# Celto - Gallo - Roman

Studies of the MTA-ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology

edited by **László Borhy Kata Dévai Károly Tankó** 



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# STUDIES OF THE MTA-ELTE RESEARCH GROUP FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY ARCHAEOLOGY

edited by

László Borhy Kata Dévai Károly Tankó

Paris 2018



#### MTA - ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology, Budapest



Institute of Archaeological Sciences ELTE - Eötvös Loránd Unversity, Budapest

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On the cover:

The topography of Brigetio (Map by László Rupnik).
Golden aureus of Vespasian (Photo by Dávid Bartus).
The circular trench of the Civil Town of Brigetio (Photo by Kata Dévai).
The trench system in the territory of the Civil Town of Brigetio (Photo by Kata Dévai).
Terrazzo-floor and hypocaustum of a building in the canabae (Photo by Dávid Bartus).

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#### **PREFACE**

The MTA - ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology, which was established in 1999, launched and undertook several archaeological excavations and investigations under the supervision of research group leader Miklós Szabó, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The results of these not only contributed to the discipline of archaeology at national and international levels, but they were also directly employed in higher education, in the field of teaching archaeology. The studies found in the present volume closely reflect what the name of the research group conveys: it includes the results of truly interdisciplinary and specifically archaeological investigations conducted by the members of the research group, who are researchers employed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) and faculty members of the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE). This volume mainly presents the scientific results of two major projects that have been running in France and Hungary for decades. One part of the book is related to ancient Bibracte (modern Mont Beuvray), where French-Hungarian investigations have been carried out since 1988. By uncovering the old forum and basilica, the Hungarian research team made a significant discovery concerning the urban planning of the entire Mediterranean region in the Late Republic and Early Imperial Period. The other part presents the results of multifarious investigations that have been conducted in the form of planned excavations, rescue excavations, and aerial archaeological investigations in the territories of the civil town, the legionary fortress, and the civilian settlement outside the fortress (canabae) of ancient Brigetio (modern Komárom/ Szőny) since 1992. The Gallo-Roman and Pannonian Roman regions are geographically linked by Povegliano, located in North Italy. Its Celtic cremation burials were uncovered and analysed by the members of the MTA - ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology. Due to the process of Romanization, the Italian Celts and the Gauls became "Romans", that is members of the same huge cultural koine, which equally comprised Italy, Gaul and Pannonia. Accordingly, the study volume discusses the process of Romanization through "the eyes of the Romans." It describes the transformation from the aspect of the history of women's fashion attested by the analysis of representations and archaeological finds, and through the establishment of trade relations demonstrated by the analysis of thin-walled pottery that appeared in Pannonia during the settlement of the Italian population in the first century AD. Finally, the analysis of a Late Roman settlement located outside the Roman Empire, belonging to a Germanic people, called the Quadi, has also been included in this study volume. Although the Quadi were closely connected with the Romans for centuries, in times of both peace and war, they were not affected by the process of Romanization, unlike the Gauls, Celts, and Pannonian peoples.

As noted above, the results of investigations conducted by the MTA-ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology have, in fact, been the most rapidly and directly employed in the field of higher education, the teaching of the upcoming generation of archaeologists. Since the beginnings, the supervisors of the research grup have put an emphasis on involving university students at graduate and postgraduate levels, as well as PhD students in the processing of the uncovered archaeological finds. With their BA and MA theses, and PhD dissertations, these students have achieved and produced impressive scientific results even in an international comparison.

I would like to express a particular gratitude to Miklós Szabó, the founder, and from 1999 to 2011 leader of the MTA–ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology for the launch of the research programs, the cultivation and expansion of international scientific relations as well as collaborations, furthermore for the encouragement and support of talented young researchers. Finally, my thanks go to my colleagues, and to my former and current students for their outstanding performance in their work and achievements in the field of a wide range of research programs under my supervision since 2012. In the preparation and editing of this study volume I was assisted by Dr. Kata Dévai, research fellow, and Dr. Károly Tankó, senior research fellow, for whose painstaking work I am deeply thankful.

Budapest, summer 2018

László Borhy

corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences rector of the ELTE–Eötvös Loránd University leader of the MTA–ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology

## LATE ROMAN PERIOD QUAD SETTLEMENT AT PÁSZTÓ-CSONTFALVA

#### ESZTER SOÓS - KÁROLY TANKÓ

Archaeological material of the Roman Period has not yet known well enough in the mountainous regions of Northeast Hungary. Until the last decade sporadic data were available about the Barbarian tribes that inhabited north to the Great Hungarian Plain, between the Danube Bend and the Bodrog River in the Roman Period.<sup>1</sup> The difficulties of research are mainly caused by the lack of the large-scale investigated, welldocumented sites and or its detailed publications. This situation is recently changing, when new archaeological investigation carried out in connection to road constructions and utility network developments. For example, the Roman Period settlements east of the Sajó (Slaná - SK) can be linked to the Pzeworsk culture based on the findings of recent excavations as well as the characteristics and developments of recently interpreted rural settlements.2 However, we have only few information about the chronology and the cultural characteristics of Barbarian settlements west of the Przeworsk territory that is the mountainous area between the Ipoly (Ipel' – SK) and Sajó Rivers in Northeast Hungary (Fig. 1). The archaeological sites of Roman Period in this area were researched by test trenches in former excavations,<sup>3</sup> while the results of the present-day fieldworks are only known from preliminary reports.<sup>4</sup> Although, the published topographical volumes from Pest County provide data for the settlement network that can be analysed, but the data gained mainly by field survey and therefore cannot be chronologically clarified within the Roman Period (Fig. 2).<sup>5</sup> At this juncture, the importance of the Pásztó-Csontfalva settlement is that it gives us an important insight into the Roman Age settlement history of this less known region.

#### The site at Pásztó -Csontfalva

Pásztó is a mid-size town in Nógrád County in foreground of the Mátra Mountain in Northeast-Hungary. Here is a wide and plain area of the trough valley where the Zagyva River running through between the two mountains of Mátra and Cserhát. The unearthed site can be found in Csontfalva-dűlő on the western side of the Zagyva valley south of Pásztó (Fig. 4). In this area, the Zagyva arrives to a gorge called Mátrakapu enclosed by the eastern range of the Cserhát and the western range of the Mátra. The archaeological site is situated on the gently sloped side of the west-east extending hill range of the Cserhát, which penetrates deep into the onetime floodplain of the Zagyva. The territory is bordered in the north and the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SALAMON 1966, 84-87; VÉGH 1975, 65-129.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> GINDELE-ISTVÁNOVITS 2009; SOÓS 2014; SOÓS 2015; SOÓS 2016.

