



# AT THE GATES



PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACT BOOK

## Abstract book

### **At the Gates of the Balkans – Prehistoric communities of the Baranya/Baranja region and the adjacent areas**

International round-table conference organized by the Janus Pannonius Museum, Pécs and the Institute of Archaeology, Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest  
February 23–24, 2017 Pécs, Hungary

Conference Venue:  
Csontváry Museum, 11 Janus Pannonius utca, Pécs, Hungary



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Nemzeti Kulturális Alap



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BEFEKTETÉS A JÖVŐBE

The conference is supported by the National Cultural Fund of Hungary  
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(*Neolithic communities in the contact zone between the Balkans and Central Europe in the second  
half of the 6th millennium BC* research project, grant code: K112366)

**Thursday, 23rd February**

9.00–10.55

**REGISTRATION****MORNING SESSION**

Chair: Ferenc Horváth

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**General discussion – Eneolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age**

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# NOTES

23rd February, 11.10–11.35

## **South-east Transdanubia as a region of transition, link and cradle: the prehistoric evidence**

*Krisztián Oross, János Jakucs, Csilla Gáti and Tibor Marton*

The two organisers of the conference, the Janus Pannonius Museum in Pécs and the Institute of Archaeology, RCH, Hungarian Academy of Sciences have a slightly diverse approach to the territory in focus both from a geographical perspective and because of the investigated period. On the other hand, we are very common in recognising the exceptional character of the region in course of our recent research activity. The investigations are targeting the key area that serves as a transitory zone between south-east and central Europe.

The Neolithic team of the Institute of Archaeology, RCH, HAS started to excavate extended LBK sites on the southern shore of Lake Balaton one and a half decades ago. The area broadly coincides with the northernmost distribution of the Starčevo culture in Transdanubia. We detected settlements and find assemblages that look very central European in many aspects, but represent an admixture with characteristics restricted to southern Transdanubia. Later on, excavations were carried out on Neolithic sites of the Tolnai Sárköz region such as on the LBK site of Tolna-Mözs and in Alsónyék-Bátaszék, the latter occupied over one thousand years in the Neolithic. Finally, we were involved to the evaluation of two sites (Szederkény and Versend) in Baranya county where the presence of the Vinča culture can not be regarded simply as a southern impact, it is sometimes the principal component of local assemblages. Thus, our field of view was gradually extended towards the south. Beside the archaeological assessments, we could take part in international projects targeting absolute chronological dating with AMS radiocarbon series and various bioarchaeological investigations such as aDNA research.

The Bronze and the Iron Age has also a distinguished character north and south of the confluence of the Danube and the Dráva/Drava rivers. Recent excavations in the framework of preventive archaeology shed light on the chronology of the local Late Bronze Age and Iron Age that was uncertain for a long time. The recently evaluated assemblages of the Tumulus culture provided solid evidence for cultural relationships, exchange and entanglement on regional level and beyond. Similar tendencies could be observed in the period of the Iron Age Srem culture in the 6th–4th centuries BC. Bronze depots revealed important information on connections in a region that is basically regarded as underprivileged in metals. The re-discovery of Vučedol is a good example for further opportunities hidden in previously known sites and assemblages. The same statement can be made when the recent investigations in Batina are focused.

This contribution can not provide a systematic summary for the entire spectrum of the event. Instead of a register of sites or excavations we would like to flash some spotlights from our viewpoint to introduce a two-days discussion of Croatian, Serbian and Hungarian colleagues where they can share results and ideas on the Prehistory of the Baranya/Baranja region.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 11.35–12.00*

