

# HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA FOR INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORICAL ANALYSES ON THE MOAT PROFILE OF THE TÜRBE COMPLEX OF SULTAN SULEIMAN I AT SZIGETVÁR – TURBÉK VINEYARD HILL SITE (HUNGARY)

## TÖRTÉNETI FORRÁSOK ÉS RÉGÉSZETI ADATOK AZ I. SZULEJMÁN SZULTÁN SZIGETVÁRI TÜRBE-KOMPLEXUMÁNAK ÉS VÉDŐÁRKÁNAK INTEGRÁLT KÖRNYEZETTÖRTÉNETI VIZSGÁLATÁHOZ SZIGETVÁR – TURBÉK SZŐLŐHEGYEN\*

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### Abstract

*Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent (1526–1566) died during the siege of Szigetvár in 1566 (between 1 and 2 a.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1566) in his imperial tent 4.5 kilometers from the castle, on the vineyard hill of Szigetvár – Turbék, Hungary. Later, around 1575 a makam türbe (memorial mausoleum) with a mosque and a dervish lodge was built on the place of his death; the complex was protected by a palisade and surrounded by a deep moat. The layout of the complex was drawn by Count Pál Esterházy (1635–1713) (later palatine and imperial prince) in 1664, during the Winter Campaign. Part of the memorial site and the adjoining small town (Turkish name: Türbe kasabası) burnt down in 1688, most of the buildings were removed by 1691, and by 1693 only the remains of the mausoleum's wall were left standing, which were soon pulled down. Later the area was used for agricultural purposes, with fields, orchards, gardens, and vineyards. The türbe and other associated buildings were covered with a layer of rubble from the demolition and soil. The significant site was identified in 2014 and was excavated by remote sensing, geophysical, geological, and archaeological investigations between 2015 and 2019.*

### Kivonat

*I. Szulejmán oszmán szultán (1526–1566) Szigetvár ostroma során, 1566. szeptember 7-én éjjel egy és két óra között a vártól 4,5 kilométerre halt meg az uralkodói sátorban, Szigetvár – Turbék szőlőhegyen. Halálának helyszínén később, 1575 körül egy ún. makam-türbét (emlékezeti mauzóleumot) építettek, mellé dzsámit és derviskolostort emeltek, a komplexumot pedig palánkfal védte, amelyet mély védőárok vett körül. A komplexum alaprajzát 1664-ben, a téli hadjárat idején Esterházy Pál gróf (1635–1713) (később nádor és birodalmi herceg) rajzolta le. Az emlékhely és a hozzá kapcsolódó kisváros (melynek török neve: Türbe kasabası) egy része 1688-ban leégett, 1691-ig az épületek legnagyobb részét elhordták, 1693-ban már csak a türbe falmaradványai álltak, amelyet hamarosan szintén elbontottak. A területet később mezőgazdasági célra hasznosították, szántóföldeket, gyümölcsösöket, kerteket és szőlőültetvényeket alakítottak ki. A türbét és a kapcsolódó más épületeket a*

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*bontásból származó törmelékkel és talajréteggel fedték be. A jelentős lelőhelyet 2014-ben sikerült beazonosítani, majd távérzékelési, geofizikai, geológiai és régészeti vizsgálatok révén 2015 és 2019 között feltárni.*