Jipolytölgyes - 1. lh.: ERDÉLYI-LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1971, 51-72; Letkés-Vízfogó: PAPP 1970, 111-118; PAPP-SALAMON 1980, 85-92, 343-348; Szilvásvárad: SALAMON-TÖRÖK 1960, 145-172; In details: SZABÓ-VADAY 2009, 277-279.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Vác-Csörögi rét: KULCSÁR 2004, 229-241; Salgótarján-Ipari park/TESCO: VADAY-SZABÓ 2008, 5-42; SZABÓ-VADAY 2009, 277-348; Kazár: VADAY 2003, 51-64; VADAY 2004, 203-216; VADAY 2005, 99-108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> MRT 9 (1993); MRT 11 (2012).

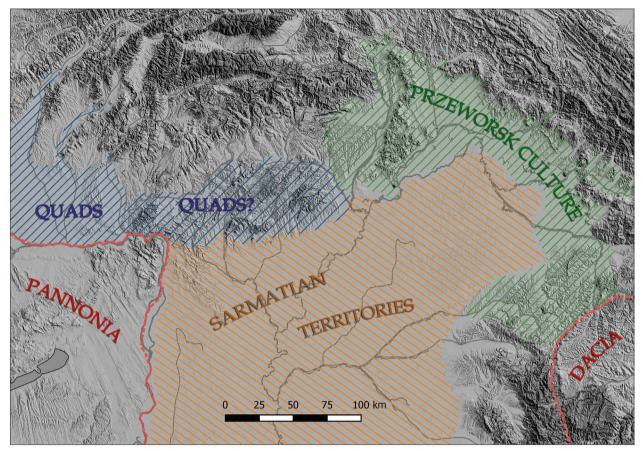


Fig. 1.: Northeast part of the Carpathian Basin in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD (Drawing: E. Soós).

east by the temporary water flow of the Zagyva basin from before regulation and the Nádasdi stream in the south. A dense pine forest covers the ridge where it rises toward north, which hinders the determination of the extent of the site in this direction. On the eastern side of the hill, the land is cultivated in narrow parcels and Route 21 crosses it in north-south direction (Fig. 3-5).

#### THE EXCAVATION

The track of the widening of Route 21 partly crossed the territory of the onetime Csontfalva in 2005, a settlement known from sources<sup>6</sup> and old maps.<sup>7</sup> The archaeological field survey conducted preceding the excavation revealed, at

the same time, that the occurrence of features from the late Iron Age and the Migration Period could also be expected on the territory of the medieval village. The excavation was started in spring of 2005 with the removal of the topsoil layer. The black humus topsoil was intensively cultivated for decades, therefore it was stripped by backhoe, resulting in a ground surface about 30-40 cm lower than the surrounding modern ground level The present landscape, dominated by intensively cultivated agricultural fields makes it difficult to visualise how the environs of the site might have looked in the past. It could be observed that the humus soil was strongly eroded from upper part to the foot of the hill in consequence of intensive agricultural activity and the plough even reached the subsoil and the archaeological features at certain spots. Despite the stripping of the agricultural cultivated topsoil a number of archaeological features survived to be exposed during the continuous inspection. The large number of stray finds collected at the site indicates that the higher

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The medieval village called Chonthfalwa was mentioned in the vicinity of Pásztó in 1471. CSÁNKI 1890, 60.

<sup>7 1</sup>st military mapping survey of Austrian Empire: Coll. XVI. Sec. XVI; 2nd military mapping survey (1853): Col. XXXV. Sec. 46; 3rd military mapping survey of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1873) 37-48.

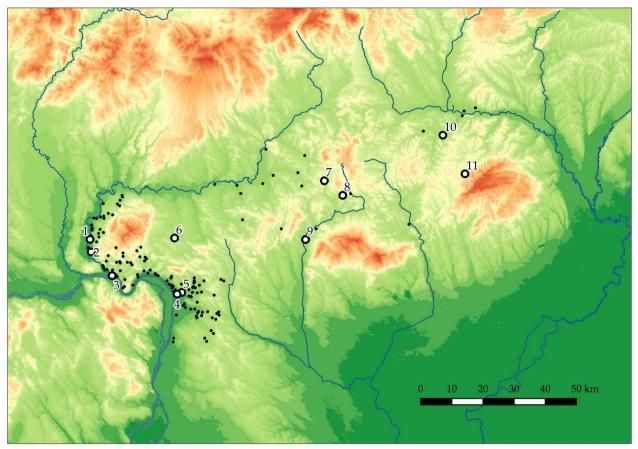


Fig. 2. Roman Age settlements in the North Hungarian Mountains. Black dots: Sites known from filed survey. Excavated sites: 1: Ipolytölgyes; 2: Letkés-Vízfogó; 3: Szob-Öregfalu; 4: Vác-Csörögi rét; 5: Vác-Kavicsbánya; 6: Rétság-Király haraszt; 7: Salgótarján-Ipari park/TESCO; 8: Kazár; 9: Pásztó-Csontfalva; 10: Ózd-Stadion; 11: Szilvásvárad-Lovaspálya (Drawing: E. Soós).

floor levels and the features that started from the upper layers were partly or entirely destroyed. Other earth movements also disturbed the site. The value of the archaeological finds that were destroyed during the establishment of the route and the ditches along it and the main pipe of water supply system and some communication cables laid at the same time cannot even be estimated. After the removal of the black humus, different features appeared on the ground surface (Fig. 6). On the uncovered surface of cca. 7500 m<sup>2</sup>, 323 features of various periods were documented (Bronze Age, Iron Age, Migration Period and Middle Ages).8 The archaeological features, mostly pits in different size were usually backfilled with the brownblack topsoil or a mix of humus and subsoil which was removed when the original pit was digged out. Some parallelly running ditches were also observed on the site which could be associated with medieval and later cultivation. In parallel to field work and the documentation of the archaeological phenomena, the find material was cleaned and taken into a preliminary registry on the base set up at the near village of Hasznos. In the followings, the present study of the Roman Period settlement will be given.

#### FEATURES AND SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

According to observation made on the surface prior to the excavation, the occurrence Roman Period settlement seemed probable on the northern slope of the hill. A number of storage pits filled in with debris were found on the surface opened in the planned track of the road. Some features with characteristic shards of the La Tène culture were also unearthed in this area of the excavation and dated them from the late

<sup>8</sup> TANKÓ 2005.