**State of research of Neolithic and Eneolithic sites in Baranja (Croatian part)**

*Jacqueline Balen, Ana Đukić and Dragana Rajković*

Croatian part of Baranja is an outstandingly rich archaeological region – it is an area with a long settlement history, from Prehistory to the modern day, which is a result of its exceptionally favorable geographic position and the diverse landscape which met the needs of different archaeological populations, some of which inhabited lowland swamp-like, and others elevated hilly areas. In this review we will try to encompass and present sites ascribed to Neolithic and Eneolithic periods represented in Baranja (Croatia), with special reference to old test and systematic excavations, as well as to archaeological field surveys and the latest research on the route of the future A5 motorway which were conducted in 2014 and 2015. We will also include many extremely valuable and rare chance individual or group finds which are stored in Croatian museums, all with the aim of presenting the rich archaeological heritage of the area.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 12.00–12.25*

### **Velimirovac-Arenda 1. Neolithic settlement, Starčevo culture**

*Danimirka Podunavac*

The remains of a Neolithic settlement of the Starčevo culture were discovered during the rescue archaeological excavation that was carried out in the spring of 2011 at the site Velimirovac-Arenda 1 near Našice (middle part of Slavonia region, Croatia). The settlement is located on an elevated position in the lowland area, on the southern edge of the Drava plain. The total of 1950 square meters explored area contains 68 pits with archaeological finds, among which two large pit houses and one working pit stand out. In the eastern part of the settlement is the workspace, which is fenced and separated from the residential part of the settlement, located to the west of it. Surface finds, collected during the field survey in the area around the site, have shown that a bigger part of the settlement probably spreads further to the south. Pits contain a large quantity of pottery and utilitarian objects made of clay and stone. Most of the pottery has a rough surface, decorated with various “impresso” techniques and plastic applications. Fine pottery is represented by dishes on low hollow leg, decorated with linear motifs that have barely preserved traces of black paint. A preliminary analysis of the findings showed that this settlement belongs to the early classical phase of development of the Starčevo culture.

# NOTES

23rd February, 12.25–12.50

### **Neolithic bone artefacts from the site Kneževi Vinogradi-Osnovna škola**

*Selena Vitezović and Dragana Rajković*

A multilayered prehistoric site of Osnovna škola (Elementary school) is located in the center of Kneževi Vinogradi. The locality is situated on the southern slopes of BANSKO BRDO, on the edge of the marshes that stretch to the banks of the former course of the river Danube.

The site has been known since the early 1980s, when the Museum of Slavonia received a donation, the head of the Vinča culture anthropomorphic figurine, found during the construction work on a house foundation near the local elementary school.

Protective archaeological excavations in 2003 were carried out before the construction of a sports hall in the elementary school complex. The total area of research was about 140 square meters. The stratigraphy of the excavated area confirmed the presence of the Starčevo and Sopot culture. Starčevo ceramic finds belong to the late classical phase of the Starčevo culture-Spiraloid A-phase, the Sopot culture pottery is attributed to the II Stage, according to the periodization by S. Dimitrijević. The Sopot culture pottery, showed an influence of the Vinča culture, but does not exclude the presence of the Vinča culture population at the site.

In this paper the first results of the analysis of the assemblage of osseous artefacts will be presented – mainly from bone but also from several antler artefacts. They were analysed from techno-typological viewpoint, and the finds of the manufacture debris also enabled the reconstruction of *chaîne opératoire*.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 14.30–14.55*

**Results of new excavations at Ražište site near Podgorač and Vrancari site near Donji Miholjac in the Drava region**

*Katarina Botić*

New small-scale excavations at Ražište site near Podgorač in 2013 and 2015 yielded the first radiocarbon dates for early Ražište type of Sopot culture comparable to radiocarbon dates at Szederkény-Kukorica-dűlő. Remains of material culture, i.e. pottery show possible two phases of the site. In 2015 rescue excavations at Vrancari site on southern by-pass route of Donji Miholjac yielded remains of LBK culture, possibly its early phase. Several long houses of northeast-southwest orientation placed in a row were discovered. New data raises the same question of contemporaneity of Vinča A, Ražište and early phase of LBK in the region south of Drava river although sites in question do not show direct contemporaneity of cultures as it is the case with Szederkény-Kukorica-dűlő site.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 14.55–15.20*

