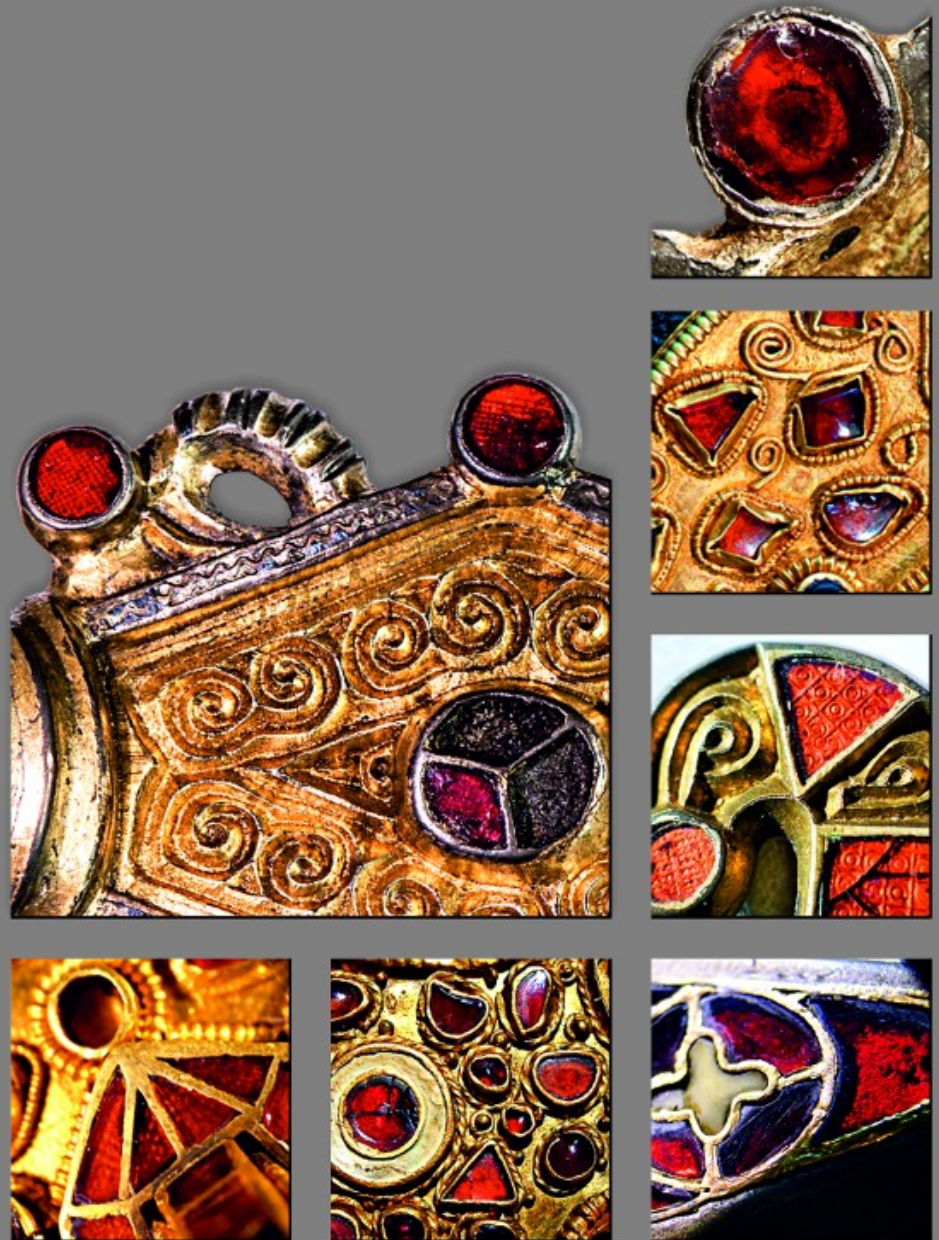


DISSERTATIONES ARCHAEOLOGICAE

ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae



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CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Melinda TORBÁGYI – István VIDA	7
<i>The coin hoard of Abasár</i>	
Anikó BÓZSA	21
<i>Roman mirrors from a private collection in the Hungarian National Museum</i>	
Lajos JUHÁSZ	45
<i>The Biesheim cameo – a reinterpretation</i>	

METHODS

Péter CSIPPÁN	53
<i>Az állatsont, mint információhordozó leletanyag</i>	
Kata DÉVAI	85
<i>Terminológiai alapfogalmak régészeti korú üvegtárgyak elemzéséhez</i>	
Lőrinc TIMÁR – Zoltán CZAJLIK – Sándor PUSZTA – Balázs HOLL	113
<i>3D reconstructions using GPR data at the Mont Beuvray</i>	