Fig 3. Areal photo of the Zagyva valley with mark of position of the archaeological site (Photo: G. Farkas).

Iron Age. The remains of a barbarian settlement from the Roman Period was unearthed in the northern zone of the site on the southern bank of the former Zagyva basin. The large number of finds scattered on the surface suggests that modern agriculture has destroyed the onetime floor levels and only the distribution of semisubterranean building, postholes and pits can inform us about the structure of the settlement (Fig. 7). Three square-shaped buildings with rounded corners and semi-subterranean floor were found on the territory. Only feature no. 186 (Fig. 8B) could entirely be unearthed from among them. It measured 250×210 cm, and its relative depth from the scraped surface was only 15 cm (Fig. 9). A small bench was observed on the north side of the building, on which two

postholes were uncovered. Two pits filled in with ash were unearthed in the south-west corner of the house and each a posthole was found in the northeast and northwest corners. The pit of the house was filled in with a single layer of black humus. No trace of a floor was found on the bottom. Only limited observations could be made at the other two buildings with semi-subterranean floor (features nos. 273 and 288) since the trench of main pipe of water supply system had destroyed their east sides. In sunken-featured building no. 273 (Fig. 8A, Fig. 10) two postholes stood on the southwest side and a single pit was dug in the north corner. Consequently, the constructions of the partly destroyed buildings cannot be established precisely. However, the postholes in the feature no. 273 might be considered as remains of a typical building structure with six postholes (Sechspfostenhaus) that were widespread in the German Barbaricum and used commonly from the early to the late Roman Period.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Celtic settlement existed at northern slope of the excavated site of Csontfalva near Pásztó in the late Iron Age, where significant iron smelting was carried out in the southern peripheries. The pottery material from the unearthed features suggests that it can be dated from the La Tène B2-C1 periods, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The fibula fragment collected as a stray find (TANKÓ 2006, Fig. 2. 8) corroborates this dating since the short and high arch is characteristic of the same period (TANKÓ 2006, 88-90).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> LEUBE 2009, 147; DROBERJAR 1997, 22; KOLNÍK 1998, 145, Abb. 1; SOÓS 2017, 20, Plate 1.

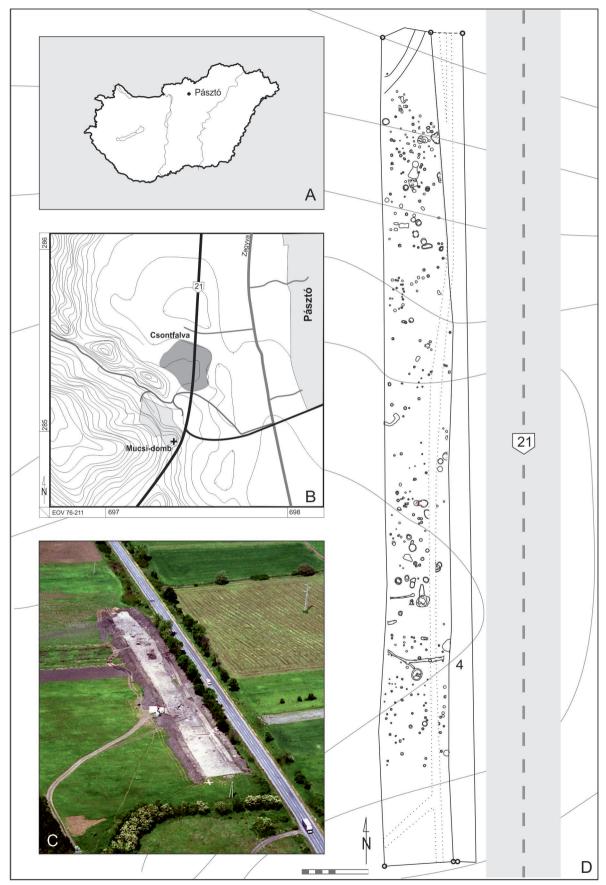


Fig 4. Excavation plan and topographical situation (Drawing: K. Tankó).



Fig 5. Areal photo of the excavation and its enivroment (Photo: G. Farkas)

There were storage pits in different size beside the houses (Fig. 7B). Two different types of it can be distinguished here. The diameter of the large storage pits (features no. 178, 179, 213, 271) situated nearby the subterranean buildings and varied in diameter between 130-220 cm. Their depths were 120-170 cm. The measures of the smaller, cylindrical pits (features no. 210, 243, 290) were 60-120 cm in diameter, while their depth were 30-80 cm. The feature no. 204 was the only one amorphous, 170-310 cm large and shallow pit. Numerous shards and the fragment of a quern were found in the large storage pits beside the rectangular buildings. As only a few shards were recovered from the fillings of the semi-subterranean houses, the finds of the pits can help in the dating and the determination of the material culture of the settlement.

We have only few information to consider the internal structure of the settlement and it could not be reconstructed because of the small extension of the excavated surface. It is presumable that only the peripheral part of the one-time settlement might be unearthed, while the central, probably more densely settled area might be extended towards to upper part of the bank of Zagyva River and so it remained unexcavated. It can be assumed that the buildings oriented to northwest, delved 15-20 m apart from each other and surrounded by storage pits were the remains of a row-structured settlement (*Reihensiedlung*), which type were spread in the German Barbaricum and also in the Carpathian Basin.<sup>11</sup>

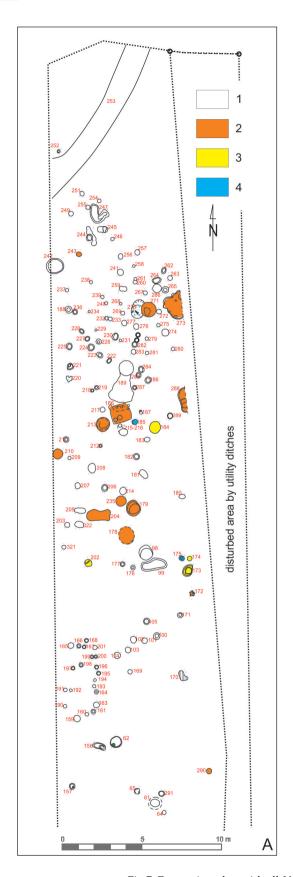
#### ANALYSIS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

The different fragments of pottery were the most frequent archaeological finds during the unearthing of Roman Period settlement in Pásztó-Csontfalva. 221 ceramic fragments came to light from 12 features, which could be dated to the Roman Period. Four group of the ceramic finds can be distinguished in technological point of view.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> LEUBE 2009, 170-171; E.g. Branč-Helyföldek: KOLNÍK et alii 2007.