**Villány-Villányvirágos. Ražište-type of finds of the early Sopot culture in Transdanubia**

*Ferenc Horváth*

In my contribution published in the volume entitled „Homage to Milutin Garašanin” (Belgrade, 2006) I have collected new data on interrelations between the Carpathian basin and the Vinča complex with particular regard to southern Transdanubia and southern Alföld (Great Hungarian Plain). Taking into account the early Vinča traits amongst the early Linearbandkeramik assemblages (human figurines and other ritual objects, the origin of a peculiar motif of the eastern central European Linearbandkeramik [LBK], tempering the pottery by inorganic materials, even certain features of the chipped lithic tools) I emphasized that, material culture of the early Vinča communities might have participated much stronger to the evolution of LBK than it had previously been suspected. Outstanding importance of the Danube Valley — as a contact zone — in the field of interrelations between the two archaeological units, can be followed from the southern Baranya/Baranja region well beyond the river-head has also been stressed. As a result of these processes — I delineated the appearance of the pottery representing the Slavonian Ražište-type of the early Sopot culture in Transdanubia in the Baranya region, north of the Drava by a surface assemblage, turned up years ago.

My actual presentation focuses a detailed exposition on the artefacts of the Villány-Villányvirágos site, imbedding them into the evolution-line of the Transdanubian Neolithic, taking into account the possible influences of those processes weltered parallel in the Northern Bácska–Bánság/Bačka–Banat.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 15.20–15.45*

**Early Vinča and Ražište-type pottery in south-east Transdanubia.  
Problems of existence, non-existence and coexistence**

*János Jakucs and Vanda Voicsek*

Over the past decade, in course of excavations along the M6/M60 motorways, extended Neolithic settlements came to light in Baranya county in south-east Transdanubia. The finds of Szederkény-Kukorica-dűlő confirmed the assumption, that early Vinča culture and the Ražište type of the early Sopot culture were present north of the Drava river on the right bank of the Danube. In Szederkény, we face the unique situation that although the main characteristics of the finds clearly resemble to those of more southern regions, the uncovered building structures conform to the architectural principles of the central European LBK. It was also observed for the first time, that the early Vinča and Ražište style pottery occurred on the same settlement, but as find assemblages of clearly distinct house groups. As part of a recently completed dating programme we had the opportunity to perform about forty new radiocarbon measurements. On the one hand, these new data have shown that the appearance of the Vinča culture north of the Drava river can be dated to the earliest Vinča (A1a) period. On the other hand, according to the formal modelling of radiocarbon dates, Ražište and Vinča ceramic styles proved to be broadly coeval traditions, lived side by side instead of being succeeding entities as previously assumed. The results raise several questions that can be answered only partially or not at all from the perspective of the northern periphery of this cultural phenomena. Among the observations there are some, in case of which it can not be decided whether they are only a local specificity of sites located north of the Drava river, or they occurred elsewhere in Croatia as well.

# NOTES

23rd February, 15.45–16.10

**Regional dynamics of 6th millennium cal BC Neolithic settlements between Lake Balaton and the Dráva/Drava river**

*Tibor Marton, Gergely Gortva, János Jakucs, Gábor Serlegi, Bence Vágvölgyi and Krisztián Oross*

Very limited evidence is available on the Mesolithic presence in Transdanubia, our knowledge was restricted to surface collections and one single excavated site until recently. The Early Neolithic settlement of the region was generally labelled to be scarce as well. Nevertheless, based on recent evidence from the Tolnai Sárköz area, the Starčevo occupation at Alsónyék represents a much larger and more intensively used site over a range of generations than previously suggested.

