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ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae

„Hadak útján”

A népvándorláskor fiatal kutatóinak XXVI. konferenciája

GAZDASÁG – KERESKEDELEM – KÉZMŰVESSÉG

26th Conference of Young Scholars on the Migration Period

ECONOMY – TRADE – CRAFTSMANSHIP

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Tartalom – Contents

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A *„Hadak útján" – A népvándorláskor fiatal kutatóinak konferenciáját* először 1990-ben, Szentesen rendezték meg nagy érdeklődés közepette. A rendezvény hiánypótlónak számított, korábban ugyanis nem volt lehetősége a pályakezdő népvándorlás koros régészeknek, hogy saját korosztályuk körében megosszák egymással tudományos eredményeiket. Már az első találkozó interdiszciplináris együttműködésre törekedett: régészek mellett történészek, művészettörténészek és nyelvészek is előadást tartottak; az előadások alapján készült tanulmányok külön kötetben jelentek meg. A konferencia elnöki tisztjét az első alkalom óta dr. Tomka Péter, a Kárpát-medencei népvándorlás kor kiemelkedő kutatója tölti be.

A szentesi konferencia egy sikeres sorozat első állomása lett: 2015-ben, Révkomáromban a kezdeményezés már negyedszázados születésnapját ünnepelhette. A „Hadak útján" 26. találkozójának megszervezését – a sorozat történetében először – az ELTE BTK Régészettudományi Intézete vállalta magára. Témájául a népvándorlás kori gazdaság, kereskedelem és kézművesség kérdésköreit választottuk. 2016. november 3–4-én összesen 47 előadótól mintegy 32 előadást hallhattunk, amelyeket témakörök szerint több szekcióba – kapcsolatrendszerek, kereskedelem, gazdálkodás és háztartások, anyag és technológia, valamint kézművesség – soroltunk. Ezek közül most 13 előadás jelenik meg írásos formában is, részben magyarul, részben azonban – a megjelenésnek teret biztosító folyóirat, a *Dissertationes Archaeologicae* irányelvei alapján – angol és német nyelven. Reméljük, hogy az idegen nyelvű kiadás segítségével a konferencián bemutatott sokrétű és gyakran új módszertani megközelítésre támaszkodó eredmények a nemzetközi kutatás számára is hozzáférhetővé válnak.

Budapest, 2018. október 1.

A konferencia eddigi helyszínei

1990 Szentes
1991 Nyíregyháza
1992 Sátoraljaújhely
1993 Visegrád
1994 Szenna
1995 Velem
1996 Pécs
1997 Veszprém
1998 Eger
1999 Szeged – Domaszék
2000 Székesfehérvár
2001 Simontornya
2002 Gyula
2003 Keszthely
2004 Várgesztes
2005 Nagykovácsi
2006 Nagyvárad
2007 Kecskemét
2008 Győr
2010 Budapest – Szigethalom
2011 Szeged
2012 Visegrád
2013 Veszprém
2014 Esztergom
2015 Révkomárom
2016 Budapest
2017 Debrecen
2018 Mosonmagyaróvár

This king likes Muslims... Traces of an exceptional settlement from the Árpádian Age 3.

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Abstract
The Árpád Age village and its cemetery on the outskirts of Orosháza are unique in the Carpathian basin. The settlement was surrounded by a moat and inhabited by Muslims, whose presence can be traced back to as early as the late 11th century.[1] The site is located on the border of three geographically smaller regions amidst the Körös and Maros rivers, it evolved at the intersection of several thousand-year-old road networks. No wonder the group of professionals and amateurs working for the Nagy Gyula Regional Museum discovered an above the average number of finds with the help of metal detectors. Of peculiar interest are the items lost or discarded in the old marketplace, which is the subject of this paper.