FIELD REPORTS

Zsolt MESTER	121
<i>Excavation at a new Upper Palaeolithic site of the Eger region (Northern Hungary)</i>	
László BORHY – Dávid BARTUS – Emese SZÁMADÓ	129
<i>Short report on the excavations at Brigetio (Szöny-Vásártér) in 2013</i>	
Dénes HULLÁM – Zsófia RÁCZ	141
<i>Report on the participation of the Eötvös Loránd University at the Wielbark Archaeological Field School in Malbork-Wielbark, Poland</i>	
Gábor VÁCZI – Dávid BARTUS	147
<i>Short report on the excavations at the site Makó – Igási Ugar</i>	
Maxim MORDOVIN	153
<i>Short report on the excavations in 2013 of the Department of Hungarian Medieval and Early Modern Archaeology (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)</i>	

THESIS ABSTRACTS

Kitti KÖHLER	179
<i>Biological reconstruction of the Late Neolithic Lengyel Culture</i>	

Gábor VÁCZI	205
<hr/>	
<i>Cultural connections and interactions of Eastern Transdanubia during the Urnfield period</i>	
Orsolya LÁNG	231
<hr/>	
<i>Urban problems in the civil town of Aquincum: the so-called „northern band”</i>	
Nikoletta SEY	251
<hr/>	
<i>Questions of bronze workshops in Roman Pannonia</i>	
Kata DÉVAI	259
<hr/>	
<i>Glass vessels from Late Roman times found in graves in the Hungarian part of Pannonia</i>	
Eszter HORVÁTH	275
<hr/>	
<i>Gemstone and glass inlaid fine metalwork from the Carpathian Basin: the Hunnic and Early Merovingian Periods</i>	
Gergely SZENTHE	303
<hr/>	
<i>Vegetal ornaments in the Late Avar decorative art</i>	
Péter LANGÓ	321
<hr/>	
<i>Relations between the Carpathian Basin and South East Europe during the 10th century. The evidence of the minor objects</i>	
Ciprián HORVÁTH	331
<hr/>	
<i>The Cemeteries and Grave Finds of Győr and Moson Counties from the Time of the Hungarian Conquest and the Early Árpáadian Age</i>	
András SÓFALVI	339
<hr/>	
<i>The border- and self-defence of Szeklers from the Medieval Age till the Age of Principality. Castles and other defence objects in the settlement history of Udvarhelyszék</i>	

Short report on the excavations at the site Makó – Igási Ugar

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Abstract

The Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University carried out preventive excavations at the site Makó – Igási Ugar in the frame of the highway construction works of section “M43 Makó – Csanádpalota” in 2012–2013, where traces of a settlement from the 12th century were found.

The site

Makó (Csongrád county) is situated in the south-eastern part of Hungary, near the Romanian border (Fig. 1). The site “Igási Ugar” was identified during the fieldwalking campaigns of the Hungarian National Museum – National Heritage Protection Centre, preceding the construction works of highway section M43 “Makó – Csanádpalota”. During the fieldwalking numerous pottery sherds from the Árpáadian Age were found, which indicated a settlement. Unfortunately, the route of the highway covered only the northern – as later was recognized, less intensive – part of the site.

The Institute of Archaeological Sciences¹ started the excavation at the beginning of November 2012 by digging two 4 metres wide and 100 metres long test trenches, where numerous archaeological features were visible in a depth of 60–70 cm. The site was also examined by metal detector; bronze mounts, rings, sickles and a copper coin of King Béla III were found. After the enlargement of the excavation surface and the removal of the upper humus layer, more than one hundred archaeological features (mainly pits and trenches) were identified in a territory of one hectare. After a winter break and an extraordinary cold and wet March, the excavation was finished at the beginning of May, with a total of 118 features unearthed.

Settlement structure

As mentioned above, only the northeast periphery of the settlement could be excavated, therefore comprehensive observations on the settlement structure cannot be made yet. Several 1–1.5 m wide and 1–1.8 m deep trenches in the direction of north-south were found in the whole territory of the excavation, at a distance of 55–60 metres from each other (Fig. 1–2). The outermost trenches indicate the western and eastern border of the settlement. Although some smaller trenches oriented perpendicularly to the larger ones creating a grid-like structure were also found, traces of buildings apart from some isolated rows of postholes could not be identified.

¹ The excavation was directed by Gábor Váczi, assistant research fellow (Eötvös Loránd University). Participants were Dávid Bartus PhD, senior lecturer and András Füzesi (Eötvös Loránd University).

The largest pit of the excavation with a diameter of 8–9 m can be interpreted as a well. Unfortunately, in a depth of 4–4.5 m the wall of the shaft started to collapse due to a loose sand layer and the continuous inrush of water, therefore unearthing the well could not be finished. However, some observations could be made on the structure of the well; its shaft is rectangular, measuring 1.5 × 1.5 m, the pit used for the construction is circular with a diameter of 4 metres. According to the finds, the well can be dated to the Árpáadian Age. Beside the trenches and pits, the relatively large number of ovens should be mentioned, some of which were repeatedly renewed (*Fig. 3*). Most of them also had working pits with slightly abundant find material.