In the framework of a four-year regional project we focus on broadly contemporaneous sites in three different microregions. The investigated Neolithic communities lived within an approximately fourteen-thousand square kilometer large area between Lake Balaton and the Dráva/Drava river during the later 6th millennium cal BC. One of them lies on the southern shore of Lake Balaton, while another is located on the plain of the Danube on its right bank in the Tolnai Sárköz. At a closer look to these two microregions located north of Baranya/Baranja, settlement layouts and traces of one-time buildings proved to be similar, they share the timber-framed architecture of the Linearbandkeramik culture. Ceramic assemblages show however considerable differences. The characteristics of the pottery from Balatonszárszó can be described using formerly recorded Transdanubian LBK categories. In contrast, there are much more detectable Starčevo and Vinča traits along the LBK elements present at Tolna-Mözs and Alsónyék. The extended occupation of the Sopot (II.) culture at Alsónyék marks already the eve of the local Late Neolithic with its specific material culture and temporal setting.

Temporal aspects of the appearance of the first food-producing communities, the pace of the spread of the Neolithic in the region and the development of the settlement system could be mentioned among the most inspiring research tasks. According to the analysed settlements, an abundance of spatial variations of coevally existing pottery styles has also been observed both on household and intrasite levels. Interpreting entangled assemblages, i.e. when different pottery styles coexisted in the material of various contemporary households of the same settlement, is of particular importance as well.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 16.30–16.55*

**Utilizing landscapes. Micro-regional scale investigation of settlement patterns in southern Transdanubia**

*Gábor Serlegi and Bence Vágvölgyi*

In understanding of a Prehistoric population based on its archaeological heritage the investigation of its way of life and its strategy for utilizing spatial circumstances are as much important factors as the research of its material culture or traces of its spiritual life. Exhaustive processing of any available spatial data on the location of Prehistoric settlements and the reconstruction of the different characteristics of their natural environment tells us not only where they lived, but also helps us to understand the natural and cognitive environment they lived in and utilized to their advantage, shaping it as much as it shaped them.

Therefore, it was imperative for us to keep this approach in focus in course of our research of the changes in large- and small-scale settlement patterns during the Neolithic period in Transdanubia.

In our contribution, we present the methods and the preliminary results of the systematic micro-regional surveys employed at the current stage of our research that aims to characterize the changing face of this region.

# NOTES

*23rd February, 16.55–17.20*

### **Cultural impacts in two Middle Neolithic settlements in Tolna county**

*András Füzesi*

Paks-Gyapa-Rosti-puszta and Bölske-Gyűrűsvölgy are situated close to river Danube in the northern part of Tolna county, southern Transdanubia. Both sites represent the Notenkopf and Zselíz/Želiezovce phases of the Transdanubian Linearbandkeramik culture (TLBK) and both sites give an opportunity to conduct wide-spectrum observations due to the size of the excavated areas and the variety of the settlement features. Bipartite, post-structure buildings can be interpreted as the forerunners of the Late Neolithic Lengyel-type houses. Burials covered with pottery reflect a spatially and temporally wide spread rite from Anatolia to the Carpathian Basin. The ceramic material is the mixture of Keszthely, Notenkopf and Zselíz/Želiezovce elements. Some sherds reflect Vinča, Sopot, Szakálhát impact and prove multidirectional cultural relations of this region.

# NOTES

23rd February, 17.20–17.45

**Late Neolithic lithic assemblage from Alsónyék: the significance of the local supply zone's lithic raw material**

*Kata Szilágyi*

Alsónyék-Bátaszék is a very extensive Neolithic site in south-east Transdanubia (Tolna county). The majority of the uncovered features could be assigned to the Late Neolithic Lengyel culture. Nearby 7000 pieces of stone tools came to light from borrowing-pits and burials. Two kinds of radiolarite prevail in the raw material distribution (Mecsek and Bakony type of radiolarite). The source of the Mecsek radiolarite signifies the local supply zone; this is the east part of the Mecsek Mountains which locates 15–30 kilometers from the site. The local radiolarite was regularly collected and was largely able to cater the raw material claim of the region. Actually the provenience investigation of Mecsek radiolarite stands in rudimentary level. We know the geological site of the local radiolarite from Komló, Hosszúhetény, Kisújbánya, Óbánya, Magyaregregy and Vékény.