Fig 6. Areal photo of the excavated area of the Roman Period settlement (Photo: G. Farkas).



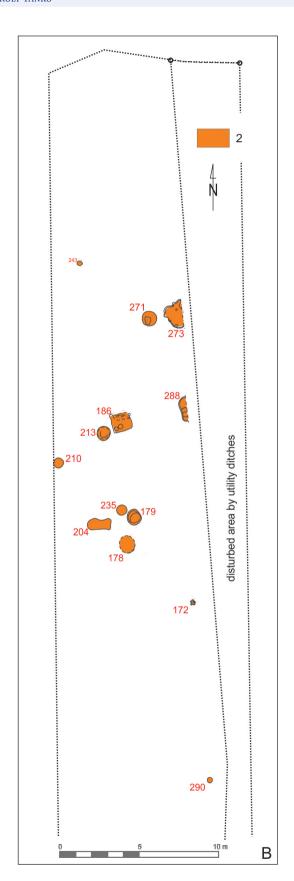


Fig 7. Excavation plan with all (A) and only Roman Period features(B). 1: features without dateable finds, 2: Roman Period, 3: La Tène culture, 4: Medieval Age (Drawing: K. Tankó).

#### Hand-formed, fine pottery

A few fragments of this ceramic type were discovered from almost each feature of the Roman Period settlement (Fig. 11). These pieces of vessels were formed from sandy fine clay while the graphitic component are also assumable in some cases on the fractal surfaces. The outer surfaces of the vessels usually were fine-polished and all of them were burned dark-grey or black. Only the hemispherical bowls with flat, inverted rim can be identified typologically from the collected rims (Fig. 15: 2, 4, 11. Fig. 16: 5). These bowls were one of the main type of the tableware in the Roman Period Barbarian settlements. It have to mentioned. that this widespread vessel type shows characteristic biconical form in the Przeworsk era in the Upper Tisza Basin. 12 In contrast to it the hemispherical bowls with rich decoration were rather used in the Quad settlements in the territory of West-Slovakia.<sup>13</sup> The best analogies of the pieces from Pásztó can be found in the Late Roman Period settlement in Ózd-Stadion.<sup>14</sup>

#### Hand-formed, coarse pottery

The coarse ware in Pásztó was made also from sandy and slightly pebbly clay. The vessels have roughly smoothed surface and were burned to reddish brown or brown colour. The coarse bowls show hemispherical and conical forms in the same proportion. These profiles are also well distinguished from the typical biconical bowls of the Przeworsk territories. 15 Although similar bowls occur in West-Slovakian German settlements, where the regular hemispherical forms were typical in the  $2^{nd}$  century AD. On the other hand, the lower parts of the vessels become more slender from the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>16</sup> The best analogies of the coarse, hemispherical bowls from Pásztó (Fig. 12: 4. Fig 13: 4. Fig. 14: 4. Fig. 16: 1, 4) derived from the settlements excavated in the vicinity of Miskolc.<sup>17</sup> The simple, conical bowls (Fig. 12: 5-6. Fig. 14: 1) were even more widespread, their specimens are known from the Nitra to the Sajó Vallev.<sup>18</sup>

The pots show a quite simple form in Pásztó. All of them had S-profile broadened in the upper or middle part of the vessels (Fig. 12: 7-8. Fig. 14: 2. Fig. 15: 1, 8-9), except for one example which had sharply bended profile (Fig. 14: 3) The average form of pots with S-profile were commonly used in the Przeworsk and also in the Quad settlements in the Late Roman Period.<sup>19</sup>

#### Wheel-thrown, fine pottery

The fine, wheel-thrown ware in Pásztó consists of mainly grey-burned vessels (Fig. 11) but some orange-red fragments (Fig. 11) were also occurred. All of them had fine, smoothed surface, most of them were even well-polished. The smoothed-in decorations were also quite frequent (Fig. 13: 1, 2, 3, 6. Fig. 14: 5. Fig. 15: 5, Fig. 16: 2). A large number of wheel-thrown vessels were bowls with softly or strongly biconical profiles. It is worth to note that instead of the hand-formed tableware no wheel-thrown hemispherical bowls were found in the analysed material, despite the proximity of neighbouring Sarmatian territories, where it was the most popular bowl form.<sup>20</sup>

The upper parts of the vessels at Pásztó were mostly decorated with smoothed-in ornaments and ribs. The biconical profiles and also the rib and channel decorations were quite common in the northern periphery of the Sarmatian territory mainly in the Late Roman Period.<sup>21</sup> The handle vessel decorated with smooth-in zig-zag and wavy lines (Fig. 13: 1) which have good analogy in Sebastovce-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> SOÓS 2016, Fig. 5.

 $<sup>^{13}\,\</sup>rm KOLN \acute{I}K$  et alii 2007, Abb. 21; VARSIK 2011, Abb. 101, Abb. 102, Abb. 105.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> PÁRDUCZ-KOREK 1959, Taf. VIII, 1, Taf. X. 4-5, Taf. XI. 1, 4.

<sup>15</sup> SOÓS 2014, 128.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> KOLNÍK et alli 2007, Obr. 21; VARSIK 2011, Obr. 99, 101.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> VÉGH 1985, Fig. 3: 2, Fig. 4: 2, 13, Fig. 5: 1; VÉGH 1989, Fig. 8: 11, Fig. 9: 17, Fig. 15: 4, 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> VÉGH 1964, II. t. 7; ERDÉLYI-LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1971, Obr. 7, 6; VÉGH 1975, XVI, t. 2; KOLNÍK *et alii* 2007, Abb. 22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> ERDÉLYI-LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1971, Obr. 4, Obr. 8, 5-6; VARSIK 2011, 188, Obr. 101; KOLNÍK et. alii 2007, 46, Obr. 25; SOÓS 2016, Fig. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> VADAY 1989, 147-148, Abb. 39-41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> VADAY-HORVÁTH 1999, 187; VADAY-SZEKERES 2001, 241-242.

