

DISSERTATIONES ARCHAEOLOGICAE

ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae



Ser. 3. No. 6. | 2018

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Budapest 2018

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Layout and cover design: Gábor Váczi

Budapest 2018

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The Roman aqueduct of Brigetio

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Abstract

The aim of the present study is to examine the literary sources and the archaeological material regarding the aqueduct of Brigetio. Based on the available information the paper examines the problem of the localization of the source which supplied the aqueduct. The catalogue includes the descriptions of the lead and terracotta water pipes from Brigetio now in the Roman collection of the Hungarian National Museum. The results are presented with regards to the construction of the urban water distribution system.

The Roman aqueduct of Brigetio is first mentioned by Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli. In his work written in 1726 he describes an aqueduct made of brick and located in the marsh (*in palude*). He displays the route of the aqueduct on a map, according to which it ran between Brigetio and Tata (Fig. 1).¹



Fig. 1. Map of Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli (MARSIGLI 1726, 3).

1 MARSIGLI 1726, 3.

The next description of the aqueduct dates to 1735. Mátyás Bél mentions the aqueduct between Brigetio and Tata numerous times in his book regarding Komárom county. At that time, the ruins of the aqueduct were still visible on the bank of the Danube near Szőny, heading towards Tata through Naszály. Parts of the construction were underground, however near the surface, while other parts on arcades. Bél also stated that it was partly built of tuff stuck by lime.² In his description of Tata he refers to the aqueduct in context of presenting the building activity of King Matthias Corvinus in this town, and attributes the construction of the aqueduct to the king. However, when³ describing the ruins of Brigetio, Bél mentions the aqueduct again and suggests that it may be dated to the Roman times.⁴ In his description about Naszály he mentions that the aqueduct runs through the village and whole vaults can still be dug up in some places.⁵ The next source regarding the Roman aqueduct of Brigetio, the report of Sándor Mikoviny for the Hungarian Royal Chamber, dates to 16th December 1747. During his draining work Mikoviny recorded important information about the Roman buildings of the region. In his report he lists the Roman memories of Szőny and also mentions the Roman aqueduct which, according to his description, consists of an underground vaulted channel and arcades. The aqueduct is two German miles long (15.2 km) and brings the spring-waters from Tata to Brigetio.⁶ Mikoviny marked the route of the aqueduct on his map between Tata and Brigetio (*Fig. 2*).⁷ During the 1880s Rudolf Gyulai studied the route of the aqueduct. In his letter written in 1885 he claims that the purpose of the aqueduct was to supply the military baths of Brigetio as well as to provide fresh drinking water for the city, but primarily it served the mills. He mentions lead and terracotta water pipes which were found in Brigetio and also a carved limestone fountain found in 1873 in the vineyards on the bank of the Danube near Szőny. According to Gyulai's description, in the 1880s the route of the aqueduct was still visible and could be followed for as long as 6.25 km from the legionary camp in Szőny up to Naszály. He recounts the 'Legend of the golden duck' about King Matthias Corvinus putting a gilded wooden duck into the channel of the aqueduct at its source in Tata, which then swam down the channel and popped up in the legionary camp in Brigetio. Regarding the source of the aqueduct Gyulai mentions that according to the contemporary views the main source of the aqueduct can be found in Tata in the garden of the Eszterházy hospital. He also refers to Ede Risz who claimed that the aqueduct was supplied by the water collected by a nearby Roman dam. According to Risz, the water collected by the dam was led into the channel of the aqueduct in Naszály, where in the 1850s complete sections of the underground channel were found. Unfortunately, in 1885 all that Rudolf Gyulai could find were ruins as a result of the intense reuse of the building material of the aqueduct by the locals. He could follow the route of the aqueduct through Naszály along the main road from Tata to Naszály. From Naszály, he could trace the route of the aqueduct by the line of debris and holes dug by the locals to acquire the stone material. In the sides of low hills the ruins were still visible but in the fields the traces of the aqueduct totally vanished. Gyulai found whole sections of the aqueduct channel running in a ramp near Almás and Billegpuszta. Near Bélapuszta the aqueduct turned right but only its ruins remained. According to the description of Rudolf Gyulai, in sections where the

2 BÉL 1989, 80.

3 BÉL 1989, 80.

4 BÉL 1989, 93.

5 BÉL 1989, 96.

6 National Archives of Hungary Fasc. 39, Nr. 63; KOMJÁTI 1944–1945, 249–250.

7 National Archives of Hungary S 11 No. 290.

aqueduct channel remained intact, it was 1 m high and 0.8 m wide. The aqueduct entered the legionary camp approximately in the middle of the western side of the camp and joined to a 19 m long and 7.6 m wide building, probably the reservoir, the so-called *castellum*. At this location workmen found about 200 kilograms of lead, probably the lead water pipes of the water distribution system, as well as inscribed stones. The pillars of the arcades were not visible and could not be found anymore in the 1860's. According to Rudolf Gyulai, the aqueduct was divided into two channels at Béla-major, one of the branches ran westwards to the lower-lying city while the other branch built on arcades supplied the higher-lying legionary camp.⁸

In his second letter regarding the aqueduct of Brigetio written in 1886, Rudolf Gyulai discusses the possible sources of the aqueduct. He refuses to accept above-mentioned opinion of Ede Risz about the aqueduct being supplied by the water collected by a Roman dam. Instead, Gyulai accepts the explanation of Milos Berkovics-Borota who claims that it would have been impossible to raise the level of the water collected by the dam to the appropriate height to supply the aqueduct. Based on this, Gyulai Berkovics-Borota claims the source of the aqueduct must be located in Tata. According to him, as the springs situated in the garden of the Eszterházy hospital and the springs of Kertalja are not abundant enough, the Romans might have used the water of the Old Lake

in Tata. He mentions that in the Kertalja street a section of the underground aqueduct channel was found during digging a well. The aqueduct channel left the city of Tata along Kertalja street and reached Brigetio through the vineyards of Tata and Naszály. Gyulai and Berkovics-Borota also gives an addition to the 'Legend of the golden duck' according to which the 'golden duck' swam attached to a wire and carried letters from Tata to Szöny.⁹ Thanks to the letters of Rudolf Gyulai we have a detailed description about the condition of the aqueduct in the 1880's. Based on his reports some sections of the aqueduct were well preserved. The construction consisted of underground sections which ran close to the surface, partly in a ramp, as well as of aqueduct channels built on arcades in the vicinity of the legionary camp, though the pillars of the arcades were not visible already in the 1860's. To his second letter, Gyulai attached a map of the route of the aqueduct (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2. Map of Sámuel Mikoviny (National Archives of Hungary S. 11 No. 290).