The ratio of the local raw material is nearly equivalent among the settlement finds and the burial grave goods. Based on the amount of cores and flakes, we can presume that there was a systematic stone tool production on the settlement. The preparation and preliminary flakes occur in low amount which refers that shaping of cores happened outside the settlement. The stone assemblage at Alsónyék is almost identical to the stone collections, which came to light from emblematic sites of the Lengyel culture in south-east Transdanubia. The scale of raw materials and the dominance of blades show very similar tendency among these sites.

# NOTES

24th February, 9.00–9.25

### **Josipovac Punitovački-Veliko Polje I, Eneolithic settlement**

*Lea Čataj*

The site Josipovac Punitovački-Veliko polje I is situated near Đakovo in the Slavonia region. It was excavated by Croatian Conservation Institute during 2007 and 2008 as a part of the rescue archaeological excavations on the route of the future highway A5. On the surface of 44 000 square meters, remains of Eneolithic, Bronze Age and medieval settlements were discovered.

From the Eneolithic period settlements of Retz-Gajary culture and Boleraz horizon were unearthed revealing their inner organization. Remains of the Retz-Gajary settlement include almost 70 pit objects (hearths, working pits, wells, middens, etc.) and an above-ground house. The structures were placed quite scarcely in the wider area, and some parts inside the settlement with complete lack of archaeological features were noticed as well. Pottery finds display characteristic forms and decorations for this culture. Animal bone remains suggest that cattle raising was the main part of the economy. Sherd of a pouring vessel is a proof for minimal presence of copper technology. According to four AMS radiocarbon dates this settlement is dated between 3960 and 3640 cal BC.

Settlement of Boleraz horizon was confirmed by 19 pit objects, characteristic pottery and two AMS radiocarbon dates ranging from 3640 to 3340 cal BC. For a long period of time, the prevailing opinion was that the earliest phase of the Baden culture was not especially represented in Croatia which was confuted by recent archaeological excavations as well as revisions of the results from the earlier excavations.

# NOTES

*24th February, 9.25–9.50*

**Faunal remains and the bone industry from the Late Eneolithic site Josipovac – Gravinjak, eastern Croatia**

*Kazimir Miculinić and Selena Vitezović*

The site of Gravinjak is situated near the village of Josipovac, near Osijek and was discovered and investigated during construction of the highway Osijek–Đakovo in 2007. Approximately 24 000 square meters were excavated and the remains of a one-layered settlement of Baden culture were discovered. Most of the material was dug from sediment inside of the waste pits, pits from pit-houses and one sediment layer. In this paper will be presented the results of the analyses of both faunal remains and osseous artefacts. Most common animals in the assemblage are wild species: red deer, roe deer, wild boar, hare and aurochs. Identified domestic animals are cattle, dog, goat, sheep and pig. Approximately 100 artefacts were noted, mainly tools for different crafts, such as pointed and burnishing tools, mainly from bone but from antler as well.

# NOTES

*24th February, 9.50–10.15*

**New data from old collections: revised analysis of the Zók site (excavations in 1920)**

*Jovan Mitrović and Selena Vitezović*

The Zók site is an important multi-layered prehistoric site in the Baranya region. The remains of Eneolithic Lasinja-Balaton culture, Late Eneolithic Baden culture and Early Bronze Age Vučedol-Zók and Somogyvár-Vinkovci culture were discovered.

The first excavations on a relatively large area were carried out in 1920 by D. Karapandžić and the National Museum in Belgrade but were never published in detail. Now, almost 100 years after the excavations, revised scientific analyses of the rich portable material from ceramic, stone and bone, kept today in the National Museum, provide new insights on the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age in the region.

# NOTES

*24th February, 10.15–10.40*

### **Early Bronze Age settlements in southern Transdanubia**

*Gabriella Kulcsár*

The complex research of the settlement networks, covering multiple levels from the smallest units to the largest settlements, enables us to investigate the questions of social organization e.g., in the Bronze Age. Enclosed or fortified settlements are usually those that are distinguished from the others by their size, complex internal structure and strategic location. Their size and the (simple or complex) structure can also reflect several aspects of Bronze Age societies.