The museum of Orosháza signed a cooperation agreement with local civilians in March 2015. Part of this is a protocol stating that all finds discovered during metal detecting is to be added to the collection with a unique identification number. Thanks to the experience of metal detectorists gained on nearby Árpád Age sites we found a large number of coins, and what is more significant from the aspect of the market, fake (perforated) coins, lead weights, pieces of locks and balances, and the lead-padded astragalus bones of the space-demanding chance and skill game. These items were usually found in the axis of the oval moat in a 150–200 m wide zone, which, in our opinion, was once the market itself. According to the metal detecting protocol, the route had to be documented as well as the discovery of finds. Considering this, it can be stated that other, poorer finds were also discovered outside this area, i.e. not in the old marketplace. The finds show an uneven geographical distribution in the area of the market, as they are concentrated around some larger and smaller centres. There are, however, some factors that are vital to fully understand the striped structure of the old market.

The old village was situated in the meanders of the ancient Maros River, mostly on its inner side. Based on the track of the moat and the distribution of the surface finds it is easy to see that the aqueous area covered by reeds today – the one-time riverbed – intersects the southern third of the findspot, the zone of the market, too. This suggests that climatic

1 Orosháza, Bónum, Faluhely (KÖH 29828); Rózsa 2016a; Rózsa 2016b.

conditions were drier in the Árpád Age than today. Metal detecting could not be carried out on the aqueous terrain covered with reeds. This watery area was intersected by the Békéscsaba–Szeged railway tracks laid down in the 1860s. The high rampart of the railway was constructed from earth gained from its nearest surroundings. Since the old surface of the land was transformed, it was not possible to retrieve any metal objects in a wide strip north of the railway. In the third place, we must also mention the western side of the site, where no survey could not be carried out to date due to the lack of consent from the landowner. Taking all this into account we assume that the market had a network of streets with more intense activity at certain geographical points (exchange office).