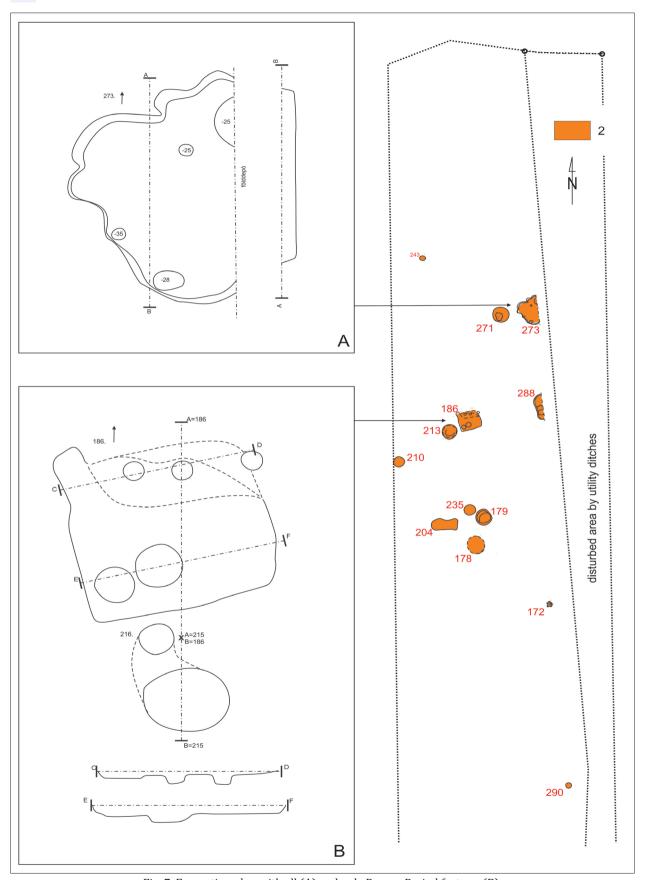


Fig. 7. Excavation plan with all (A) and only Roman Period features(B). 1: features without dateable finds, 2: Roman Period, 3: La Tène culture, 4: Medieval Age (Drawing: K. Tankó).

Bárca from the Late Roman Period.<sup>22</sup> The other fragments probably belonged to storage vessels or jugs (Fig. 12: 3. Fig. 13: 2, 6. Fig. 15: 5. Fig. 16: 2) which types were widely used in the Late Roman Period also in the Barbarian territories.<sup>23</sup> In overall the wheel-turned ware shows the closest connections with the Sarmatian pottery.

#### Dateable artefacts

A fragment of green-glazed *mortarium* (Fig. 16: 3) was come to light as Roman import on the Barbarian settlement. This artefact originated from province Pannonia, where this type of glazed vessels became widespread in the

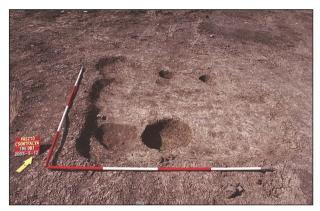


Fig. 9. Feature no. 186.

second third of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>24</sup> Beside the provincial territories, the Roman *mortaria* were widely used in Barbarian Quad settlements as well.<sup>25</sup>

Only one metal find, a bronze fibula with inverted and rectangular foot was found as a stray find (Fig. 17) on the site from the discussed period. The bow shape of the fragment has analogies in the Marcomannic and Quad territories, where these one-pieced bronze fibula with upper chord were evolved and used between the last quarters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.<sup>26</sup> Iron pieces of this type are known from the Očkóv cemetery from the Late Roman Period as well.<sup>27</sup>

Summarising the above mentioned, the settlement material from Pásztó-Csontfalva had diversified relations with the neighbouring cultural territories. In order to better understand the role of the site, it is worth reviewing the research problems of the mountainous regions in the Roman Period. The research problems of this intriguing territory can be tracked back to two main issues: the chronology and the ethnic identification of the archaeological material.

#### CHRONOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF THE NORTH HUNGARIAN MOUNTAINOUS REGION IN THE ROMAN PERIOD

The chronology of the investigated territory is solely based on the Roman import artefacts since there are no radiocarbon nor other data available from this period. Due to the presumed long use of this objects and their concentration into certain horizons, they can only be taken as *terminus post quem* data when one try to



Fig. 10. Feature no. 273.

estimate the chronology of the sites.<sup>28</sup> The other major problem is that we do not know German cremation graves from the territory that can be certainly dated to the Roman Period, and whose grave goods would allow more accurate dating. The easternmost Quad cremation burials are known from Čaka-Kopec and Gbelce-Tehelňa, west from the Garam (Hron – SK) River.<sup>29</sup> The artefacts, previously considered as burial remains are mainly stray finds: iron tools and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1969, Abb. 38, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> VÉGH 1985, Fig. 4: 9, Fig. 5: 19; VÉGH 1989, Fig. 7: 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> HÁRSHEGYI-OTTOMÁNYI 2013, 489-499, Fig. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> KOLNÍK 1995; VARSIK 2011, Obr. 102.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> PEŠKAŘ 1972, 122, Taf. 36-42; VARSIK 2011, Abb. 106. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> KOLNÍK 1956, Obr. 10, 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> TEJRAL 1998, 187, Abb. 4; VADAY-SZEKERES 2001, 238.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Both are dated to the B2-B2/C1 Periods: BELJAK-KOLNÍK 2006.

Creamic types	1	2	3.a	3.b	Total
Features					
172			2		2
178	1	34	11	3	49
179		8	13		21
204				1	1
210	1	34	1		36
213	9	22	3		34
235	2	21	6		29
243	1	2	3		6
271	4	13			17
273		23	1		24
288				1	1
290				1	1
Total	18	157	40	6	221

Fig. 11. Typological distribution of ceramic finds at Pásztó (Drawing: E. Soós).

weapons.<sup>30</sup> Only the find assembles from Sirok and Terpes can be ascertained as burial remains for sure, but they show Przeworsk character.<sup>31</sup>

The researchers are still facing the problem of the surviving La Tène culture in the mountainous regions in the Roman Period. Although several studies have referred to Celtic antecedents in the case of the Roman Period settlements,<sup>32</sup> there are still no sufficient and published data in this respect. There was only one known case, near to Kazár, where a Celtic and a Roman import potsherd from Severan Period came to the light together from the plastered floor layer of a semi-subterranean building.<sup>33</sup> In the sites where Celtic and Roman Period German inhabitation were also observable, the La Tène ceramic material cannot be dated later than the 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC, while the potsherds from

the Roman Period were not earlier than the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD at least according to the currently accepted typo-chronologies.

