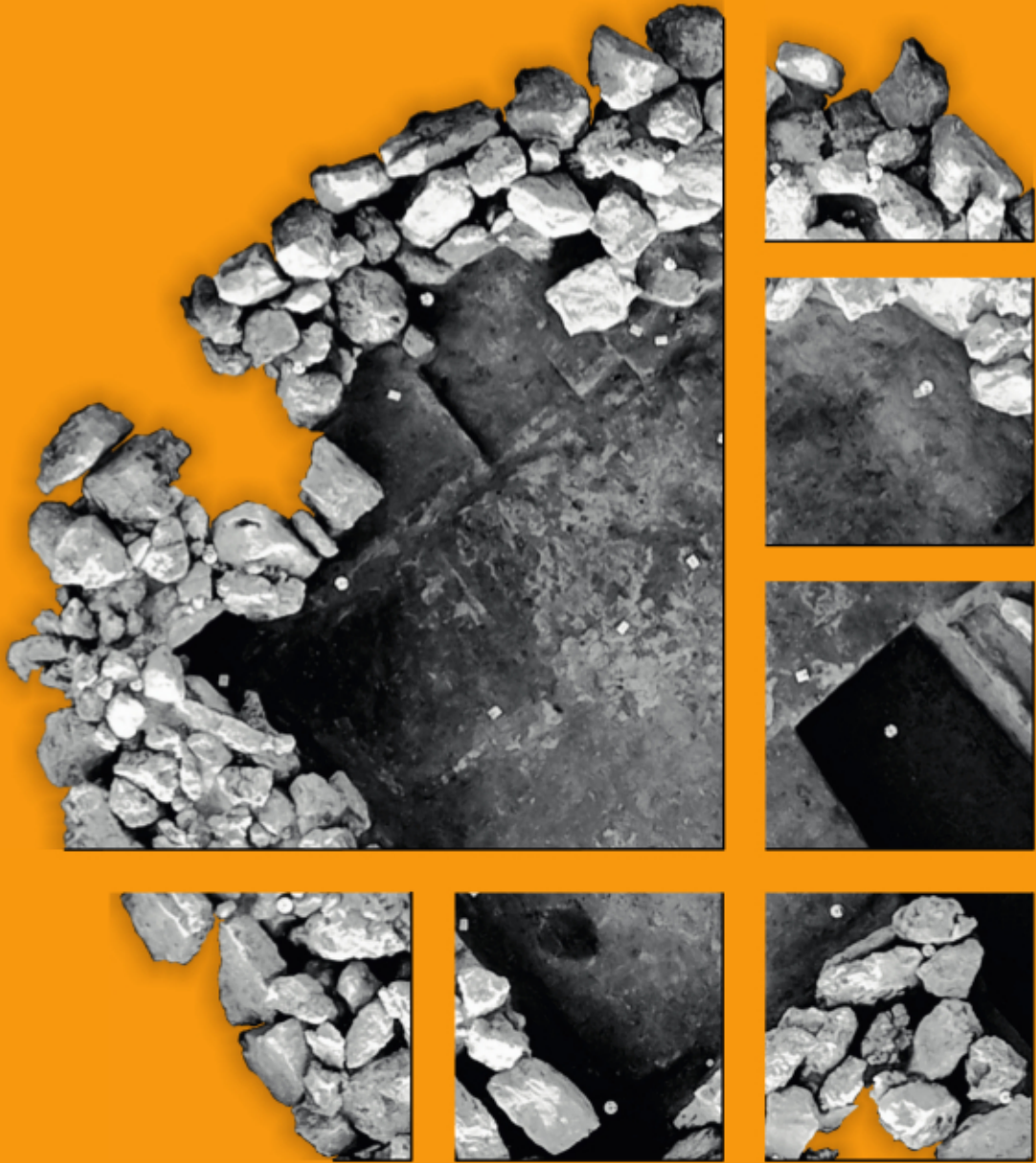


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ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae



Ser. 3. No. 4. | 2016

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Budapest 2016

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Short report on the excavations in Brigetio in 2016

DÁVID BARTUS

*Institute of Archaeological Sciences
Eötvös Loránd University
bartusdavid@gmail.com*