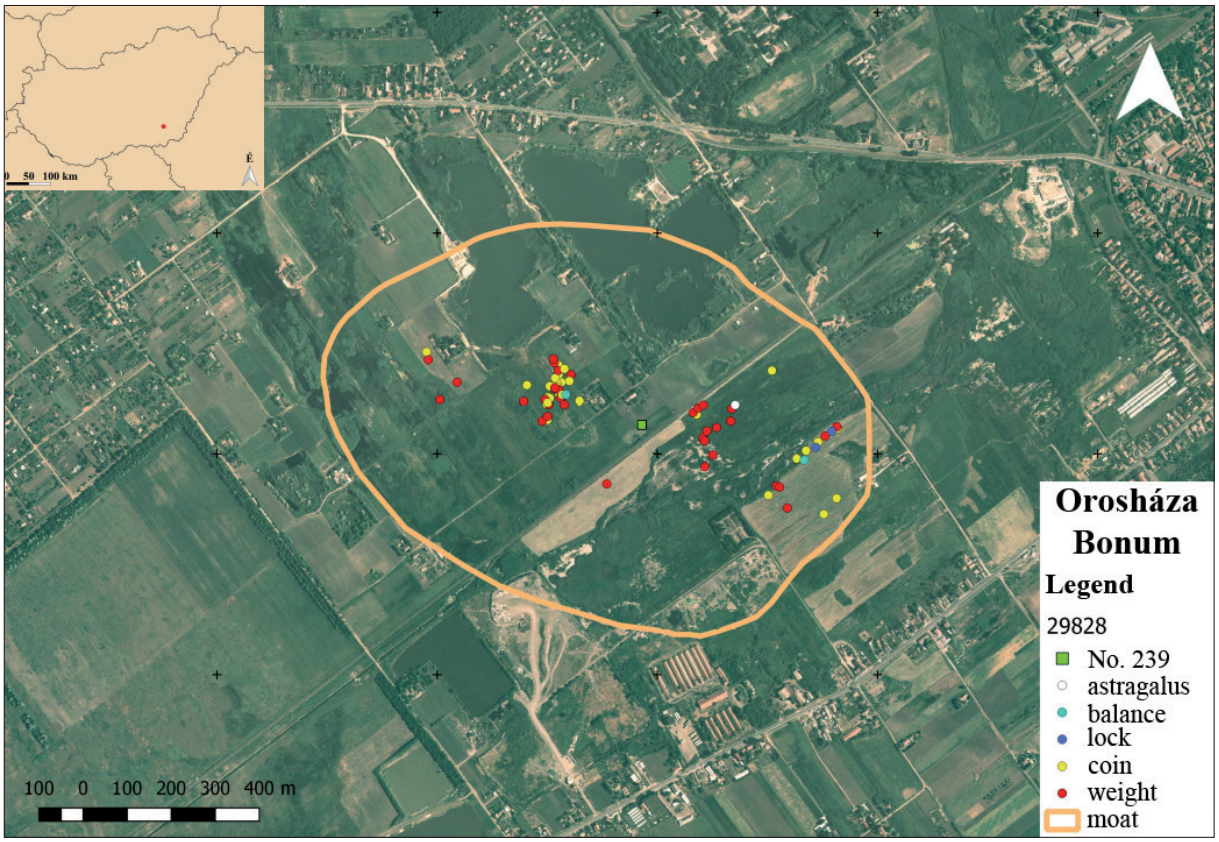

Fig. 1. Site of Orosháza–Bonum (the map was made by Gyöngyvér Bíró and Zoltán Rózsa)

In the territory of the supposed market, the items show a relatively even distribution, although the coins and weights were retrieved in greater concentration in the site centre. This paper only deals with the coins and lead weights from the finds that are connected to commerce and money circulation (scales, balance pans, locks).

Coins

In 2004, prior to the construction of the Orosháza bypass road, Zoltán Rózsa conducted preventive archaeological excavations at the findspot. We already discussed the waste from the bone workshop found in the filling of structure 239 at the *„Hadak Útján"* conference held in Nagykovácsi.[2] Amongst the structure's rich filling a coin fragment (H152) was unearthed,

2 Lichtenstein et al. 2006.

the single coin found during the excavation that dates the demolition of the old house to the second third of the 12th century.

Structure 239 is not only exceptional because of its finds, but also because of its fortunate location. The track of the Orosháza bypass road crossed the old market's "street". Unfortunately the topsoil was removed by machines, thus the once lost or discarded objects practically perished. However, as a result, the outline of dozens of structures appeared, also that of building No 239 in the centre of the market. Several houses, workshops, ditches and holes were uncovered, of which the structures identified as houses – also because of their finds – are dated before the filling of the building dated by the coin.

All in all 37 coins were uncovered in the course of metal detection. The earliest layer is represented by 6 antique Roman bronze coins, to which we cannot attribute real dating significance in case of an Árpád Age settlement. The next chronological coin horizon is represented by the 7 Byzantine scyphates from the middle of the 12th century of Manuel (Komnenos) I (1143–1180), often containing minimal silver content. Also from the same period are the so-called Hungarian anonymous denars without legend (H113, H127, H152, H171) that can be dated on stylistic grounds to the middle or the second part of the 12th century. The biggest group consists of 18 Friesacher pfennigs, the bulk of which (10 pieces) are the so-called Eriacensis type coins minted between 1170–1200. It strikes the eye that most of the Friesacher pfennigs are contemporary restrikes and copper forgeries with barbarous coin images, some were also perforated. The Wiener pfennigs of Leopold VI, Duke of Austria (1210–1230) (CNA B111) and the obol (H276) of Andrew II (1205-1235) – the only 13th century Hungarian coin – are of this period, the latter is impossible to date more precisely within the 30 years of Andrew's reign. Generally it can be said that all the coins known in contemporary Hungary are represented here (Byzantine, Friesacher and anonymous Hungarian denars), their date spanning from the middle of the 12th century to the first decades of the 13th century. It is striking, however, that no copper coins of Béla III were discovered despite the fact that they were the most common middle age coins found all over the country. Their absence demands explanation.[3] Although the archaeological data confirm that the settlement's final destruction is connected to the Mongolian invasion[4], numismatic evidence suggests that the "marketplace" was abandoned decades before. The most recent coin is that of Andrew II, while the emblematic coins from the time of the Mongol invasion, the bracteatae (H191–203) and other denarii of Béla IV, as well as the types of Friesacher pfennigs struck shortly before 1241 are completely absent.[5]

As we have seen the coin series found at the marketplace – apart from a single coin of Solomon[6] – begins with the same type as was found in the above mentioned structure. We can state with great certainty that it is highly probable that the use of the Muslim settlement's marketplace began under the reign of Géza II (1141–1162), and according to the numismatic evidence it was certainly functioning at the beginning of the 13th century, and supposedly also existed until the settlement's destruction by the Mongol invasion.