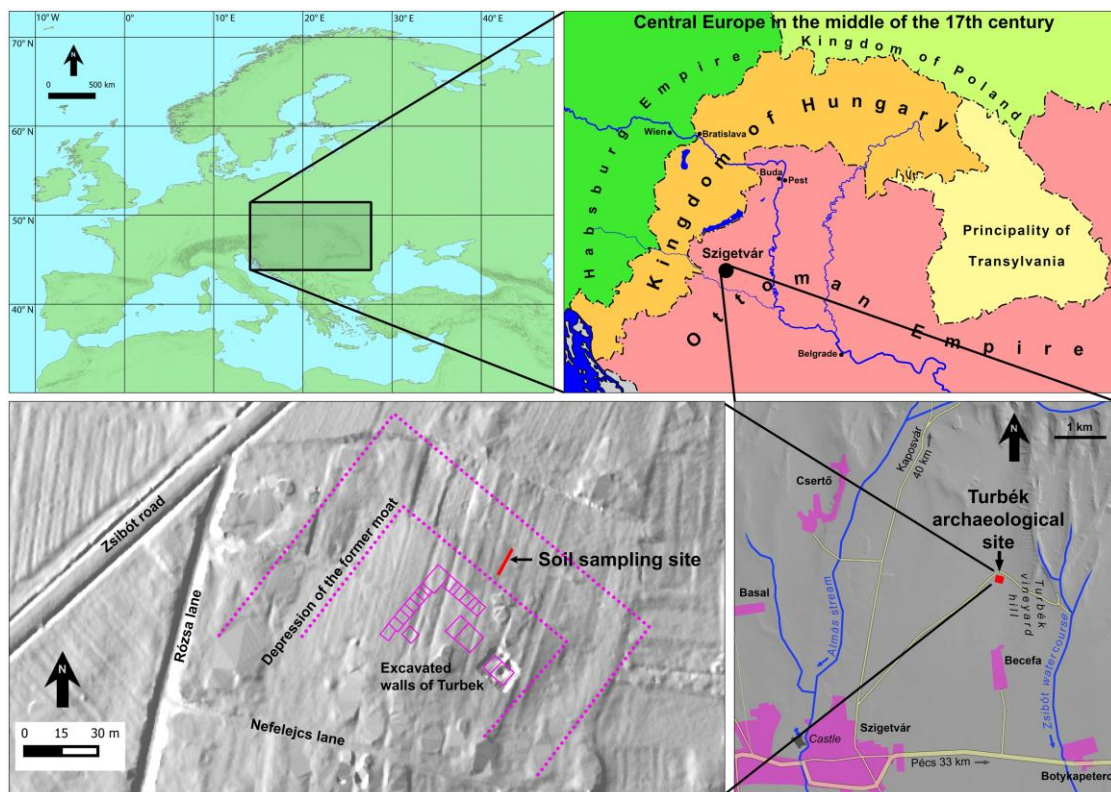
KEYWORDS: SULTAN SULEIMAN, TÜRBE, MOAT, 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

KULCSSZAVAK: SZULEJMÁN SZULTÁN, TÜRBE, ÁROK, 17. SZÁZAD

## Introduction

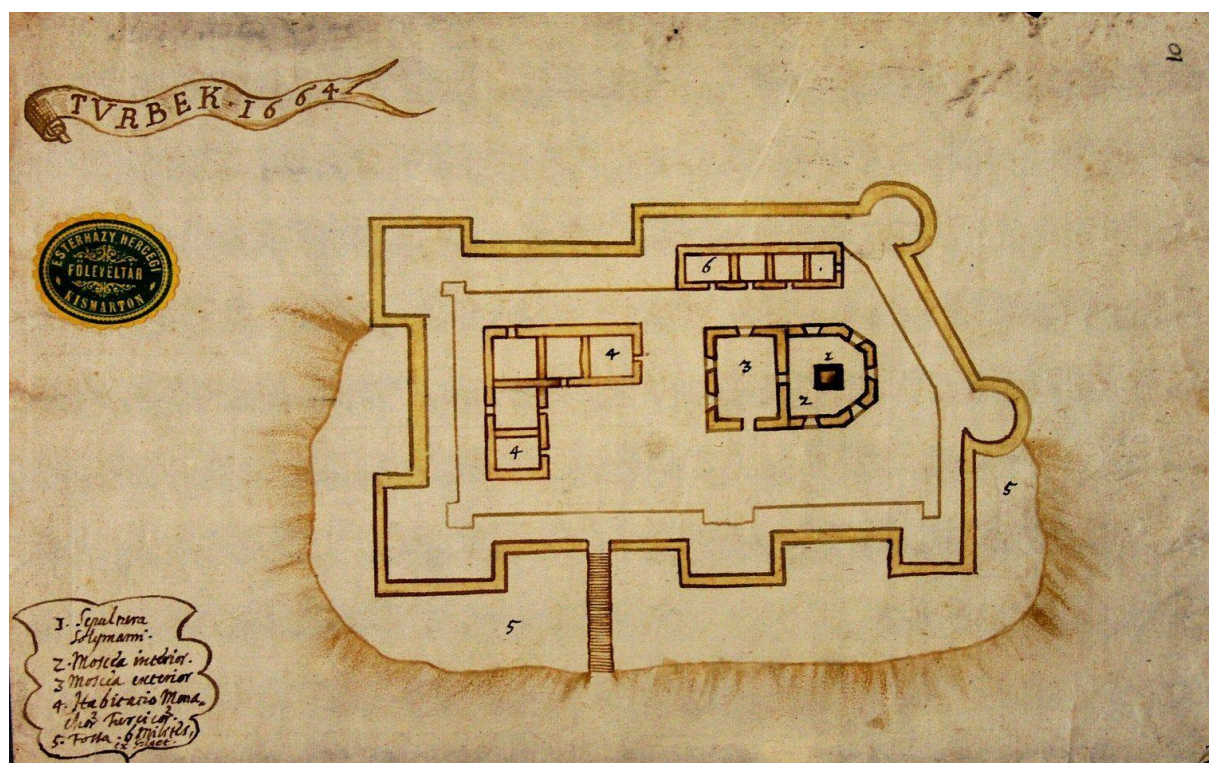
In August–September 1566, Szigetvár (SW Hungary) was the scene of events of world-historical significance. An Ottoman army led by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1494–1566), besieged the castle (Fig. 1.), which was defended by a Hungarian-Croatian army led by Nicolas of Zrin. The army besieged the town during which the ruler, in his 72<sup>nd</sup> year, died of an unknown illness in his tent. According to historical sources, some of the circumstances of his death are uncertain, especially the place of death. Several sources mentioned (Dağlı et al. 2003) that his body was temporarily buried and his internal organs permanently buried in the place where he died, but these claims have been a matter of dispute for some time. In any case, the mausoleum (*türbe*) erected around 1575 to commemorate his death, became famous, a monument to the Ottoman conquest and a symbolic tool of maintaining the conquest. The main informative source about the türbe and its surroundings was a drawing of 1664, made by