LÁSZLÓ BORHY

*Institute of Archaeological Sciences
Eötvös Loránd University
lborhy@hotmail.com*

NIKOLETTA SEY

*Institute of Archaeological Sciences
Eötvös Loránd University
seyniki@gmail.com*

EMESE SZÁMADÓ

*Klapka György Museum
Komárom
emese@jamk.hu*

Abstract

In 2016 two sites were excavated in Brigetio by the Eötvös Loránd University and the Klapka György Museum of Komárom. At the site Szőny-Vásártér the works were concentrated on unearthing the so-called bakery, found in 2000, while at the site Szőny-Dunapart the southern part of the Roman bath was excavated.

Civil town (Szőny-Vásártér)

Systematic excavations in the civil town of Brigetio have started in 1992, carried out by the Department of Classical and Roman Archaeology of Eötvös Loránd University and the Klapka György Museum of Komárom.¹ Main aims of the 25th excavation campaign in 2016² were to continue the excavation of the so-called bakery at the western side of the site and locating the southern part of Street „A” (Fig. 1–2), both identified and partly unearthed in 2000.

According to the results of the excavations in 2016, the street continues to south, where its surface covered with large stone slabs was found (Fig. 3). Several foundation periods could be separated in a sondage next to the stone slabs. Some parts of a building were found west to

- 1 Reports on the last seasons: BARTUS ET AL. 2012; 2014a; 2014b; 2015; 2016; BARTUS – BORHY – SZÁMADÓ 2013; 2014a; 2015. See the complete bibliography of the research in Brigetio since 1992 in BORHY 2014.
- 2 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 László Borhy (Eötvös Loránd University), Emese Számadó (Klapka György Museum) and Dávid Bartus (Eötvös Loránd University). Participants were Nikoletta Sey, Gabriella Delbó, Csilla Sáró, Bence Simon, Zita Kis, Barbara Hajdu, Eszter Süvegh, Szilvia Johácsi, László Rupnik, Melinda Szabó, Bianka Horváth, Tamás Gál, Ferenc Barna, Rita Olasz, Gergely Kostyál, Zsanett Kartali, Réka Tóth, Zsolt Bandur, Hanna Mezei, Gergely Takács, Ákos Müller, Rebeka Gergácz, Dalma Kollerits, Dániel Polyák, Alexandra Mező, Bianka Fenyvesi, Máté Papp, Zsófia Majer, Zoltán Kiss, Krisztina Ruppert, Adél Ternovác, Zsolt Papp, Adrián Horváth-Lukics, Dóra Havasi, Tamás Gál, Dóra Hományi, Alexandra Szabó, Gergő Csongor Vincze, Márton Szabó, Zsófia Kelemen, Máté Mészáros, Eszter Solnay, Virág Kristóf, Alexa Flaskár. The excavation was funded by the Municipality of Komárom and the Directorate of the National Cultural Fund of Hungary. Work on the present paper was supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA K 108667; NKFI 119520) and the MTA–ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology.

the street which had at least one phase which precedes the construction of the street, since its east-west wall goes under the lowest foundation layers of the street. The imprint of a threshold was also found in this wall, which connected two rooms in the building. A small drain made of tiles was found in 2000 northwest to the above-mentioned building, however, no further traces of it were found in 2016.

At the northern side of the excavation a huge modern pit cut through most of the walls, which made more difficult to interpret the periods. In a small sondage of 1 × 1 metres, traces of wooden foundation of a building before the stone period were found. East of that the western wall of the so-called bakery and another wall going from east to west (presumably from an earlier period) were found. Among the find material, a small terracotta head and a lead object with letters O and M should be mentioned.

Canabae (Szöny-Dunapart)

In summer 2016, a planned excavation was carried out by the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University and the Klapka György Museum of Komárom at the site Szöny-Dunapart, in the territory of the *canabae* of Brigetio.³ The aim of the excavation project, which is funded directly by the Government of Hungary, is to continue the fieldwork which has been started in 2014 as a preventive excavation preceding the construction of the flood control dam between Komárom and Almásfüzitő. The most important result of the 2014 excavation season was the discovery of the first Roman bath in Brigetio. The excavation area of 2015 was located east to the Roman bath in a territory of 600 m², where two *horrea* and another stone building of currently unknown function were found.⁴

The main aim of our last season was excavating the southern part of the bath in a territory of approximately 500 m². We found several features in 2014 (walls, floors, drains) which seemed to continue in southern direction and this assumption was confirmed even by the time of the removal of topsoil (Fig. 4–5).