3 Approximately 200 coins of Béla III were discovered during metal detecting on the territory belonging to the Museum of Orosháza.
4 Gyucha – Rózsa 2014.
5 Tóth 2007.
6 Szatmári 2014, 62–64.

Lead weights

Also as a result of metal detection a great number of lead weights were discovered that once belonged to scales. Based on their form they can be divided into two groups: the greater part is solid, regular and irregular column shaped, as well as disc or cylindrical shaped and a smaller number of them are perforated. The latter can also be diverse, from simpler perforated flat discs with varying size and thickness to the perforated, but truncated cone and pyramidal shaped ones. Some disc type weights were also discovered that were secondarily divided into two or four pieces. A smaller number of amorphous lead objects, cast pieces also came to light, but we were unable to establish whether these were unfinished raw pieces or the result of subsequent damage. First we will examine the disc shaped lead weights that are relatively standardized in respect of their typology and weight relation, and are without severe damage that would affect their original weight. We have grouped the 25 lead weights into 9 size ranges in the table below, indicated their physical characteristics and also attempted to correlate them with the mark weight units and their fractions used in medieval Hungary.[7]

Four mark units were common in medieval Hungary, viz. the Hungarian (233.353 g), the Buda (245.538 g), the Transylvanian (206.768 g) and the Szepes (206.768 g) weight. It is obvious from the table above that the discovered lead weights correspond mostly to the Buda mark weight system, although some also correspond to the Hungarian mark. The division of the Hungarian mark weight (1 mark=4 ferto=48 pondus) shows local peculiarities, the German lot calculation (1 mark=16 lot) only spread later, as well as the use of the setin/sectinus (=1/32 mark) and the quentchen/kuntinus (=1/64 mark) only appear sporadically. In the Orosháza material the equivalents of ½, ¼, 1/8 and the 1/48 (pondus) Buda mark are convincingly present, but the other units fitting the fraction weights do not differ considerably from the theoretical numbers, although the ones grouped into size range 9 are the least identifiable.

Size range	*Form*	*Diameter*	*Thickness*	*Weight*	*Supposed weight in Buda mark: 245.53 g*
1	disc	30 mm	15 mm	122.76 g	½ mark (122.76 g)
2	column	20–21 mm	15 mm	61.19 g	¼ mark/ferto (61.38 g)
3	disc	23–25 mm	10–11 mm	47.12 g, 47.37 g, 48.33 g	1/5 mark (49.10 g)
4	disc	21–23 mm	9–10 mm	30.43 g, 30.92 g	1/8 mark/half ferto (30.69 g)
5	disc	17–21 mm	8–11 mm	23.57 g, 24.08 g, 24.21 g	1/10 mark (24.55 g)
6	disc	14–16 mm	8–10 mm	14.32 g, 15.8 g, 16.24 g, 17.77 g	3 pondus (15.33 g) or 1/16 mark (15.34 g)
7	disc	13–15 mm	5–7 mm	8.76 g, 9.67 g, 9.85 g, 10.31 g, 10.33 g	1/24 mark (10.23 g)
8	disc	11–13 mm	4–6 mm	5.15 g, 5.28 g, 5.71 g	1/48 mark/pondus (5.11 g)
9	disc	11.5–12.3 mm	2.9 mm	2.71 g, 2.76 g, 3.19 g	1/96 mark/half pondus (2.55 g)

7 V. Székely – Tóth 2017.

According to Hungarian metrological literature – mainly thanks to Bálint Hóman's[8] epoch-making research, later refined by Pál Engel[9] – the Scandinavian mark appeared in Hungary at the end of the 11th century and soon supplanted the "Carolingian" pound. At the beginning the "Hungarian" or "King Béla" mark originating from Cologne was considered the official weight unit, this was presumably the base weight used in coin minting. This weight was later supplanted by the "Buda" mark first mentioned in 1271 – theoretically from Regensburg – which became the most widespread, so to say official weight by the Angevin era. However, this traditional chronology has to be revised on the grounds of the 12–13th century lead weights found at Orosháza, since it is evident that here the Buda mark was used well before the Mongol invasion, and on the other hand, no weights corresponding to the lighter Hungarian mark have been found until now. Obviously contemporary people did not use the term Buda yet for the weight they used to weigh precious metals with, but this is to be clarified by future research. We cannot totally exclude the hypothesis that the Muslim inhabitants may have used some eastern weight unit which affected the evolution of the weight that later came to be known as the Buda mark, but this will have to be the subject of future scientific investigations.[10]