Count Pál Esterházy, later imperial prince and palatine (Fig. 2.). Based on this, not only a single building but also a settlement (called Turbék in Hungarian) was established on the site. The town has a special significance because it is the only settlement in Ottoman Hungary that was built and settled by the conquerors without any prior construction. Its architectural and land-use features, therefore, provide a unique opportunity to study Ottoman culture in Central Europe in its purest form. The settlers brought their specific plants and animals with themselves. The town existed for more than 120 years and was destroyed only around 1689 as a result of the campaign to liberate the area. The population around Szigetvár was replaced by the wars, and the continuity of memory was weakened. The location of the türbe and Turbék town has been forgotten. It was only at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that scientific interest arose and research on the mausoleum began (Németh 1903; Hal 1939; Kováts 1971; Gózszy 2012). The knowledge of the complex slowly increased, but the location of the buildings remained unknown until 2013–2014.



**Fig. 1.:** Location of the tomb of Suleiman I and the study area

**1. ábra:** Az I. Szulejmán mauzóleum helyzete és a tanulmányozott lelőhely



**Fig. 2.:** Pál Eszterházy's drawing of the tomb of Suleiman I in 1664.

2/1. Suleiman tomb (*türbe*); 2/2. interior of the Ottoman mosque; 2/3. outer place of the Ottoman mosque; 2/4. Ottoman lodge of the Halveti dervishes (*zaviye*); 2/5. moat of the Ottoman memorial place; 2/6. building of Ottoman soldiers guarding the memorial place

**2. ábra:** Eszterházy Pál rajza I. Szulejmán türbéről 1664-ből.

2/1. I. Szulejmán síremléke (*türbe*); 2/2. az oszmán dzsámi belső tere; 2/3. az oszmán dzsámi külső tere; 2/4. Halveti dervisek épülete (oszmán kolostor - *zaviye*); 2/5. az oszmán emlékhely árka; 2/6. az emlékhelyet őrző oszmán katonák épülete

### ***The latest research of the türbe complex***

The latest research started in early 2013 as a project of researchers from the University of Pécs, in which geographers, historians, and archaeologists worked together from the very beginning (Pap 2019). The localization of the türbe complex was completed by the end of 2014 through primary source analysis, environmental assessment, geospatial modelling, remote sensing, and field artifact collection. The archaeological excavation on the site – Szigetvár – Turbék vineyard hill – started in the autumn of 2015 with the involvement of the Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hancz 2017).