The main north-south corridor with underfloor heating and terrazzo-floor at the western part of the building was continued for seven metres more to the south, parts of pilae stacks and impressions of them in the floor of the *hypocaustum* were also found, however, not as much as in the northern part of the corridor. Two *praefurnia* were located at the eastern side of the corridor in a distance of six metres from each other (Fig. 6–7), which provided the heating

3 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 László Borhy (Eötvös Loránd University), Emese Számadó (Klapka György Museum) and Dávid Bartus (Eötvös Loránd University). Participants were Gabriella Delbó, Zita Kis, Nikolett Sey, Csilla Sáró, Ferenc Barna, Réka Tóth, Rita Olasz, Barbara Hajdu, Bianka Horváth, Melinda Szabó, Márton Szabó, Adrián Horváth-Lukics, Bence Simon, Gergely Kostyál, Tamás Gál, Szilvia Johácz, Ákos Müller, Zsanett Kartali, Dániel Polyák, Dóra Hományi, Zsófia Kelemen, László Rupnik, Kata Groma, Rebeka Gergács, Zsolt Papp, Fruzsina Hege, Eszter Süvegh, Zoltán Pallagh, Orsolya Gálvölgyi, Fruzsina Alexandra Németh, András Hudecz, Kata Dévai, Dalma Kollerits, Hanna Mezei, Zsolt Bandur, Zoltán Kiss, Krisztina Ruppert, Adél Ternovác, Bianka Fenyvesi, Dóra Havasi, Máté Papp, Alexandra Mező, Máté Mészáros, Alexandra Szabó, Gergő Csongor Vincze, Virág Kristóf, Veronika Majer, Eszter Solnay. The excavation was funded by the Municipality of Komárom and the Directorate of the National Cultural Fund of Hungary. Work on the present paper was supported by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA K 108667; NKFI 119520) and the MTA–ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology.

4 Reports on the last seasons: BARTUS – BORHY – SZÁMADÓ 2014b; 2015.

of the *hypocaustum*. It seems that they belong to different periods, presumably the southern *praefurnium* (Fig. 7) was abandoned after the construction of a large rectangular room east to the corridor. This room, which also had full underfloor heating, a *praefurnium* and terrazzo-floor, had at least two construction phases (Fig. 8–9). An approximately 40 cm wide and 6 metres long repairing (Fig. 10) can be seen in the floor of the hypocaustum, which indicates that in the first phase the room was actually two separate rooms, then in the next phase the partition wall was removed, its place was covered by the repaired hypocaustum floor and the two former rooms created a large one of at least 60 m². A slight difference in the composition of pilae stacks north and south to the above-mentioned repairing also strengthen this assumption. In a small sondage opened in the middle of the room the junction of two earlier walls were found (Fig. 11), which could belong to a period even before the first phase of the large room. The southern *praefurnium* of the western corridor could also belong to this early phase. As it can be seen, understanding the construction phases and periods of the building still requires further investigation. A small hint can be the present state of walls: since most of the walls still visible or traceable near the surface were taken out in the 19th–20th century when the site was used as a quarry, particularly the foundations of earlier walls removed by the Romans can now be unearthed in good condition.

East to the above-mentioned rectangular room several walls (mostly took out in the 19th–20th century) were found with parts of terrazzo-floors and some hypocaustum, however, their interpretation is still unclear. At the southeastern part of the building a large terrazzo floor of more than 20 m² were found. A large part of a wall-painting fallen down to the floor was lying on it upside down (Fig. 12). Some details of the wall-painting have already been revealed during restoration, notably two winged female figures (most likely two Victoria) and remains of an aedicula richly decorated with stucco (Fig. 13). Some metres east to the wall-painting we found a Late Roman grave cut into the floor of the room.