The identification of the perforated lead weights found at Orosháza–Bónum village seems a more difficult task. These are lighter and do not form markedly distinct size ranges as the disc shaped weights. The 11 perforated lead objects identified as weights can only be grouped into 4 more or less homogeneous size ranges: 1. (1.65 g); 2. (4.22 g, 4.65 g); 3. (6.05, 6.79 g, 7.13 g, 7.35 g, 8.12 g); 4. (9.56 g, 9.68 g, 9.75 g). From this we do not wish to draw far reaching conclusions, and do not wish to deal with them until additional material is discovered.

Summary

Abu Hámid al-Garnáti from Granada, who travelled to the most significant Muslim places, also lived in Hungary between 1151 and 1153 during the reign of Géza II, which cannot have been by chance.[11] In his work only discovered a few decades ago he may exaggerate the number of Muslims living in the Carpathian basin, nonetheless we cannot leave his statement – that *this king likes Muslims* – without comment. We do not wish to judge the extent of the king's affection, but the example of Orosháza also attests the special importance of the Muslims in the 12–13th century.

Orosháza is geographically well located with access to excellent road network. This made it possible for it to participate not for the first and not for the last time in its history in cattle trade and also salt trade. The latter primarily indicates the region's transit nature, and although it could not have been as important as cattle trade, we still have to reckon with its significance.

The wider region of Orosháza was considered to be opposed to royal authority. The local museum from its 17 surrounding settlements has only 8 coins from the kings Solomon (1063–1074), Ladislaus I (1077–1095) and Coloman (1095–1116). The consolidation of royal authority, in parallel with Coloman's law allowing the export of cattle also resulted in a greater use of coins.

8 Hóman 1916, 90–109.
9 Engel 1990, 27–36.
10 Rózsa 2017.
11 Abu Hámid 1985.

Although only 5 coins can be dated to the reign of Stephen II (1116–1131), there are more than 30 from the time of Béla II (1131–1141) from the settlements next to the main roads.[12]

Only a few coins from the reign of Géza II (1141–1162) were found by metal detectorists, mostly in the market cenres. But they still occur and they make up the bulk of the Hungarian coins in the Kopáncspuszta treasure found in the vicinity of Orosháza.[13] Perhaps this is due to the monetary reforms that – instead of the notoriously poor quality coins of Béla II – resulted in the minting of coins with a constant silver content, i.e. making it suitable to be part of family collections accumulated over decades, and could also sometimes appear on the Muslim controlled market of Orosháza founded under Géza II.

It is very likely that the monetary reforms of Géza II were also in connection with the appearance of the mark weight. According to some opinions the Buda mark – and the so called Hungarian mark (20:19) forming one single weight system – can be traced back to the weight of the so called heavy miskal of Khwarezm.[14] It cannot be a coincidence that lead weights corresponding to these mark weights were found by metal detectorists on the marketplace of Orosháza, which was inhabited by Kaliz people supposedly of Khwarezm origin.[15] However, this subject would be too vast for the current paper and also requires a wider international analysis.[16]

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12 Rózsa in press.
13 Eperjesy 1926; Bíró 2017.
14 Rózsa 2017.
15 Rózsa – Tugya 2012, 25–28.
16 We thank András Bene, Gábor Bíró, Róbert Kvak, Krisztina Zsikainé Náfrádi, Péter Rajmund Zsikai metal detectorists for their help. The pictures were taken by Csaba Gedai.