It is well known that the sultan died during the siege of Szigetvár but its approximate time between 1 and 2 a.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1566 is a new result (Fodor & Pap 2016, Pap & Kitanics 2020). His death took place in the imperial tent, where his body was temporarily and his internal organs permanently buried inside the tent. During the reign of his successor, Sultan Selim II (ruled 1566–1574), the place of Suleiman's death was first simply

marked (a memorial garden of fruit trees was created) and then a complex of a *makam türbe* (mausoleum) and several other buildings was erected in the memory of Sultan Suleiman (Pap et al. 2015; Fodor & Pap 2016, 2018; Hancz 2017; Pap 2019; Pap & Kitanics 2020).

This Ottoman memorial site was surrounded by a palisade wall and a defensive moat in several construction and renovation phases. Based on contemporary written sources and modern field investigations (remote sensing, ground-penetrating radar, collection of surface finds), a small settlement (*Türbe kasabası* = türbe town) consisting of two districts (*mahalle*) was established at a small distance south of the palisaded monument site, inhabited by civilian population (Fodor & Pap 2016, 2018; Pap 2019; Fodor 2020; Pap & Kitanics 2020). The memorial complex was raided by Hungarian and Croatian troops in 1664, during the Winter Campaign of Nicolas of Zrin (the 'Poet') (1620–1664) (Fodor & Pap 2016, 2018; Hancz 2020). At that time, a pen drawing of the memorial complex and the buildings located there was made (**Fig. 2.**). Suleiman's tomb (*türbe*), a mosque

(*mescit*, later a *cami*), the lodge (*zaviye*) of the Halveti Dervishes and the barracks of the Ottoman military garrison of the memorial site were built (Fodor & Pap 2016, 2018; Hancz 2017, 2020). A comparison of Pál Esterházy's pen drawing with the results of archaeological studies of several Turkish palisades in South Transdanubia (Barcs, Berzencze, etc.) has shown that the illustration reproduces some details quite accurately, while others are different (Kovács 2015).

Another depiction of the complex was made in 1689, when, during the recapture of Szigetvár, an Italian military engineer, Leandro Anguissola, made several maps of the town, its surroundings, and the defensive works on both sides of the siege blockade. Although only sketchy, this depiction shows more accurately the palisade and its main buildings as they were at the time, but does not present other elements of the terrain (Pap & Kitanics 2020). Compared to the two depictions, the real state of the complex and the development of the small settlement could only be clarified by archaeological investigations.

After the devastations of the Winter Campaign of 1664, the türbe complex and its associated palisade and the civilian settlement were rebuilt in the period of Sultan Mehmed IV. In 1688, when the Christian liberation troops blockaded Szigetvár, part of the türbe complex and the civilian settlement were burnt down. The large, gilded brass ornament (*alem*) on the top of the türbe and the lead ornament of the mausoleum were removed. The buildings of the mosque and the dervish lodge were demolished and their material was used for the construction of the city furnace and the buildings in the city of Szigetvár, for the fortification of the castle of Szigetvár and the repair of the houses of the military officers (Pap & Kitanics 2020). By 1693, only the remains of the türbe's walls had remained, but these were soon demolished also and the area was transformed into an agriculture zone with arable lands, orchards, gardens, and vineyards.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the local people still remembered the "Turkish" complex, known as the "*Török Sánc/Türkische Schantz*" (Kitanics 2014; Pap & Kitanics 2020), but by the 19<sup>th</sup> and especially the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the memory of the place where the Sultan's memorial and pilgrimage center once stood had completely faded away. Thus, primary source analysis, remote sensing, historical geographical surveys, aerial photo analysis, archaeological, geological field and laboratory analysis, and archaeological excavations were used to identify and excavate the Ottoman settlement, which was demarcated in 2015 (Kitanics 2014; Fodor & Pap 2017; Gyenizse et al. 2017; Pap & Kitanics 2020; Hancz 2017, 2020). The excavations took place between 2015 and 2019.

The first to be excavated was the türbe which was erected in the memory of Sultan Suleiman at the site of his temporary burial. Later other buildings were also excavated in the following order: the adjacent *mescit* (later a *cami*), the lodge of the Halveti Dervishes (*zaviye*), the barracks of the palisade garrison and the building for the reception of pilgrims (guest house). In the meantime, several excavations were carried out on sections of the palisade wall and the defensive moat surrounding the complex. The work not only led to the above-mentioned identifications but also to a clarification of the extent, shape, and relationship of the buildings (Pap & Kitanics 2020; Hancz 2017, 2020).