At the eastern side of the building the „main” south-north drain was continued for about ten metres to the south and led to a Y-shaped junction going (in fact, coming from) southeast and southwest. The bottom of the drain was covered with *tegulae*, most with the stamp of *legio I adiutrix*. Two other drains were found, one going from south to north at the western end of the building, and another one from west to east, north of the presumed northern wall of the building. The west-east drain flows into the „main” eastern drain. It seems that these three drains are situated outside the building and mark the dimensions of the bath.

As in 2014, the find material was very scarce again. Noticeable is the very large quantity of brick stamps and the huge amount of wall-paintings, mostly from the *hypocaustum* of the north-south corridor.

Excavations will continue in 2017 with the main objective of unearthing the southernmost part of the bath, in close vicinity to the Budapest–Vienna railroad line which had obviously demolished some parts of the Roman building when it was constructed in the 19th century.

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Fig. 1. Szőny-Vásártér. The excavation area of 2016 is marked with red (Map: L. Dobosi).



Fig. 2. Szőny–Vásártér. Aerial view of the excavation (Photo: L. Rupnik).



Fig. 3. Szőny–Vásártér. Stone slabs of Street "A" (Photo: L. Rupnik).

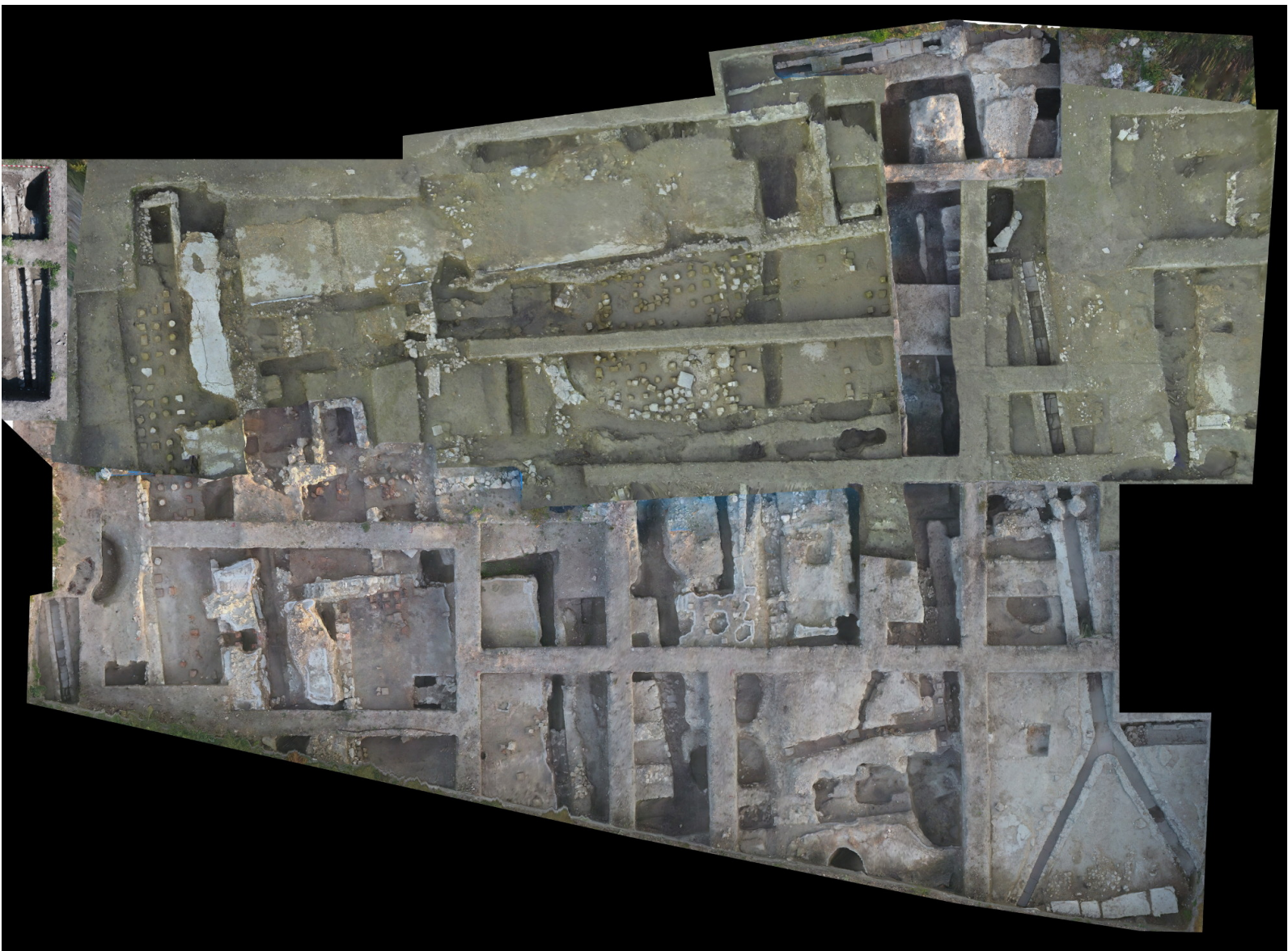


Fig. 4. Szőny-Dunapart. Orthophoto of the excavated area of the bath (L. Rupnik – D. Bartus).



Fig. 5. Szőny–Dunapart. Drawing of the excavated area of the bath (D. Bartus).



Fig. 6. Szöny–Dunapart. The northern praefurnium of the corridor (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 7. Szöny–Dunapart. The southern praefurnium of the corridor (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 8. Szőny–Dunapart. The rectangular room east to the corridor (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 9. Szőny–Dunapart. The rectangular room east to the corridor (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 10. Szőny–Dunapart. Repairing in the hypocaustum floor (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 11. Szőny–Dunapart. Junction of two earlier walls under the floor of the hypocaustum (Photo: D. Bartus).