At the beginning of the Bronze Age (after Hungarian terminology) in southern Transdanubia, Slavonia and Syrmia late Vučedol and then Somogyvár-Vinkovci type material can be found. In southern Transdanubia, south of Lake Balaton, and especially in the south-central part of the basin, along the Danube between Dunaszekcső in Hungary in the north and Belgrade in the south, a series of fortified hilltop sites are known with Vučedol style material, clearly controlling the route of the Danube from these strategic locations.

Recent aerial reconnaissance and field survey in a smaller area south of the city of Pécs and the Mecsek Mountains and in the Kapos Valley in southern Transdanubia revealed an interesting network of settlements. This shows a much greater density of such sites in a small region than previously expected and indicates that we have to expect more complex settlement networks at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age. Almost all of these settlements have yielded evidence for local manufacture of shaft-hole axes, as indicated by mould and crucible fragments. However, even in this area most of the settlements were smaller, open settlements. It is possible that these settlements were already part of a two-tiered hierarchy with fortified central sites and smaller satellite settlements or temporarily used camp sites.

The aim of the paper is to examine the fortified settlements of the first half of the 3rd millennium BC in the southern part of Transdanubia/Hungary, with special attention to (1) their function and position in the landscape, (2) their role within the settlement or economic units of the period, and (3) their role in the cognitive and symbolic systems of the period, to decide whether their foundation was accidental or the result of a premeditated decision.

# NOTES

*24th February, 11.00–11.25*

### **Vučedol culture and its impact on the Danube region**

*Mirela Hutinec*

The new unique museum, dedicated to Vučedol culture, built on the eponymous archaeological site, conducts the systematic excavations. Vučedol provides new finds and discoveries every year which confirm high standard of the culture and show the communications and relations in the middle Danube region.

In this paper the reach of the Eneolithic civilisation of the Vučedol culture will be presented. The paper discusses the prehistoric community of the Vučedol culture that was established in the area between Danube, Sava and Drava rivers and its distribution spread on the territory of 13 modern European countries.

Based on the interdisciplinary archaeological excavations since 1984, numerous scientific data show the high level of development of a society in everyday living such as in technology and spiritual sphere. It is possible to detect and investigate Vučedol culture settlements in Sirmium, Slavonia and Baranja/Baranya regions and its impact on the wider region.

# NOTES

24th February, 11.25–11.50

### **Updating Early/Middle Bronze Age in the southern Baranya**

*Daria Ložnjak Dizdar*

Area of the southern Baranja/Baranya between Drava and Danube rivers has been a natural passage to the Balkans from the north or from southern perspective – path from the southern Carpathian basin to the Middle Danubian region. Besides the existence of important communication routes, environment in this region is one of the most suitable for living in the Carpathian basin. Settlement density in the Early/Middle Bronze Age (according Central European chronology Br A2/B1-2, Bóna's Middle Bronze Age 2-3) demonstrate that this part of the Carpathian basin was an area of encountering different communities who had lived along the Danube and its hinterland. Those communities had clearly different identities which can be recognize in pottery styles and mortuary practices. This paper will discuss the obviously existing distinguishes between Encrusted Pottery, Vatia and Vatina/Belegiš I communities in the wider framework.

The Institute of Archaeology has excavated several sites in 2014 and 2015 which changed previously knowledge about settlement infrastructure and mortuary practices at the end of Early and the beginning of Middle Bronze Age. Explored area of contemporary EBA settlement and cemetery in Beli Manastir-Širine and excavated area of fortified MBA settlement in Jagodnjak-Napuštene njive give possibilities in updating several Early/Middle Bronze Age topics in Baranja/Baranya and in wider area: settlement infrastructure, pottery production, relationship to contemporary cemeteries, mortuary practices, contacts with neighbours... In the Bronze Age, the area of Baranja/Baranya was a region where communities with different identities lived and shared area and benefits of this fertile part in the heart of the Carpathian basin.