Find material

The overall density of finds was low in the whole excavated area of the site, which can be explained by the above-mentioned observations on the presumed structure of the settlement. Most of the find material came from the working pits and foundation layers of ovens, while the pits and trenches – especially on the border of the site – have only a few pots-herds and animal bones. The most representative pottery type from the site is the cauldron, of which a relatively large quantity were found (*Fig. 4*). Beside pottery and animal bones, only some worked stones, bronze sheets and iron slags were found, which also strengthen the observation that the central, more dense and intensively populated part of the 12th century settlement at Makó – Igási Ugar was situated southwards from our excavation.

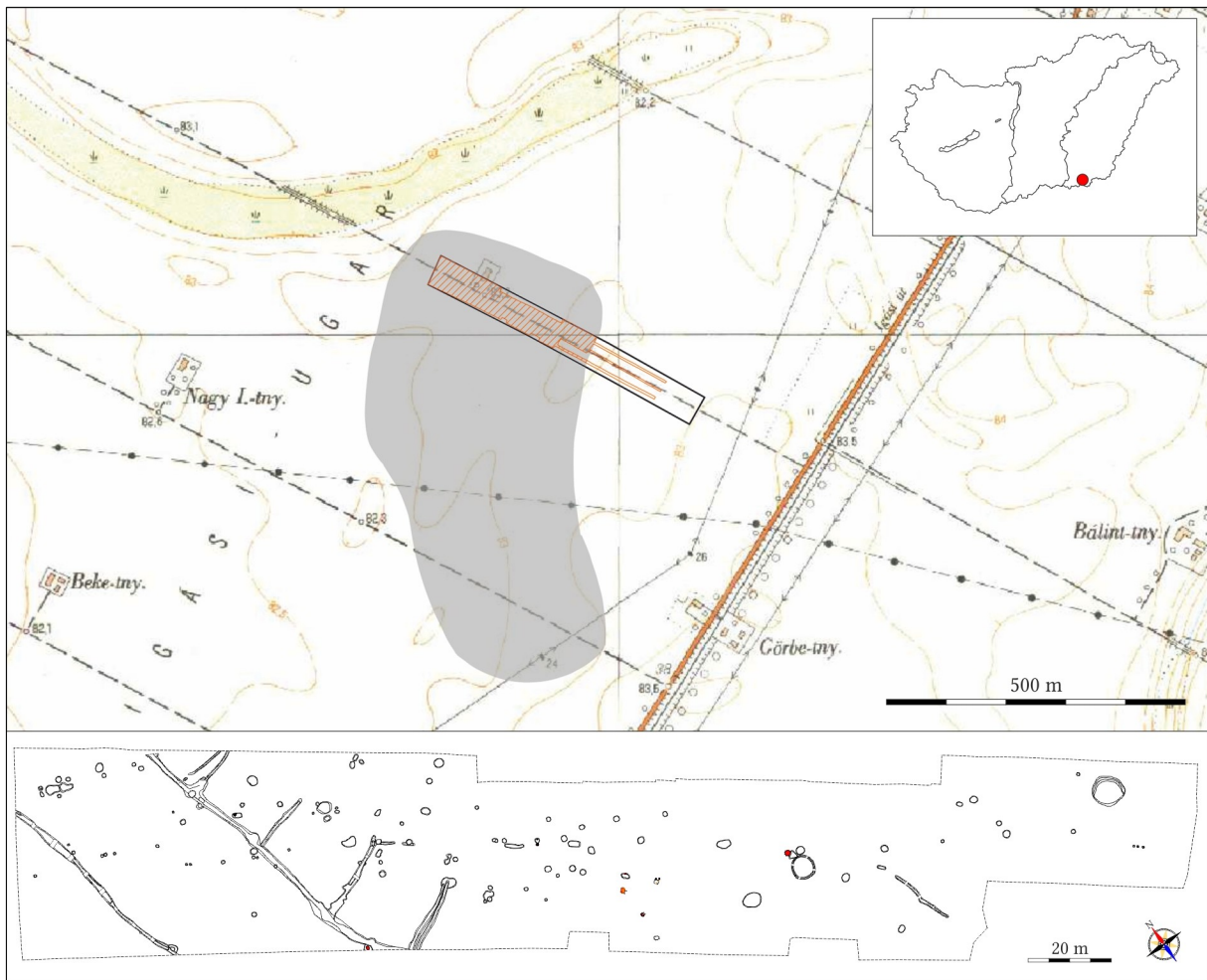


Fig. 1. Plan of the excavation (G. Váczi).



Fig. 2. Aerial photo of the northwestern part of the excavation (Photo: Z. Czajlik).



Fig. 3. Remains of the vault and multiple foundation layers of an oven (Photos: D. Bartus).



Fig. 4. Pottery from the site (Photos: D. Bartus).