The beginnings of the settlements in the Roman Period are also quite uncertain in the investigated region. According to the more advanced Slovakian settlement research the German inhabitation did not cross the Vág (Váh - SK) River during the 1st century AD. The earliest Quad settlements at the lower Garam and the Ipoly Rivers can be dated to Period B2, while at the Danube Bend to the Period C1.34 The archaeological material of the 1st century AD cannot be detected in the North Hungarian Mountains so far. However, this phenomenon is not unique, because the definition of the material culture of this period is guite problematic both in the Przeworsk<sup>35</sup> and in the Sarmatian territories as well.<sup>36</sup>

The vast majority of the known sites could most probably be established around the end of the  $2^{nd}$  – first decades of the  $3^{rd}$  centuries, in the Period B2-B2/C1, based on the Roman import terra sigillata vessels fragments from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Benczúrfalva: VÉGH 1975, 66; Cserhátsurány: BÓNA 1963, 248; VÉGH 1975, 66.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> ISTVÁNOVITS-KULCSÁR 1992, 61, 63; VÉGH 1975, 68; HULLÁM 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> SALAMON-TÖRÖK 1960, 154, 170-171; SALAMON 1963, 18; VÉGH 1964, 52; VÉGH 1975, 92; VÉGH 1989, 484-488; VÉGH 1999, 218-219; LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1969, 462; JUREČKO 1983, 277-278; BUDINSKÝ-KRIČKA– LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1990, 313.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> The assemblage is known only from preliminary report: VADAY 2005, 101, Fig. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> PIETA 2010, 58; VARSIK 2011, 222; BELJAK 2014, 295, Abb. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> GINDELE 2013, 11-13; SOÓS 2016, 456.

<sup>36</sup> ISTVÁNOVITS-KULCSÁR 2017.

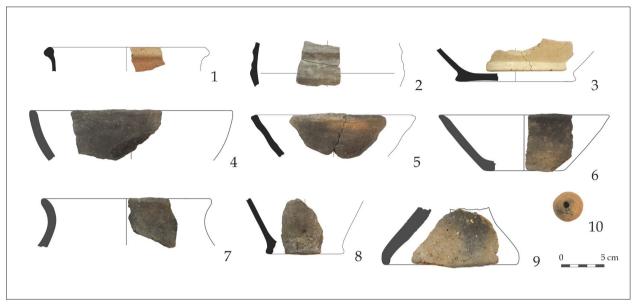


Fig. 12. Pottery finds from Pásztó-Csontfalva. 1-10: Featue 178.

the Rheinzabern, Westerndorf and Pfaffenhofen workshops. The horizon of the Marcomannic Wars and the following decades could be identified along the Ipoly and Danube Rivers (Letkés, Szob-Öregfalu, Floolytölgyes, Vác-Csörögi rét, Balassagyarmat, Morhalom, Kazécsény in the Cserhát Mountains (Rétság-Király-haraszt Mountains (Rétság-Király-haraszt Mountains (Kazár, Salgótarján-Ipari park/TESCO and the Bükk Mountains (Ózd-Stadion and Szilvásvárad-Lovaspálya).

The upper time limit of these sites is still in question. The settlement of Vác-Csörögi rét was continuously inhabited from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD according to the preliminary analysis.<sup>48</sup> The same chronological limit is plausible for the settlement of Ózd-Stadion as well.<sup>49</sup> The end of the Roman and the

beginnings of the Hun Period can be outlined in the investigated territory at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> – turn of the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Some of the Roman Period settlements persisted until the Periods C3/D1, and new object types appear in their inventory, but at the same time we can expect newly established settlements as well.<sup>50</sup> In the absence of a detailed publication, it is not yet possible to decide whether the bone workshop in Salgótarján with several double-sided antler combs from the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD,<sup>51</sup> belonged to last phase of the Roman Period settlement or to a newly established site.<sup>52</sup>

#### **ETHNICAL IDENTIFICATION**

In addition to the uncertainties of the chronology, the cultural classification and ethnic interpretation of the assemblages is even more problematic. The problem is primarily due to the methodological approach used by the previous research: instead of a detailed description and integrated analysis of the material culture, the researchers tried to classify the individual ceramic types into ethnic categories according to certain types and decorations. That's how the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> BÓNA 1963, 280-282, Taf. XLVI-XLVII.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> ERDÉLYI-LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1971.

<sup>39</sup> KULCSÁR 2004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> GABLER 1968, 214.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> GABLER 1968, 224.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> GABLER 1968, 225.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> MASEK 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> VADAY 2003; VADAY 2004; VADAY 2005.

<sup>45</sup> VADAY-SZABÓ 2008; SZABÓ-VADAY 2009.

<sup>46</sup> PÁRDUCZ-KOREK 1959.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Thanks for the information to Csilla Farkas.

<sup>48</sup> KULCSÁR 2004, 229.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> PÁRDUCZ-KOREK 1959.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> In details: SOÓS *et alii* in press.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> SZABÓ-VADAY 2011, 19, t. 5-6.

<sup>52</sup> Similar than Szurdokpüspöki-Hosszú dűlő: BÁCSMEGI-GUBA 2007, 20-29.

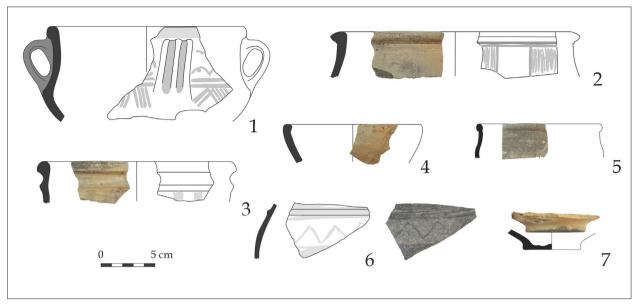


Fig. 13. Pottery finds from Pásztó-Csontfalva. 1-6: Feature 179; 7: Feature 204.

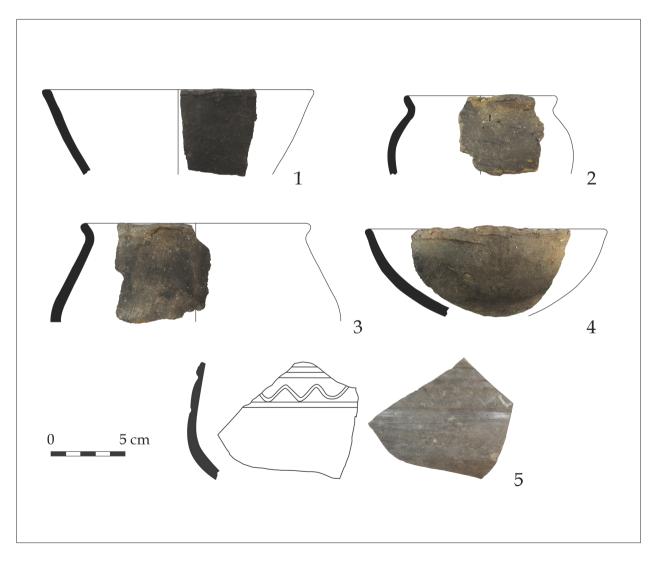


Fig. 14. Pottery finds from Pásztó-Csontfalva. 1-5: Feature 210.