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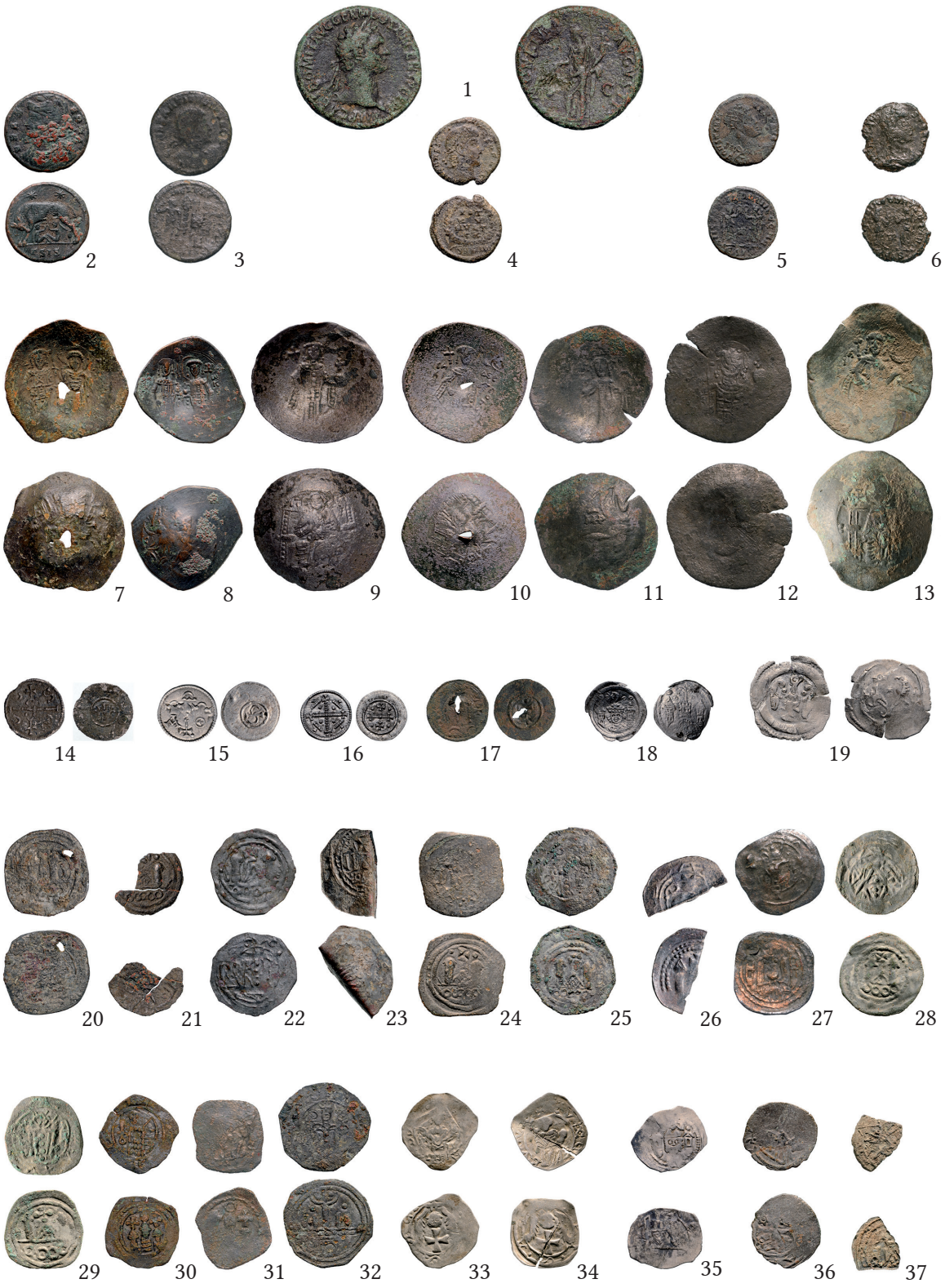

Fig. 2. Coins from the site of Orosháza–Bonum. 1–6 – Roman, 7–13 – Byzantine scyphates, 14–17 – Hungarian anonymous denars, 18 – obol of Andrew II, king of Hungary, 19 – Pfennig of Leopold VI, duke of Austria, 20–37 – „Friesacher" Pfennigs (photos were made by Csaba Gedai)

Fig. 3. Lead weights from the site of Orosháza–Bonum (photos were made by Csaba Gedai)