8 GYULAI 1885.

9 GYULAI 1886.

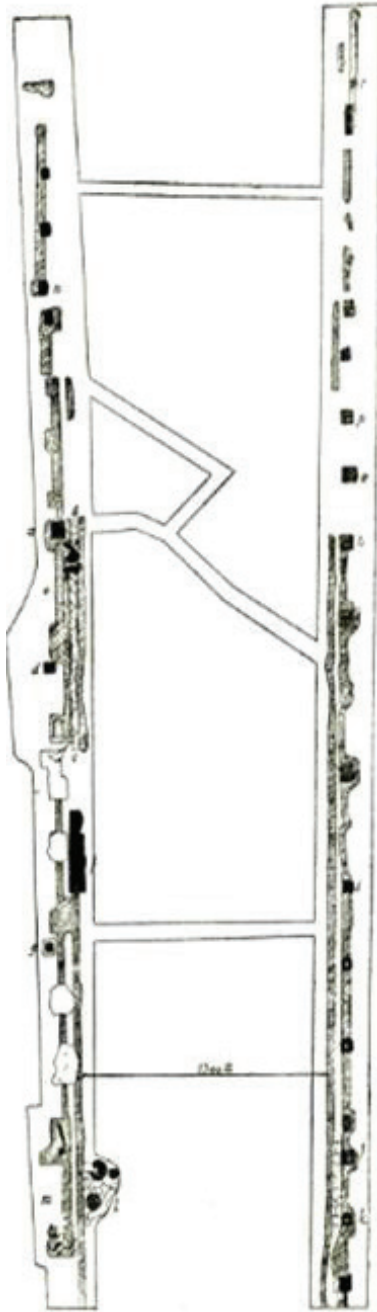


Fig. 5. The road and the supposed aqueduct channels excavated by István Paulovics (PAULOVICS 1941, Abb. 2).

The first excavations regarding the aqueduct were carried out in 1927 led by István Paulovics. During the excavations the Roman road leading to BÉlapusztá came to light. About 240 m from the south gate of the military camp, along the 10.5–12 m wide road ran the supposed aqueduct which was also partly excavated. Its channel was 37–46 cm wide and 30–40 cm deep. The interior of the channel was coated with terrazzo and its outer wall was supported by pillars about 2–3 m apart from each other. The channels which came to light on both sides along the road were similar, only some difference in quality and elaboration could be documented between them (Fig. 5). According to István Paulovics the channels were aqueduct channels, the more elaborated channel coated with terrazzo supplying the city with drinking water, while the other had industrial purposes and supplied the local mills. He surveyed the visible ruins of the supposed aqueduct and published a map about its route (Fig. 6). According to him, the excavated channels are to be identified with the aqueduct described by Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli. He assumed that the route of the aqueduct was approximately 14 km long and claimed that the aqueduct was supplied by the Fényes springs located in Tata.¹¹

In her book on Roman public works and services on the territory of Hungary, Klára Póczy shares the above-mentioned opinion of István Paulovics about the different purposes of the more and less elaborated channels, mentioning a parallel from Aquincum.¹²

Póczy also summarizes all information available in her time about the aqueduct of Brigetio, besides which she mentions an inscribed lead pipe found in Brigetio which was owned by Kálmán Darnay in 1890. This inscribed lead pipe will be further discussed below.¹³

In my opinion the channels excavated by István Paulovics in 1927 cannot be identified as aqueduct channels. I believe, that based on their structure and size it is more possible to identify them as water drainage channels along both sides of the road, which were common in Roman times. Among others, we can find them in Aquincum.¹⁴

11 PAULOVICS 1941, 145–151.

12 PÓCZY 1980, 66.

13 DARNAY 1897; PÓCZY 1980, 54–55, 63–64, 66, 78.

14 PÓCZY 1980, 80, Fig. 72.

suggested by Vitruvius¹⁸ as well as that suggested by Plinius, which is 0,2‰.¹⁹ In my opinion, due to the low discharge of the spring of Kőkút köz, it is unlikely that the Romans chose this spring to supply the aqueduct, especially because there are many abundant springs nearby, such as the Fényes springs or the Great spring under the Castle. The question of the source of the aqueduct will be further discussed below.

In summary, we can state that the aqueduct of Brigetio ran between Tata and the legionary camp of Brigetio and supplied the *castellum divisorum*, standing at the western corner of the camp, with fresh water. From the *castellum divisorum* the water was distributed to several buildings by lead and terracotta water pipes. When building an aqueduct the Romans applied different architectural solutions. For example, certain sections of the aqueduct channel running on lower lying terrain were placed on arcades. Elsewhere the channel ran following the terrain in a masonry aqueduct channel, a so called surface channel near the ground level built by 'cut and cover' technique.²⁰ The surface channel, according to the sources mentioned above, was vaulted and covered with terrazzo.