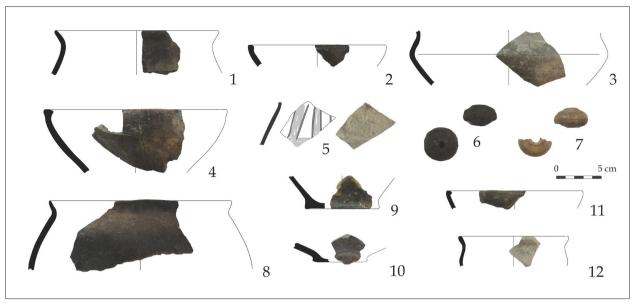


Fig. 15. Pottery finds from Pásztó-Csontfalva. 1-7: Feature 213; 8-12: Feature 235.

hand-made, course pottery were attributed to be Dacian, while the wheel-thrown dishes to Celtic or Sarmatian, and the hand-made fine, polished ceramic to the German ethnicity; even though these finds often came together from the very same context.<sup>53</sup> The fine, grey, wheel-turned pottery which were known in large quantity from the late Roman Age, was not assigned to any ethnic groups, therefore the late Roman Period sites could not be clearly linked to any culture.

The fine, wheel-turned pottery which came to the light from almost all sites, was defined as Sarmatian product. Valéria Kulcsár left open the question of whether the grey, wheel-turned pottery in Vác-Csörögi-rét was sign of an ethnic component or a strong influx from the Sarmatian territory. Fi It is important to emphasize, however, that the definition of all the grey, wheel-turned fragments as Sarmatian is doubtful at this time; especially because there is no such an inventory published yet that could be used to accurately determine the technological characteristics of the ceramic type. Andrea Vaday also uses the term "Roman Period Barbarian" in her studies for this type of ceramics: it means homogenised

Celtic, Germanic, and other materials, which are ethnically non-definable. The fine hand-formed black ware with polished surface was usually specified as German, but it is controversial that it can be related to the Quad or the Przeworsk culture. The hand-formed, pottery in the peripheral settlements of the mountainous river is simpler both in terms of forms and decorations, which makes it distinguishable from the embellished pottery types in the west-Slovakian Quad territories. The regional differences between the distribution of the main forms and motifs of the fine ware need more research.

We hope that the analysis of the handformed, but fine and typically German vessels will help us to solve the problem of the Quad-Przeworsk contact zone in the near future. Most researcher say that only the settlement remains in the Ipoly and Zagyva valleys belonged to the Quad culture.<sup>58</sup> Beside others, the role of the Zagyva River as boundary was also hypothesized.<sup>59</sup> It is important to note, that we cannot count with Przeworsk-type

<sup>53</sup> SZABÓ-VADAY 2009, 283. Similar situation could be observed by the research of the Przeworsk settlements as well: LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1969; VÉGH 1964; VÉGH 1985; VÉGH 1989; VÉGH 1999.

<sup>54</sup> KULCSÁR 2004, 229-230.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> SZABÓ-VADAY 2009, 281, Note 43-44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> KULCSÁR 2004, 230; BELJAK 2014, 300.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> VARSIK 2011, Abb. 101, Abb. 103.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> VÉGH 1985, 106; VÉGH 1989, 496; VÉGH 1999, 219; KULCSÁR 2004; BELJAK 2014, 303.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> SALAMON 1966, 87; VÉGH 1975, 92–93; SZABÓ–VADAY 2009, 303.

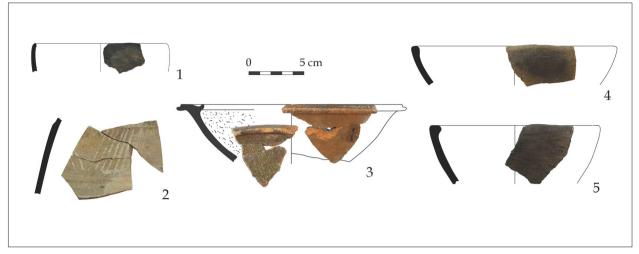


Fig. 16. Pottery finds from Pásztó-Csontfalva. 1-2: Feature 243; 3-5: Feature 271.

artefacts west from the Sajó River.<sup>60</sup> The ceramic material from Ózd-Stadion show Quad character,<sup>61</sup> meanwhile the finds from Miskolc-Szabadság tér, Szirmabesenyő-Homokbánya and Miskolc-Sötétkapu have analogies in the Quad and Przeworsk cultures as well.<sup>62</sup>

The definition of the frontier zone between the Sarmatian and Quad cultural territories is also problematic. Contrary to what has been observed in the Upper Tisza Basin where a sharp separation can be detected between the Przeworsk and Sarmatian territories, <sup>63</sup> while the Sarmatian and Quad sites were entangled in the southern zone of the mountainous region. However, the settlements were identified by field surveys, so it cannot be decided that the phenomena is caused by the chronological difference or the coexistence of the different cultural traits. <sup>64</sup> Any further step forward in the solution of this issue, however, can only be possible by analysis and publication of new sites from the region.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

The Roman Period settlement in Pásztó-Csontfalva can be dated to the  $4^{th}$  century AD which means the Periods C3 in the relative

chronology of Roman Iron Age in the Barbarian territories. 65 The evaluation of the site is quite important since no published settlement remains are available from the Early and Late Roman Period from this region. The investigated feature types such as the semi-subterranean building and the storage pits showed average forms which were widespread in the German Barbaricum in the Carpathian Basin. The ceramic material of the site shows a diversified picture. Although the fine and coarse hand-formed hemispherical bowls have analogies in the Quad territory the rich decoration is completely missing here. The hand-formed fine ware was frequently decorated in contemporary settlements alongside the Ipoly and also in the upper part of the Zagyva Valley. According to the present research, it cannot be decided that the phenomena was caused by the chronological or the regional differences of the sites. It is important to note, that the use of the fine, hand-formed and polished vessel types could be followed to the end of the Roman Period similar than the Przeworsk territory.66 The wheel-thrown vessels show analogies with the Late Roman Period Sarmatian settlement ceramic material, but some differences can be also observed. It is still questionable, that the wheel-turned pieces in Pásztó were derived from the Sarmatian territory in the Great Hungarian Plain or from an unidentifiable workshop which had produced pottery to the inhabitant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> SOÓS 2017, 36-37.

<sup>61</sup> PÁRDUCZ-KOREK 1959.

