppál MA, Kis Zita MA, Csilla Sáró MA (PhD-students, Eötvös Loránd University); Zsófia Kurovszky painter-restorer artist; Anna Csikó MA, archaeologist; András Hudecz MA, archaeologist; Lajos Juhász MA, archaeologist; Bence Simon MA, archaeologist; Ferenc Barna, Anita Benes BA, Márk Domonkos, Tamás Gál, Barbara Hajdu BA, Szilvia Joháczi BA, Polett Kósa, Titanilla Kósa, Sára Lantos, Hella Mag BA, Borbála Mohácsi BA, Mulki Mosoni, Zsófia Nádai BA, Zsolt Papp, Mónika Rikk, Nikolett Surányi, Eszter Süvegh BA, Melinda Szabó, Dóra Telekesi BA (undergraduate students, Eötvös Loránd University), Tamás Sasvári (undergraduate student, University of Miskole), Gertrúd Fekete and Gábor Scherer (undergraduate students, University of Pécs), Balázs Ölveczky (undergraduate student, University of Veszprém), Yanick Bourqui (undergraduate student, Université de Fribourg) and Nikolett Schmidt high school student. The excavation was funded by the Municipality of Komárom, the Directorate of the National Cultural Fund of Hungary, and the Ministry of Human Resources (NTP-FTNYT-MPA-12-030). Work on the present paper was supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA K 108 667) and the MTA-ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology.
- 2 Borhy Számadó 2009, 250-251.

However, the new cellar also had some unexpected finds. After excavating the upper layers, in a depth of 2.70 metres 12 wooden planks with a width of 16-22 cm were found, laid down next to each other in north-south direction, and below them a  $10 \times 10$  cm rectangular transverse beam perpendicular to the planks (Fig. 6, 9-10). These planks and the beam were parts of the wooden ceiling of the cellar – which served at the same time as the wooden floor of the room above the cellar – which fell in after an adobe wall of the room had collapsed onto it. A coherent part of that collapsed wall was found down in the cellar, consisting of adobe bricks measuring exactly one Roman foot, just on top of the planks (Fig. 7–8). Due to the extremely time-consuming process of unearthing the wooden planks, only a  $2.6 \times 1.5$  m section was cleaned, but traces of wooden remains in other parts of the cellar indicate that probably the whole collapsed ceiling was preserved under the layer of the adobe wall. Excavating it will be the main aim of the next season in 2014. This wooden structure is of great importance, because well-preserved wooden floors or ceilings are extremely rare in the Rhine-Danube area, according to our present knowledge the only similar structure is a wooden floor of 30 m² found in Bad Cannstatt, 2012.

We found various organic seeds (olive, date, grape, apple, pear, etc.) in great quantity, in cases even remains of the sarcocarp is visible on the surface of the olive seeds (Fig. 11). Besides the organic material, huge amount of pottery used for transporting (amphorae), storing (dolia) and processing (mortaria) these foods were found in the cellar. The archaeobotanical examination of the organic remains is still in progress.

#### Metal workshop

In 2012, some metres to the northeast in the vicinity of the cellar, a presumed metalworking area was unearthed in a courtyard, with three furnaces and great amount of bronze slags, as well as some half-finished products, fragments of crucibles and terracotta moulds including one representing Mercurius (used for casting votive lead figurines).<sup>5</sup> In 2013, we continued the excavation in the same courtyard where huge amount of iron slags were found, which indicate that besides lead and bronze, iron was also worked here.

#### Find material

The excavation season of 2013 was very abundant in find material. In the above-mentioned cellar we found several bone hairpins and needles, a circular bronze disc with email decoration, a half-finished votive lead figurine and a rectangular, blue glass paste gem, apart from numerous pottery fragments, animal bones and metal slags. Noticeable finds from the other parts of the excavation are bronze and silver coins, a bone hairpin with golden head, two iron brooches, a bronze stylus and a chalcedony gem with the representation of Minerva or Dea Roma (Fig. 12). Among the numerous brick stamps, considerable amount of "CFH" and variations of legio I adiutrix were found: e.g. leg(io) I A(diutrix); leg(io) I A(diutrix) P(ia) F(idelis); leg(io) I A(diutrix) P(ia) F(idelis); leg(io) I A(diutrix) P(ia) F(idelis); leg(io) I Ad(iutrix) P(ia) F(idelis); leg(io) I Ad(iu

<sup>3</sup> In most cases, wooden ceilings can only be reconstructed based on the imprints on the back of wall-paintings, see e.g. Stepeny 1998

<sup>4</sup> http://www.denkmalpflege-bw.de/no\_cache/service/presseoeffentlichkeitsarbeit/pressemitteilungen/pressemitteilungen/article/ueberraschende-funde-in-der-roemischen-kastellsiedlung-von-bad-cannstatt.html (yet unpublished).

<sup>5</sup> Bartus 2013.

#### **Geophysical survey**

A geophysical survey was also made during the excavation using a GSSI SIR-2000 portable ground penetrating radar system. The surveyed area was approximately 0.5 ha, located to the east and south from the excavation. Results of the survey are still under processing and will be discussed in the forthcoming annual publication of the site, but some preliminary results, e.g. further traces of a previously found Roman street southwards are clearly visible.