The source of the aqueduct of Brigetio

According to the written sources which mention or describe the aqueduct of Brigetio, its source was beyond question in Tata. On the map of Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli, the earliest map available showing the route of the aqueduct, its starting point and therefore its source was marked in Tata, although the map does not indicate which spring supplied it (*Fig. 1*).²¹

Mátyás Bél also claims that the aqueduct ran between Brigetio and Tata but does not mention which spring the Romans used to supply Brigetio with fresh water.²²

The map of Sámuel Mikoviny is more detailed. According to it, the source of the aqueduct can be found near Kőkút köz (*Fig. 2*).²³

Rudolf Gyulai, as mentioned above, discusses the possible sources of the aqueduct in two subsequent letters, however, he changes his opinion on this topic in between. In his first letter, relying on contemporary opinions he mentions the spring of the Eszterházy hospital as a possible source. He also refers to Ede Risz, according to whom the aqueduct may have been supplied by the waters collected by a nearby Roman dam,²⁴ In his second letter however, Gyulai already refuses Risz's idea and claims that the source of the aqueduct can neither be the spring of the Eszterházy hospital nor those of Kertalja street because of their low discharge. In his opinion, it is more probable that the aqueduct used the water of the Old Lake in Tata, which was supplied by the eponymous stream Tata.²⁵

18 *Vitruvius: De Arch.* 8.6.1.

19 *Plinius: Nat. Hist.* 31.57.

20 I use the terminology introduced by Trevor A. Hodge (1992, 93–94). According to him, most of the Roman aqueduct channels were surface channels, which did not run deep underground and were not raised high on arcades but followed the natural surface of the land instead. In order to be protected, the surface channels were built usually about 0.5–1 m below ground level. To build a surface channel the Roman used the so-called 'cut and cover' technique, meaning that they dug a ditch, built the channel inside it and covered it up again.

21 MARSIGLI 1726, 3.

22 BÉL 1989, 80.

23 National Archives of Hungary S. 11 No. 290.

24 GYULAI 1885.

25 GYULAI 1886.

According to the map of Milos Berkovics-Borota, the source of the aqueduct can be localized at the Old Lake near the Castle of Tata (*Fig. 4*).²⁶ István Paulovics suggests the aqueduct of Brigetio was supplied by the abundant Fényes springs of Tata (*Fig. 6*).²⁷

Lately, István Viczián and Friderika Horváth suggested that the springs of the Old Lake in Tata may be identified as the source of the aqueduct and the Old Lake itself may have Roman origins as well.²⁸ Bence Simon and László Rupnik, relying on the map of Sámuel Mikoviny, marked Kőkút köz no. 1 as the possible source of the aqueduct, because here the aqueduct could collect the discharge of the most dense group of springs.²⁹

Beyond the fact that – supported by all above-mentioned historical sources – the source of the aqueduct of Brigetio was located in Tata, I believe that in order to identify the exact spring, it is important to study the springs of Tata from a hydrological point of view.

On the territory of the town, within an area of approximately 10–15 km² lying 118–141 m above sea level, 30–40 springs of higher discharge (from 50–100 l/min up to 81000 l/min) can be located (*Tab. 1, Fig. 7*). Beside these abundant springs numerous springs of lower discharge (1–2 l/min up to 10–20 l/min) can also be found in Tata, however their exact number and location is unknown due to the lack of research. According to surveys carried out at the beginning of the 20th century, the total daily discharge of all the springs of Tata was 156000 l/min (225000 m³). We also have precise data from the 1950s, however, by this time the mines of Tatabánya already had serious negative effects on the discharge of the springs. Nowadays the most accepted estimated daily discharge of all the springs of Tata is 78000 l/min.³⁰

According to Henrik Horusitzky, the springs located on the main fault-line had the highest discharge: the Fényes springs (81000 l/min) and the springs of the English Park (60000 l/min).³¹ Out of these, the Fényes springs are located on the lowest elevation above sea level. Altogether five springs belong to this group, but only three of them have significant discharge. The average temperature of the water is 22 °C.³²

The above-mentioned written sources and studies suggest several possibilities considering the location of the source of the aqueduct of Brigetio: the spring of Kőkút köz, the spring of the Eszterházy hospital, the springs in the area of the Old Lake as well as the Fényes springs.

The spring of Kőkút köz is located 133.5 m above sea level. In 1919, its estimated discharge was 32.4 l/min, meaning a daily discharge of 46.656 m³. Supposing the Romans also connected other springs in the vicinity to supply the aqueduct, such as the springs of Komárom street, the discharge could be increased up to 1800 l/min, so we can count with a daily discharge of 2592 m³. If we accept that the aqueduct was supplied by these springs, we can state that the aqueduct was able to provide approximately 2592 m³ of spring water daily.

Regarding the next possibility, the springs of the Eszterházy hospital (recently called the springs of the Castle garden), we can count with a discharge of 60 l/min according to the 1919

26 BERKOVICS-BOROTA 1886, 393.

27 PAULOVICS 1941, 145–151.

28 VICZIÁN – HORVÁTH 2006, 268–269.

29 According to the verbal communication of Bence Simon.

30 BALLABÁS 2004, 2–4, Tabs 1–2.

31 HORUSITZKY 1923, 74–75.

32 FOGARASI 2001, 6.

survey, which means a daily discharge of 86.4 m³. In the case of these springs, the elevation above sea level is 135.3 m.

In case the source of the aqueduct was in the area of the Old Lake, the Great spring under the Castle had a discharge high enough to supply the aqueduct (10998 l/min in 1919, daily discharge: 15837.12 m³). Its elevation above sea level is 118 m.

Compared to the above-mentioned springs, the Fényes springs had the highest discharge of all. The springs are located 118–119 m above sea level, in 1919 their discharge was 81000 l/min (daily discharge: 116640 m³).

Name of the spring	Elevation above sea level (m)	Discharge estimated by Henrik Horusitzky in 1919 (l/min)	Estimated discharge in 1950 (l/min)	Temperature (°C)
Fényes springs	118–119	81000	25200	22
Tükör spring (English park)	138	33000	17400	20
Pokol spring (English park)	140.8	27000	60	20.5
Great spring under the Castle	118	10998	3400	21
Springs of Komárom street	130–137	1800	1440	11–20
Nagytavi 'twin' spring	127.3	1000	340	19
Lo Presti spring	139.3	600	340	19
Kis-mosó spring	136.5	504	236	18.5
Törökfürdő spring	135.3	210	60	20.5
Parochial-garden spring	126.8	180	480	15
Springs of the Castle	135.3	60	180	15
Piarist garden spring	128	36	1	18
Spring of Kókút	133.5	32.4	4	
Altogether		156420.4	49141	

Tab. 1. Main data on the springs in Tata (after BALLABÁS 2004, Tab. 2).