<sup>62</sup> VÉGH 1964; VÉGH 1999; PÁRDUCZ 1957.

<sup>63</sup> MASEK 2012, 255; SOÓS 2015, 361-362.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup>MRT 9 (1993); SZABÓ-VADAY 2009, 277; MRT 11 (2012), 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> GODŁOWSKI 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> SOÓS 2016, 458-459.

of the German settlements. The green-glazed *mortarium* indicated the connection with the Late Roman Pannonia. Summarising the results of the cultural linkage, the settlement finds of Pásztó-Csontfalva can be associated with the Quad material culture. We need much more analysed and published sites to solve the chronological and cultural problems of the mountainous region.

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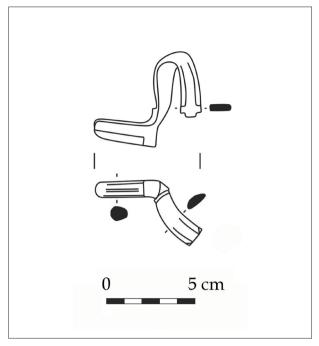


Fig. 17. Fragment a bronze fibula from Pásztó–Csontfalva. Stray find.

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#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

In alphabetical order

AA = Archäologischer Anzeiger

AARGNews = Aerial Archaeology Research Group News

ActaArchBrig = Acta Archaeologica Brigetionensia

ActaArchHung = Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae

ADPV = Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins

AEA = Archivo Español de Arqueologia

AEp = L'Année Épigraphique

AForschMB = Archäologische Forschungen zu den Grabungen auf dem Magdalensberg

ANRW = Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt

ANSMN = American Numismatic Society Museum Notes

Antaeus = Antaeus. Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae (1970-1985: Mitteilungen des Archäologiscen Instituts der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften)

AntAfr = Antiquités Africaines

AnthrAnz = Anthropologischer Anzeiger

AnthrKözl = Anthropologiai Közlemények

AntHung = Antiquitas Hungarica - A Klasszikus Örökség

AntJ = The Antiquaries Journal

AntTan = Antik Tanulmányok

AqFüz = Aquincumi Füzetek

AR = Archeologické Rozhledy

ArchÉrt = Archaeologiai Értesítő

ArchKorr = Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt

Arrabona = Arrabona. A Győri Xantus János Múzeum Évkönyve

AW = Antike Welt

BABesch = Bulletin Antieke Beschaving

BAR-IS = British Archaeological Reports - International Series

BJ = Bonner Jahrbücher des Rheinischen Landesmuseums in Bonn und des Vereins von Altertumsfreunden im Rheinlande

BudRég = Budapest Régiségei

CahTun = Cahiers de Tunisie

CarnJb = Carnuntum Jahrbuch

ČNM = Časopis národního Musea v Praze

CommArch Hung = Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae

Dacia = Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne

DaM = Damaszener Mitteilungen

DissArch = Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös Nominatae

DissPann = Dissertationes Pannonicae ex Instituto Numismatico et Archaeologico Universitatis de Petro Pázmány Nominatae Budapestinensis Proveniente

DNP = Der Neue Pauly. Enzyklopädie der Antike

FiL = Forschungen in Lauriacum

FolArch = Folia Archaeologica

Gnomon = Gnomon. Kritische Zeitschrift für die gesamte klassische Altertumswissenschaft

HistCarp = Historia Carpatica

HMRK = Heves Megyei Régészeti Közlemények

HNM = Hungarian National Museum

HOMÉ = A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve

JDAI = Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts

IGL = Inscriptions Grecques et Latines de la Syrie

LIMC = Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae

IKARUS = Innsburcker Klassisch-Archäologische Universitätsschriften

JAMÉ = Nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve

JRS = Journal of Roman Studies

JÖAI = Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archäologischen Institutes in Wien

KDMK = Kuny Domonkos Múzeum Közleményei

KMMK = Komárom-Esztergom Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei

Latomus = Latomus. Revue d'Études Latines

LIMC = Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae

LAAJ = Late Antique Archaeology Journal

MBV = Münchner Beiträge zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte

MFMÉ = A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve

MHIM = Military History Institute and Museum

MittArchInst = Mitteilungen des Archäologischen Instituts der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (1986- Antaeus. Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae)

MPK = Mitteilungen der Prähistorischen Kommission

MRGK = Materialen zur römisch-germanischen Keramik

NK = Numizmatikai Közlöny

NMMÉ = Nográd Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve

NNM = American Numismatic Society. Numimatic Notes and Monographs

NumAntCl = Numismatica e Antichità Classiche

RCRFA = Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta

RE = Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft

RégFüz = Régészeti Füzetek

RhM = Rheinisches Museum für Philologie

RKM = Régészeti Kutatások Magyarországon- Archaeological Investigations in Hungary

RLÖ = Der römische Limes in Österreich

RM = Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Römische Abteilung

RSL = Rivista di Studi Liguri

SchwMüBl = Schweizer Münzblätter

SlovArch = Slovenská Archeologia

SMK = Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei

SoSchrÖAI = Sonderschriften des Österreichischen Archäologischen Institute

StComit = Studia Comitatensia

StHist = Studia Historica. Historia Antigua

ŠtudZvest = Študijne Zvesti Arheologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akademie Vied Nitra.

Światowit = rocznik poświęcony archeologii przeddziejowej i badaniom

SaalbJb = Saalburg- Jahrbuch

Terra Sebus = Terra Sebus: Acta Musei Sabesiensis

VAMZ = Vjesnik Arheološkog Muzeja u Zagrebu

ZM = Zalai Múzeum

## ABBREVIATIONS OF ANTIQUE SOURCES

In alphabetical order

Cic, Verr. = Cicero, in Verrem actio

Macr, Sat. = Ambrosius Aurelius Theodosius Macrobius, Liber Saturnalia

Marcellin, Med. = Marcellus Ulpius, De Medicamentis

Pers. = Aulus Persius Flaccus, Satirae

Plaut, Rud. = Titus Maccius Plautus, Rudens

Porph, Hor. Sat. = Pomponius Porphyrius, Comentarii in Horatium Flaccum

Schol. Hor. Sat. = Keller, O.:Pseudacronis Scholia in Horatium Vetustiora (1902)

Schol. Pers. = Wessner, P.: Scholia in Iuvenalem Vetustoria (1931 Stuttgart)

Suet. = C. Suetonius Tranquillus, De vita Caesarum

Varro, ling. = M. Terentius Varro, De lingua Latina

Vitr, De Arch. = Vitruvius, De architectura libri decem

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