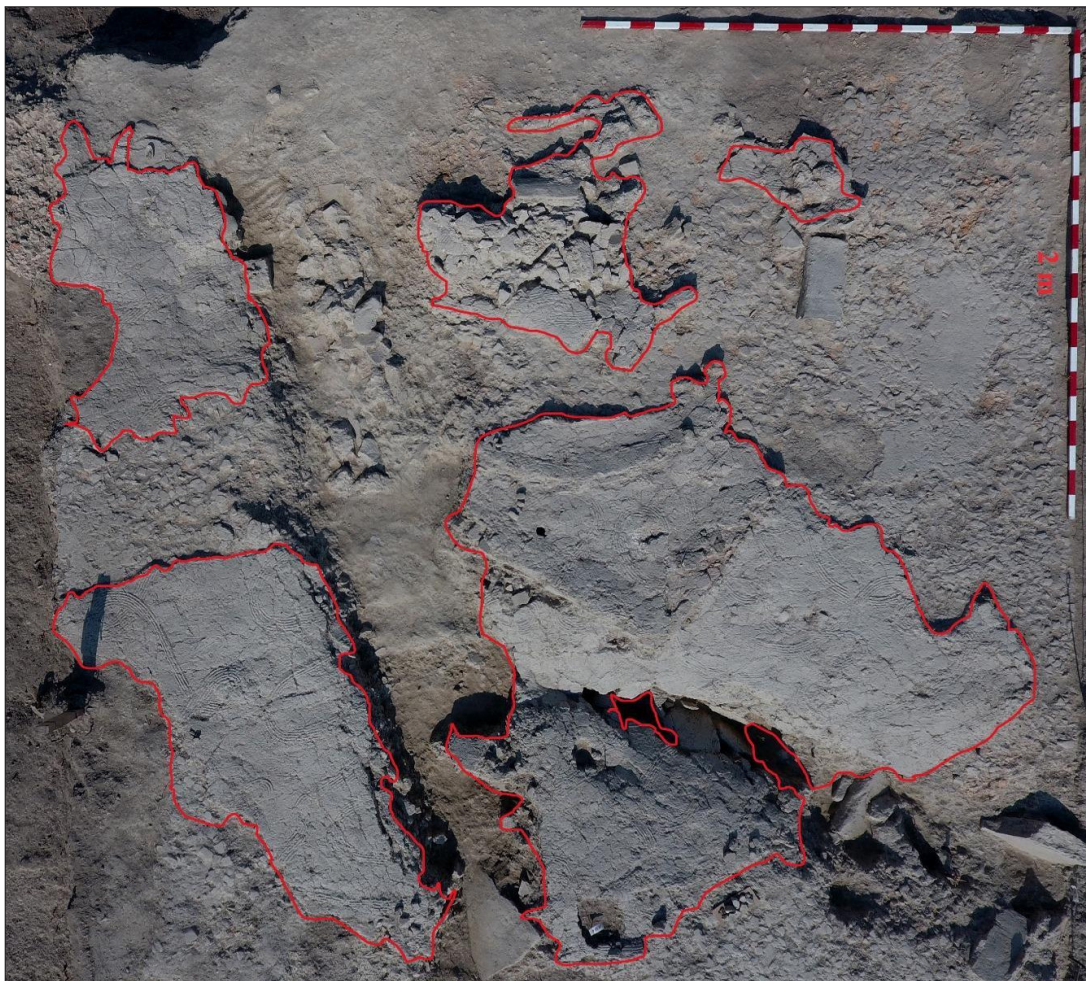


Fig. 12. Szőny–Dunapart. The wall-paintings *in situ* (Photo: D. Bartus – E. Harsányi).

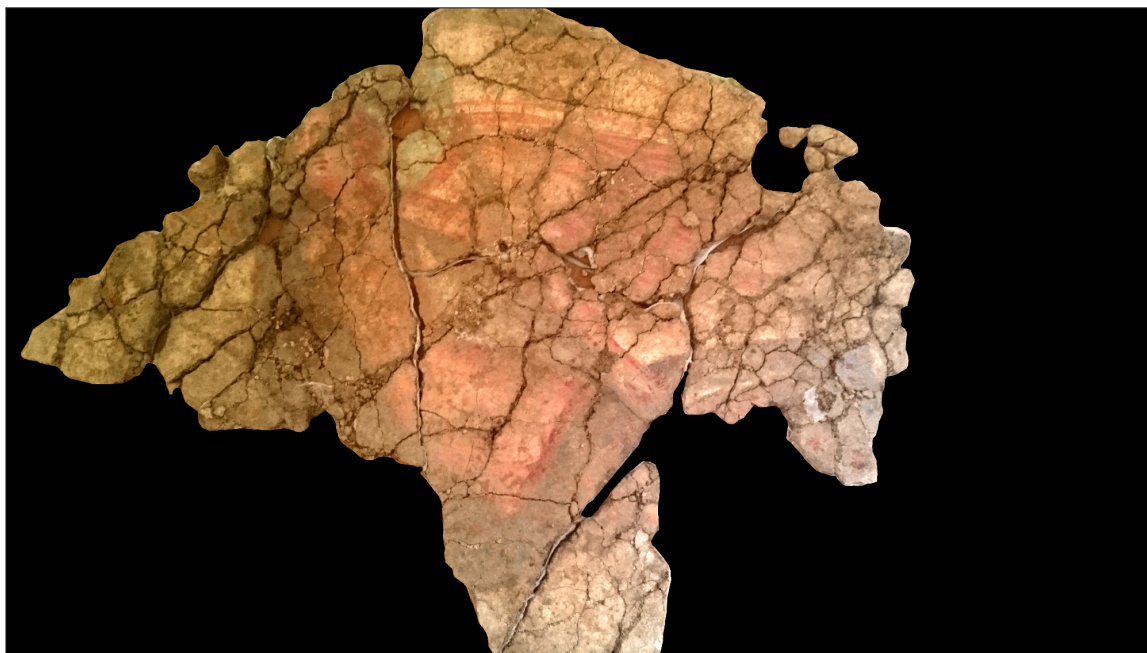


Fig. 13. Szőny–Dunapart. One of the winged female figures before restoration (Photo: D. Bartus – E. Harsányi – Zs. Kurovszky).



Fig. 14. Szőny–Dunapart. Southern section of the "main" drain (Photo: D. Bartus).



Fig. 15. Szőny–Dunapart. Detail of the Y-junction of the drain (Photo: D. Bartus).