I believe the discharge of the spring of Kókút köz and the springs of the Castle garden was too low to be able to supply the aqueduct of Brigetio, therefore it is more likely that the Romans used more abundant springs to supply the aqueduct, such as the Great spring under the Castle or the Fényes springs. These springs are located 118–119 m above sea level, therefore if we accept that the aqueduct ended in the area near the south gate of the legionary camp, which is at 107 m above sea level, then the slope of the aqueduct was 0,69‰ or 0,76‰.³³ This differs from the values suggested by Vitruvius (5‰)³⁴ and Plinius (0,2‰).³⁵

33 I count with 15.75 km long aqueduct based on the details given by Milos Berkovics-Borota (1886, 393).

34 Vitruvius: *De Arch.* 8.6.1.

35 Plinius: *Nat. Hist.* 31.57.

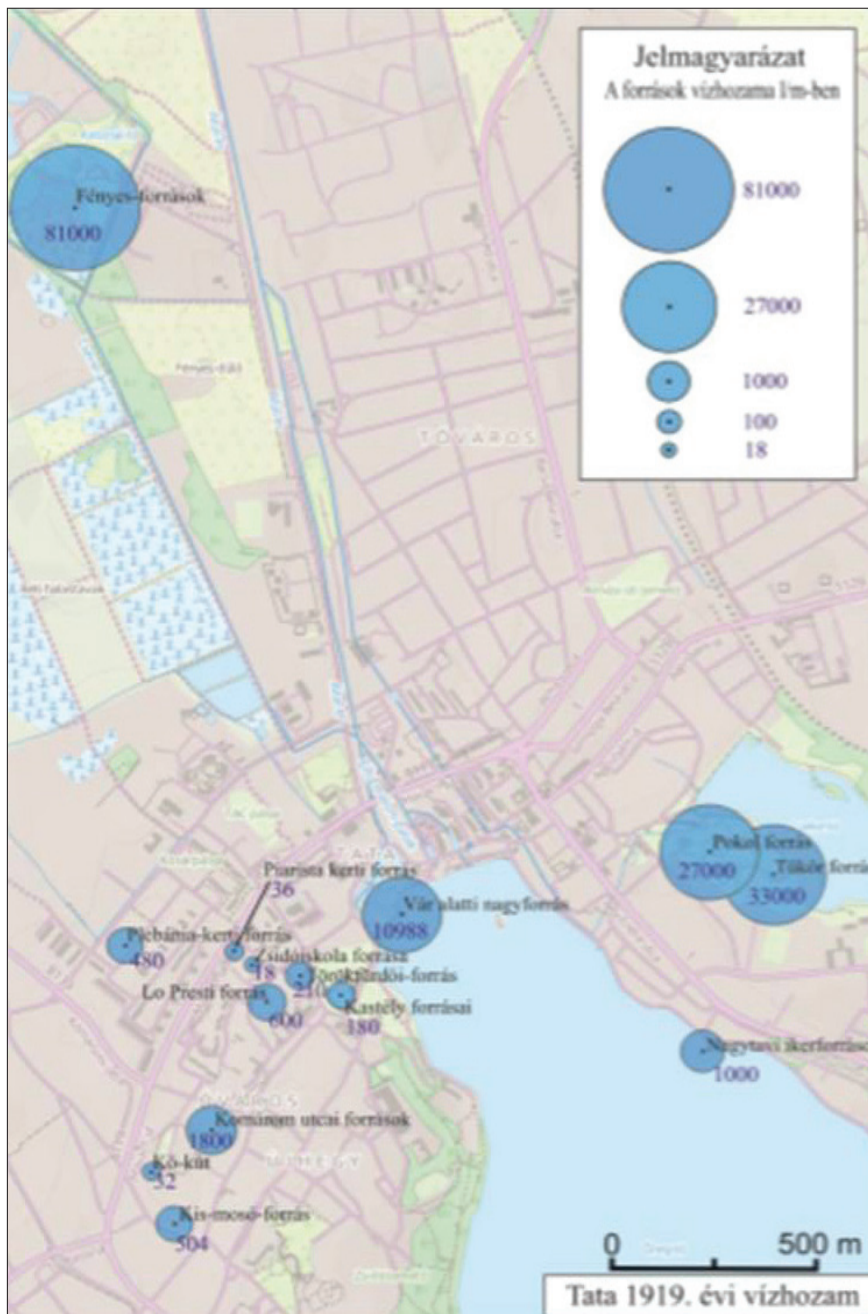


Fig. 7. The main springs of Tata and their discharge in 1919 (RÁTVAI 2015, Fig. 13).

However, aqueducts with a similar slope can be found throughout the Roman Empire: for example the *Appia* in Rome, the aqueduct of Arles and the aqueduct of Trier.³⁶

To sum up, according to the discharge values described above, I believe that the Romans used either the Fényes springs or the Great spring under the Castle to supply the aqueduct of Brigetio. In all probability, abundant springs were necessary to supply the baths on the territory of the *canabae*. The exact size of the baths is unknown, up to this day, 900 m² of their territory has been excavated.³⁷ Further study and archaeological surveys are necessary to definitely answer the question of the source of the aqueduct of Brigetio.