The archaeological excavations at Turbék, in line with written sources, have established that the southern wing of the monastery was built later than the northern and western wings. The foundation walls of this wing were not directly connected to the western wing. The construction of the walls was of better quality: they were also built of Turkish bricks but with much more bonding material, while the beams placed horizontally in the foundation walls were not detectable here. This part of the building was plastered in comparison with the northern and western wings of the monastery: the plaster fragments show that it was partly white and partly painted and patterned in red. While it was not visible in the rest of the monastery, here, on the outside of the building, on the south side, facing the entrance, there was a pavement of red bricks laid in mortar, so that in rainy weather the footwear of visitors would not be muddy. In addition, green glazed roof tiles were the only other feature to give this wing of the building a unique appearance.

In contrast to the other two (northern and southern) wings, which contained the small living quarters of the dervishes, a *chilehane* for retreat, a pit, and the ceremonial room of the monastery, where no luxuries were found, the excavation revealed objects of high quality. The five rooms, wider than the dervishes' cells, yielded fragments of a small faience cup, fragments of glazed bowls, blue-painted tin-glazed pottery, stove fragments, and plaster fragments with incised Arabic lettering, among other things. In addition, buckles, pendants, heart-shaped beads, fragments of glass bangles, copper bangles, beads, silver buttons, and clasps belonging to the switch pair belts worn by the women of the families who stayed here, appeared. Interestingly, shells, including oyster shells, were also found here, which could have been chilled in ice and consumed by wealthier, prominent guests.

Overall, the much more sophisticated and comfortable design of this part of the building, the larger rooms than those in the dervishes' living quarters, and the finds listed, especially those

relating to women, suggest that this wing was used as a guest house.

Due to the written sources, it was possible to clarify the land use of the area, to identify the related estates of the ‘Suleiman türbe foundation’ (*vakıf*), their economic character, and the economic functions of the settlement (Fodor 2020; Pap & Kitaniacs 2020).

The most important aspect of this work was the discovery of the moat in front of the palisade (Fig. 2.), which was also indicated on the drawing of Pál Esterházy, and which protected the türbe and played a drainage role as well. The study based on archaeological data and historical written sources also grounded the research in the field of environmental history. This included the excavation of the protective moat of the Ottoman settlement and a complex analysis of the filling material of the moat.

### Joint research and aims

The complexity of the environmental historical study of the türbe and its surroundings is emphasized with the contribution of data from many different origins and types by experts involved in the research. Peter Gyenizse provided cartographic, remote sensing, and GIS support. Erika Hancz, a senior archaeologist, carried out the observations on the site and the selection of the sampling sites. Máté Kitaniacs, Pál Fodor, and Norbert Pap analyzed the land use characteristics of the area in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and collected religious and cultural customs specific to the environmental history of the area based on written sources and historical maps. The environmental historical studies were led and coordinated by Pál Sümegei. The geochronological, geochemical, and sedimentological investigations have been published earlier in Gulyás et al. 2022, thus we will focus on the presentation of the performed geoarchaeological studies and their interpretation (Torma et al. 2023b). The archaeobotanical analysis was carried out by Andrea Torma, Katalin Náfrádi and Tünde Töröcsik (Torma et al. 2023a), while the archaeozoological studies were conducted by Beáta Tugya (Tugya 2023). The malacological assemblage was analysed by Pál Sümegei (Sümegei 2023). The manuscripts were edited and corrected by Katalin Náfrádi.

The joint integrated research included the excavation of the türbe and the moat surrounding the memorial place from the north, and the geoarchaeological investigation of its filling to learn about the exact age and environment of the site, the crops cultivated and utilized, the animals kept, and bred, the diet of the inhabitants, and to reconstruct the narrower and wider natural and anthropogenic environment of the former türbe complex.

Following the excavation and sampling, it was possible to carry out a detailed archaeobotanical, and archaeozoological analysis of the sedimentary material of the moat, to map the environmental history of the türbe complex and the adjacent small town, and to refine the written data by comparing them with the environmental historical results.

### Contribution of authors

**Pap Norbert** Writing – Original draft, spatial analysis. **Fodor Pál** Writing – Ottoman sources. **Kitaniacs Máté** Writing – Christian sources. **Gyenizse Péter** GIS and Cartography. **Hancz Erika** Writing – Archaeology.

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