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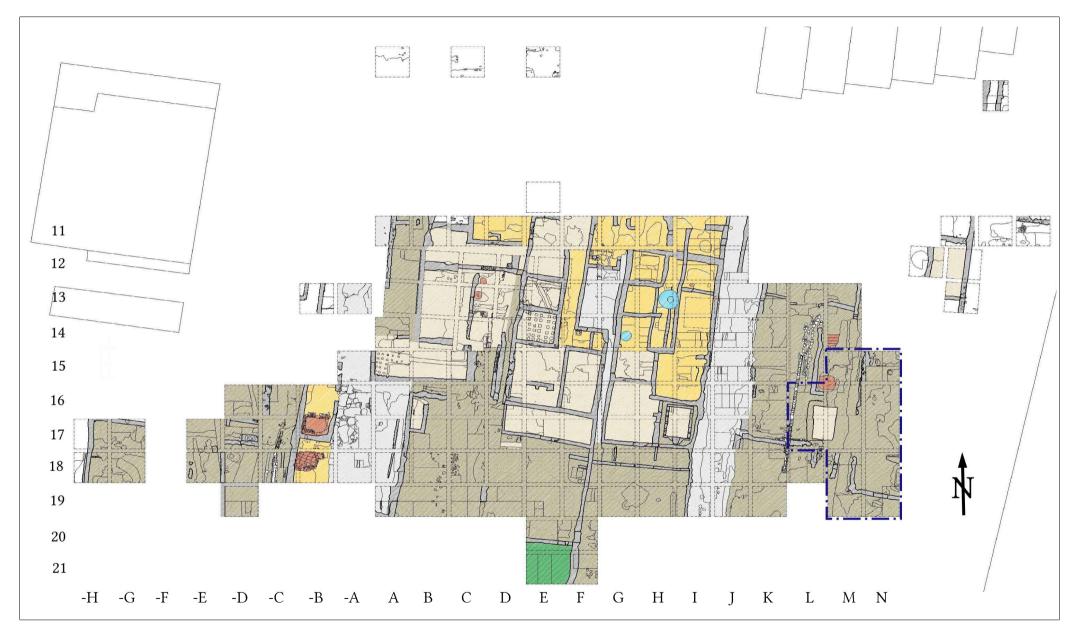


Fig. 1. Plan of the excavations at Szőny-Vásártér (1992-2013). Excavation area of season 2013 is marked with blue (Drawing by L. Dobosi).



Fig. 2. The excavation area of season 2013 (Photo: L. Borhy).



Fig. 3. Roman cellar at Szőny-Vásártér unearthed in 2009 (Photo: D. Bartus).



 $\it Fig.~4.$  Imprints of wooden steps in the cellar unear thed in 2009 (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 5. Roman cellar exacavated in 2013 (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 6. Wooden planks in the cellar (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 7. Wooden planks and part of the collapsed adobe wall in the cellar (Photo: D. Bartus).

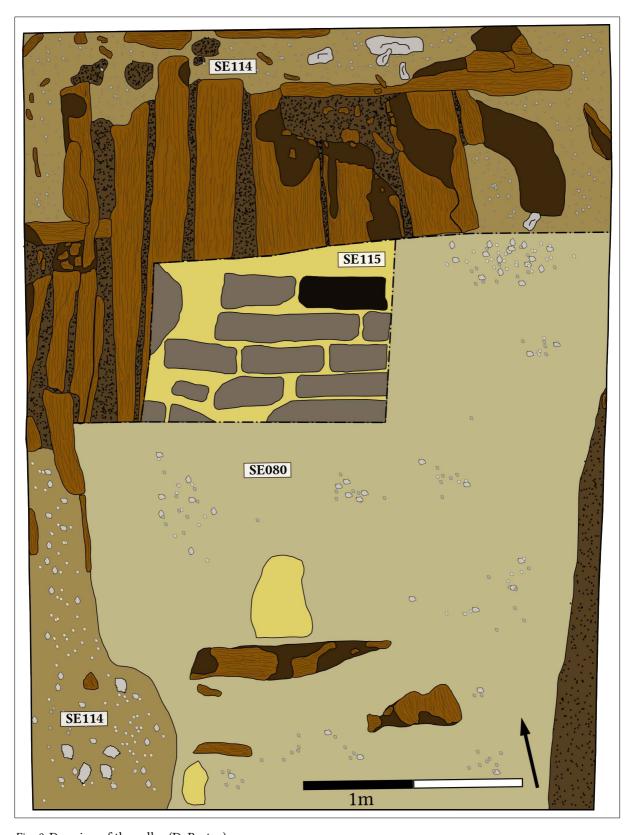


Fig. 8. Drawing of the cellar (D. Bartus).



Fig. 9. Detail of wooden planks in the cellar (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 10. Close-up view of a wooden plank (Photo: D. Bartus).





 $\it Fig.~11.$  Date (above) and olive (below) seeds from the cellar (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 12. Chalcedony gem from the excavation (Photo: D. Bartus).