36 HODGE 1992, 347–348.

37 BARTUS et al. 2016a, 338–339; BARTUS et al. 2016b, 65–67.

The urban water distribution of Brigetio: lead and terracotta water pipes from Brigetio in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum

Rudolf Gyulai is the first author to mention lead pipes found in Brigetio. According to his description, workmen found about 200 kilograms of lead near the *castellum*, located approximately in the middle of the western side of the camp. Probably these were the remains of the lead water pipes belonging to the urban water distribution system.³⁸

As next, Kálmán Darnay mentions lead water pipes from Brigetio, who acquired an inscribed lead water pipe found in Ó-Szöny. Altogether four pieces were found but Darnay could only get the one with the inscription, the other pieces were sold by the finders. The following inscription is legible on the lead pipe: *Claudius Valentinus feci(t)*.³⁹ The inscription certainly refers to the *plumbarius*, the plumber who made the lead pipe.⁴⁰

The name occurs on two other inscriptions in *Pannonia*. One of them is an altar from the *Isis* sanctuary in *Savaria* dated to A.D. 188.⁴¹

The other is a funerary inscription found near Alsó-Galla.⁴² The inscription states that it was set up by a certain *Tib(erius) Cl(audius) Valentinus* for his family members. According to the inscription he was a *vet(eranus) ex c(ustode) a(rmorum) leg(ionis) I ad(iutricis)*, that is, he was connected to Brigetio. Unfortunately it is unknown if he was related to *Claudius Valentinus plumbarius* who is named on the inscription on the lead pipe.

László Barkóczi also mentions lead water pipes used in the urban water distribution system of Brigetio and he claims that the legionary camp was supplied by lead water pipes set at the western tower, next to the tower of the *porta decumana* and from here water ran onwards partly in lead water pipes and partly in a masonry channel on the surface. He mentions several rectangular pools still visible in his times, which were parts of the aqueduct channel running on the surface.⁴³ These pools were possibly settling pools and also functioned as junctions in the system.⁴⁴

Klára Póczy also claims that lead water pipes played a role in the urban water distribution system of Brigetio. She mentions the inscribed lead pipe acquired by Kálmán Darnay and referring to a verbal statement of László Barkóczi she mentions some lead filtering equipment belonging to the collection of the Hungarian National Museum which was found in Szöny.⁴⁵ Unfortunately during my research in the Hungarian National Museum I could not find any such filtering equipment.

In 2018 I had the opportunity to carry out research in the Hungarian National Museum, I studied the inventory books and the Roman collection.⁴⁶ In the Roman collection there are altogether 12

38 GYULAI 1885.

39 DARNAY 1897.

40 BRUUN 1991, 87–95; HODGE 1992, 311; COOLEY 2012, 190.

41 RIU 22.

42 RIU 696; BARKÓCZI 1964, 265.

43 BARKÓCZI 1949, 71.

44 HODGE 1992, 120–121, Fig. 74.

45 PÓCZY 1980, 78, Fig. 70.

46 Hereby I would like to express my gratitude to Zsolt Mráv and Tamás Szabadváry for supporting my research in the Hungarian National Museum.

lead pipes which could be connected to Brigetio (*Cat. 1–12*). I recorded the length, both the inner and outer diameter of the lead water pipes and also the thickness of the lead sheet they were made of. I studied the production technique and categorized them according to the typology of André Cochet and Jørgen Hansen (*Fig. 8*).⁴⁷ The sizes of the lead pipes are various, their length is usually between 60 and 80 cm, the shortest one is 35,5 cm long (*Cat. 7*), the longest one is 283 cm (*Cat. 1*). The outer diameter is usually around 10 cm, the smallest diameter is 7 cm (*Cat. 5*), while the largest diameter is 16–17 cm (*Cat. 3*), the inner diameters follow the outer diameter sizes.

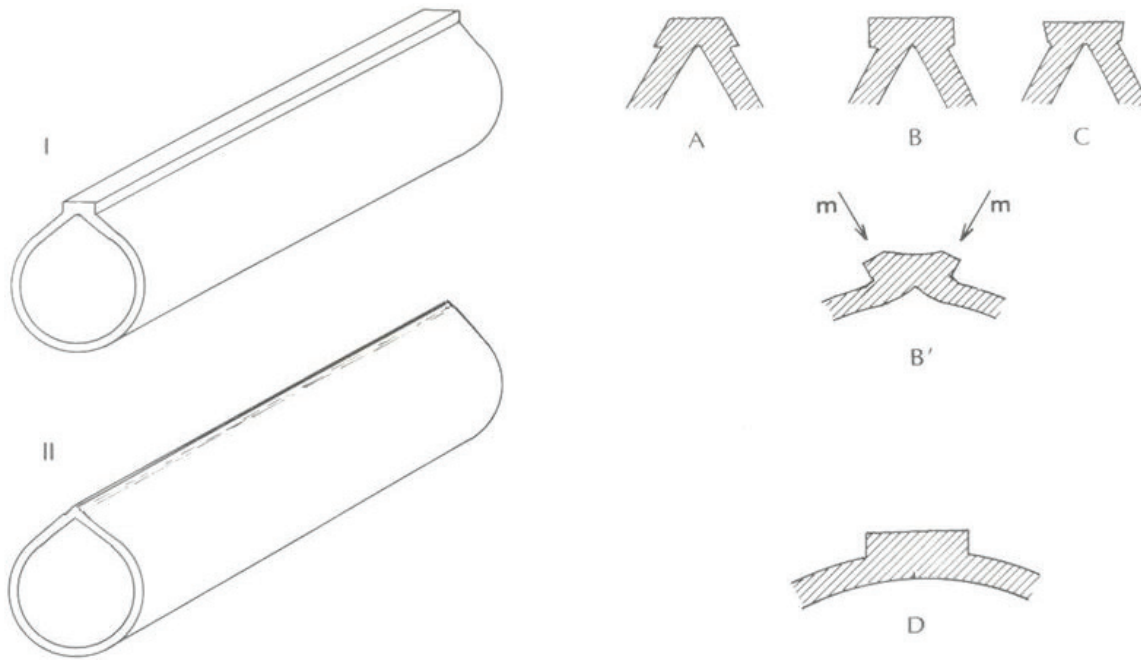


Fig. 8. Typology of lead water pipes (COCHET – HANSEN 1986, Fig. 5–6).

The thickness of the lead sheet used in production of the lead pipes varies between 0,3–0,6 cm. Typologically all the lead pipes belong to Cochet–Hansen 1986 Type I, as they are soldered by a lead seam. The pipes can be divided into subtypes according to the cross-sectional shape of the seam. Most of the pipes (*Cat. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12*) belong to the Cochet–Hansen 1986 Type I. A, as the intersection of the pipes is pear-shaped and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top. Three of the lead pipes (*Cat. 7, 8, 10*) belong to the Cochet–Hansen 1986 Type I. C, as the intersection of the pipes is pear-shaped and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a top wider than the base. Only a single lead pipe (*Cat. 3*) belongs to the Cochet–Hansen 1986 Type I. D, as it has a circular intersection and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is rectangular.

According to the above described material it can be concluded, with regard to the production technique, that in case of the lead pipes used in Brigetio the technique of jointing the lead sheet was soldering by setting in a lead seam, and in case of most of the pipes (67%), the soldering was made according to Cochet–Hansen 1986 Type I. A.

There was only a single inscribed lead pipe (*Cat. 3*) in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum. The relief inscription was stamped on the lead pipe, it is 27 cm long and the height of

⁴⁷ COCHET – HANSEN 1986, 28–33.

the letters is 2.8–3 cm (Fig. 10–11). The partly damaged inscription is the following: LEG·I·A[---]R·PF, therefore it can be read as *Leg(io) I A[diut]r(ix) P(ia) F(idelis)*. Such abbreviation of the name of *Legio I Adiutrix* does not occur anywhere else in the inscribed material. According to the inscription we can conclude that the *Legio I Adiutrix* took part in the construction of the aqueduct and the urban water distribution system. László Barkóczi also mentions lead water pipes bearing the stamps of *Legio I Adiutrix*, and we do not know about stamps or inscriptions of any other *legio* that could be connected to the aqueduct of Brigetio. Therefore, it seems probable that the construction of the aqueduct and the urban water distribution system of Brigetio took place after the arrival of *Legio I Adiutrix*, that is, after 118–119 AD,⁴⁸ possibly simultaneously with the construction of the legionary camp, as László Barkóczi also claims.⁴⁹

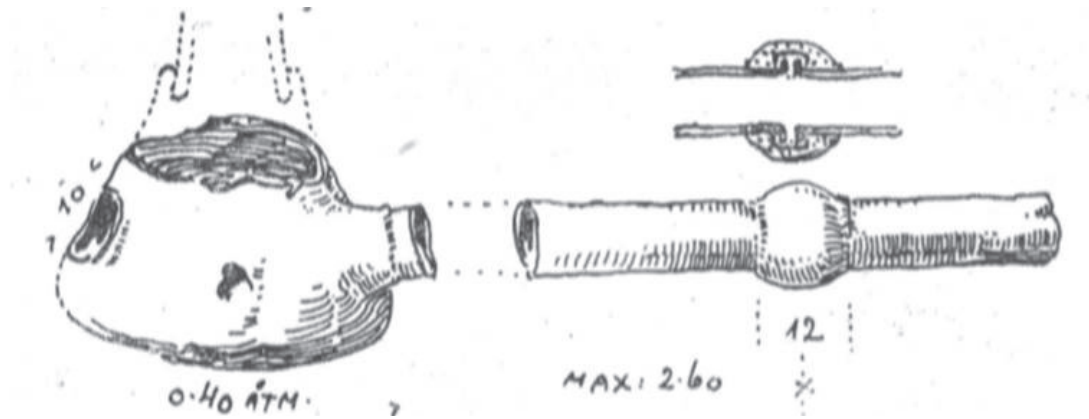


Fig. 9. Lead junction vessel from Aquincum (FOERK 1923, Fig. 7).

In the collection of the Hungarian National Museum there is a lead junction vessel (*Cat. 13*) which was used for distribution of the lead pipes. Three lead pipes fitted in the holes of the junction vessel. On its top there is a large, 23–24 cm diameter circular hole which was probably used for cleaning and maintenance and originally had a cover which could be removed if necessary (Fig. 15). A similar junction vessel (Fig. 10) was published by Ernő Foerk from Aquincum.⁵⁰

The above-mentioned lead pipes were acquired by the Hungarian National Museum partly as gifts and partly as purchase. Two lead pipes and the lead junction vessel (*Cat. 1–2, 13*) were gifts of Mrs. Tivadar Tusla in 1885,⁵¹ the rest of the lead pipes (*Cat. 3–12*) were purchased by the museum from Samu Tachauer in 1893.⁵²

During my research in the Hungarian National Museum I checked all the inventory books, and it came to light that previously the museum owned more lead water pipes from Brigetio, which were however lost later.

Inventory numbers MNM 15.1893.1–3 refer to three lead water pipes soldered by a lead seam, 179 cm, 75 cm and 44 cm long, with 5–8 cm diameter. The lead pipes were purchased from Ádám Lengyel in 1893.⁵³

48 BORHY 2012, 26–27.

49 BARKÓCZI 1949, 70.

50 FOERK 1923, 42–43, Figs 6–7.

51 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1885.

52 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1893.

53 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1893.



Fig. 10. Photo of the inscription of the lead water pipe from *Brigetio* (Cat. 3).

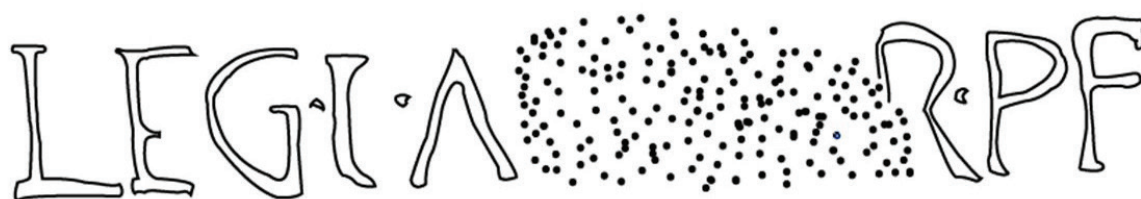


Fig. 11. The inscription of the lead water pipe from *Brigetio* (Cat. 3).

Inventory numbers MNM 152.1885.397–398 refer to 9.6 cm and 3 cm long lead water pipes which got to the museum as a gift by Genie Direktion from Szőny in 1885.⁵⁴ Inventory numbers MNM 28.1952.1–7 also refer to lead water pipes which were brought to the museum by László Barkóczi in 1952. The lead pipes were found along the road in front of the *porta decumana* of the legionary camp during ploughing in the garden of MASZOLAJ. Inventory number MNM 28.1952.1 refers to a 47 cm long lead water pipe made of 1–1.5 cm thick lead sheet.

Inventory number MNM 28.1952.2 refers to a 78 cm long lead pipe with 28×17 cm diameter soldered by a rectangular lead seam.

Inventory number MNM 28.1952.3 refers to a 80 cm long lead pipe with 36×19 cm diameter, also soldered by a lead seam, 4.5 cm from which an inscription is legible: VTERE FI, that is, *Utere f(eli)x*. Approximately in the middle of the lead pipe, 13 cm from the seam an X sign was placed.

Inventory number MNM 28.1952.5 refers to a lead pipe 99 cm long with 30×10 cm diameter, soldered by a lead seam and equipped with a 14 cm wide soldered lead sleeve. 9 cm from the lead sleeve a VX sign was placed.

Inventory number MNM 28.1952.6 refers to a lead pipe 102 cm long with 18×28 cm diameter and a 15 cm wide soldered lead sleeve. On one side of the lead sleeve relief signs can be noticed. Both ends of the lead pipe were cut off.

Inventory number 28.1952. refers to a lead pipe 113 cm long with 29×17 cm diameter, again soldered by a lead seam, on one side it bore linear signs of 42 cm length.⁵⁵

According to the descriptions of the inventory books the above-mentioned lead pipes all belong to the Cochet–Hansen 1986 Type I, as they were soldered by a lead seam. The X and VX

54 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1885.

55 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1952.

signs probably refer to numbers that might have indicated the weight of the lead sheet or they could help the work of the *plumbarius* by providing useful information during installation.⁵⁶

Beside the lead water pipes, the Hungarian National Museum owns altogether five terracotta water pipes that were found in Brigetio (*Cat. 14–18*). These terracotta water pipes were given to the museum as a gift by Mrs. Tivadar Tussla together with the above-mentioned lead pipes in 1885. The length of the terracotta water pipes varies from 33 cm to 67 cm. The outer diameter of their narrow end varies from 7.1 cm to 9.5 cm, the outer diameter of their wide end varies from 12 cm to 13 cm. All the terracotta pipes are narrowing on one end thus they could slide into each other. The thickness of the sidewalls varies from 1.1 cm to 2.2 cm. The intersection of the pipes is circular and they often bear stains of mortar and traces of secondary burning.

The terracotta water pipes from Brigetio prove that beside the lead water pipes also terracotta water pipes were used in the construction of the urban water distribution system of Brigetio.

Similarly to the case of the lead water pipes, according to the inventory books of the museum, originally more terracotta water pipes from Brigetio belonged to the collection, however most of them are lost by now unfortunately.

Inventory number MNM 65.1885.224 does not only refer to the five terracotta pipes described in the catalogue, originally it refers to ten pieces. Unfortunately the sizes and the description about the extra pieces is not included in the inventory book.⁵⁷

Inventory number MNM 65.1885.284 refers to altogether 24 pieces of terracotta water pipes, 37 cm long and 15 cm wide apiece. According to the description they were not stamped.⁵⁸

Inventory number MNM 65.1885.120 refers to a stamped terracotta water pipe. According to the description it bore the stamp of *Legio I Adiutrix* in the following abbreviated form: LEG I AD. Unfortunately neither the sizes of the terracotta pipe, nor the size of the stamp is given.⁵⁹ This stamped terracotta water pipe supports the above mentioned suggestion that the aqueduct of Brigetio and the urban water distribution system was constructed by the *Legio I Adiutrix*.

In conclusion, according to the studied material we can claim that in the urban water distribution system of Brigetio the Romans used both lead water pipes and terracotta water pipes. Based on the inscriptions legible on water pipes, the *Legio I Adiutrix* took part in the construction of the urban water distribution system of Brigetio and probably the construction of the whole water supply system took place after the arrival of the *Legio I Adiutrix*, therefore after 118–119 AD, at least by now we have no evidence to suppose otherwise.⁶⁰

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56 BRUUN 1991, 40, 44–55.

57 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1885.

58 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1885.

59 Inventory book of the Hungarian National Museum 1885.

60 Hereby I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. László Borhy, my director of studies, for his advice and support in my research.

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Catalogue

Cat. 1

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.89. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 283 cm; d. outer: 10–9 cm; d. inner: 8.6–9.5 cm; t.: 0.4–0.5 cm.⁶¹

61 Abbreviations: l.: length; d.: diameter; w.: width; h.: height; t.: thickness of sidewalls; Inv. no.: Inventory number.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear-shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top. It shares the same inventory number with Cat. 2.

Cat. 2

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.89. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 120 cm; d. outer: 10–7 cm; d. inner: 6.5–9.5 cm; t.: 0.4–0.5 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top. It shares the same inventory number with Cat. 1.

Cat. 3

Lead water pipe with an inscription (*Figs 10–11*).

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893? Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 66 cm; d. outer: 16–17 cm; d. inner: 15.5–16 cm; t.: 0.7–1 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with circular intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.D, as it has a circular intersection and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is rectangular. Relief inscription was stamped on the lead pipe, it is 27 cm long and the height of the letters is 2.8–3 cm. The partly damaged inscription is the following: LEG·I·A[- - -]R·PF, therefore can be read as *Leg(io) I A[diut]r(ix) P(ia) F(idelis)*.

Cat. 4

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893? Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 81 cm; d. outer: 11 cm; d. inner: 10.5 cm; t.: 0.4 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top.

Cat. 5

Lead water pipe (*Fig. 12*).

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893? Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 76 cm; d. outer: 7 cm; d. inner: 6.5–4.5 cm; t.: 0.5–0.6 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top.



Fig. 12. Lead water pipe from *Brigetio* (*Cat. 5*).

Cat. 6

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893? Acquisition: Purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 76 cm; d. outer: 8–4 cm; d. inner: 7.2–3 cm; t.: 0.3–0.4 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top.

Cat. 7

Lead water pipe (*Fig. 13*).

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893.9. Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 35.5 cm; d. outer: 9.5–7.5 cm; d. inner: 9–7 cm; t.: 0.3–0.4 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.C as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a top wider than the base.



Fig. 13. Lead water pipe from *Brigetio* (*Cat. 7*).

Cat. 8

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893.8. Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 69 cm; d. outer: 10.5–10 cm; d. inner: 9–9.5 cm; t.: 0.4–0.5 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.C as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a top wider than the base.

Cat. 9

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893.1. Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 77 cm; d. outer: 13–10.5 cm; d. inner: 12.5–9.8 cm; t.: 0.4–0.5 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top.

Cat. 10

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893.2. Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 134 cm; d. outer: 10–9 cm; d. inner: 9.6–8.5 cm; t.: 0.4–0.5 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.C as the intersection of the

pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a top wider than the base.

Cat. 11

Lead water pipe.

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893.4. Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 76.5 cm, d. outer: 11–9 cm; d. inner: 10.3–8.5 cm, t.: 0.6–0.5 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top.

Cat. 12

Lead water pipe (*Fig. 14*).

Inv. no.: MNM 2.1893.5. Acquisition: purchased from Samu Tachauer. Sizes: l.: 69 cm, d. outer: 12.5–9 cm; d. inner: 12–8.5 cm; t.: 0.5 cm.

Description: fragment of a lead water pipe with pear-shaped intersection. It is soldered by a lead seam. According to the typology of Cochet–Hansen 1986 it belongs to Type I.A as the intersection of the pipe shows a pear shape and the cross-sectional shape of the soldering seam is trapezoid with a base wider than the top. On one end of the lead pipe a 7–8 cm wide lead sleeve is inserted. A 3–10 cm long fragment of the other lead pipe joined by the lead sleeve is also visible, all the other sizes and the type of it are the same as those of the above described lead pipe.



Fig. 14. Lead water pipe with lead sleeve from *Brigetio* (*Cat. 12*).

Cat. 13

Lead junction vessel (*Fig. 15*).

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.92. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: w.: 57 cm; h.: 40 cm; t.: 0.5–0.9 cm.

Description: lead junction vessel which was used for distribution of the lead pipes. Three lead pipes fitted in the holes of the junction vessel, the first of the holes is 12 cm in diameter, the second is 11 cm in diameter and a 16–20 cm long fragment of the lead water pipe which was inserted in it can still be seen. The third hole of the vessel is 8–10 cm in diameter. On the top it has a large circular hole of 23–24 cm diameter which was probably used for cleaning and maintenance and originally had a cover which could be removed if necessary.



Fig. 15. Lead junction vessel from *Brigetio* (Cat. 13).

Cat. 14

Terracotta water pipe (Fig. 16.1–3).

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.224A. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 48.5 cm, narrow end: d. outer: 8 cm; d. inner: 5.8–2.9 cm; wide end: d. outer: 12 cm; d. inner: 9.2 cm; t.: 1.2–1.4 cm.

Description: terracotta water pipe slightly narrowing from one end to the other. Thanks to the narrowing end it could be slid to another terracotta pipe of the appropriate size. It has a circular intersection. On the brim of the narrow end, stains of mortar can be seen. On the outer surface of the pipe there are black traces of secondary burning and stains of mortar. It is nearly complete, only the brim of the narrow end is partly broken.



Fig. 16. Terracotta water pipes from *Brigetio* (Cat. 14–15).

Cat. 15

Terracotta water pipe (*Fig. 16.4–6*).

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.224.B. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 47 cm; narrow end: d. outer: 7.1 cm; d. inner: 5 cm; wide end: d. outer: 12 cm; d. inner: 7.3 cm; t.: 1.1–2.4 cm.

Description: terracotta water pipe slightly narrowing from one end to the other. Thanks to the narrowing end it could be slid into another terracotta pipe of the appropriate size. It has a circular intersection. On the outer surface of the pipe there are black traces of secondary burning and stains of mortar. It is fragmentary, the brim of the narrow end is broken.

Cat. 16

Terracotta water pipe (*Fig. 17.1–3*).

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.224.C. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 42.5 cm; narrow end: d. outer: 8 cm; d. inner: 6.2 cm; wide end: d. outer: 13 cm; d. inner: 8.7 cm; t.: 2–1.2 cm.

Description: terracotta water pipe slightly narrowing from one end to the other. Thanks to the narrowing end it could be slid into another terracotta pipe of the appropriate size. It has a circular intersection. On the outer surface of the pipe there are black traces of secondary burning and stains of mortar. It is fragmentary, partly broken on the wide end.

Cat. 17

Terracotta water pipe (*Fig. 17.4–6*).

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.224.D. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 34 cm; narrow end: d. outer: 8 cm; d. inner: 5.2 cm; wide end: d. outer: 12 cm; d. inner: 8 cm; t.: 2–1.4 cm.

Description: terracotta water pipe slightly narrowing from one end to the other. Thanks to the narrowing end it could be slid into another terracotta pipe of the appropriate size. It has a circular intersection. It is fragmentary, partly broken on both ends.



Fig. 17. Terracotta water pipes from *Brigetio* (*Cat. 16–17*).



Fig. 18. Terracotta water pipe from *Brigetio* (Cat. 18).

Cat. 18

Terracotta water pipe (Fig. 18).

Inv. no.: MNM 65.1885.224.E. Acquisition: gift from Mrs. Tivadar Tussla. Sizes: l.: 33 cm; narrow end: d. outer: 9.5 cm; d. inner: 6 cm; wide end: d. outer: 12 cm; d. inner: 8.1 cm; t.: 1.8–2 cm.

Description: terracotta water pipe slightly narrowing from one end to the other. Thanks to the narrowing end it could be slid into another terracotta pipe of the appropriate size. It has a circular intersection. On the outer surface of the pipe there are black traces of secondary burning. It is fragmentary, partly broken on the wide end.