# NOTES

*24th February, 11.50–12.15*

### **Middle Bronze Age mortuary practices from southern Transdanubia**

*Viktória Kiss*

The presentation focuses upon Early and Middle Bronze Age cemeteries and different forms of burials dating between 2000 and 1500 BC. At the turn of the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC formerly only cremation burials deposited in urns or inhumation burials without ceramic vessels, or with no grave goods at all, were documented from the central regions of western Hungary. In recent decades however, large-scale excavations produced a considerable amount of new information from southern Transdanubia during the period in question. Research revealed the use of biritual cemeteries containing both cremations and inhumations, associated with the Early Bronze Age Kisapostag or the earliest Transdanubian Encrusted Pottery style. Later, during the Middle Bronze Age, cremation becomes the dominant burial rite, while inhumation burials in domestic refuse pits also frequently occur. As the absolute dating of these burials are becoming available (through projects such as Nr. 108597 funded by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund and the Lendület Mobility Research project of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) here we attempt to outline the process of how the practice of cremation was established in southwest Hungary during the Middle Bronze Age (Reinecke Br A2) while touching upon the phenomena of 'deviant' pit-burials; a mortuary ritual not yet fully understood.

# NOTES

*24th February, 12.15–12.40*

### **Bronze Age settlement at the site Osijek-Zeleno polje**

*Marijana Krmpotić*

During the archaeological excavations on the pipeline route at the site Osijek-Zeleno polje, a part of the Bronze Age settlement was explored in 2015. Around 2700 square meters of the settlement were excavated. The settlement was founded during the Middle Bronze Age and existed until the older phase of the Late Bronze Age. On the basis of the stratigraphic indicators and the small archaeological finds it was possible to distinguish three phases of this settlement. Two phases belong to the Middle Bronze Age and the last one to the Late Bronze Age. Exploration of a larger area, although only 10 m width, enabled making certain conclusions about the structure of the settlement during these phases. Significant changes in the settlement's organization were noticed at the turn of the older to a younger Middle Bronze Age phase. In this period, the encrusted pottery, similar to that of the Szeremle culture, disappeared. Further on, settlement existed in the terms of the development of the Belegiš culture. It is obvious that in the Osijek area, as well as in the whole north-east Slavonia, there were different cultural influences in the younger phase of the Middle Bronze Age. Results of the archaeological excavations at the Osijek-Zeleno polje site answered some questions about the lasting of the encrusted pottery, as well as about the organization and structure of the settlement in this period. They also enabled monitoring the transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age in this area. On the other hand, they raised questions about the character and the reasons for the noticed changes which took place around the transition from the Br C1 to the Br C2 stage, and the problem of the cultural determination of the region in this period.

# NOTES

*24th February, 14.15–14.40*

**From Middle to Late Bronze Age: case study from Siklós-Téglagyár**  
*Péter Mali*

The development of the Bronze Age B to D period in Baranya county is very characteristic thanks to the geographical and cultural position of the territory. As the contact zone between the central European Tumulus culture and the Balkan region a mixed material culture rose up in the early phases, which was emphasized even more with the local tradition and the Mecsek Mountains that closed the territory from the northern influences. As the contact zone moved, the region's uniqueness disappeared, and the general Transdanubian Tumulus, then the early Urnfield material culture appeared. The new excavations shed some light on the process making the steps clear, but connections cannot be investigated based on them as they usually discovered short-lived settlements and graves. The whole process can be observed through the Siklós-2.sz. Téglagyár site, excavated by Gábor Bándi in the late 1960s, but is unpublished as of now. The material itself is not large in the number of finds, but the settlement itself shows a continuous evolution from the pure Szeremle period, before the evident Tumulus influences, to the beginning of the Urnfield period. As of Siklós, the processes of development can be seen, the data from the recently excavated sites provide important details that contribute to the interpretation of the Siklós site.

# NOTES

*24th February, 14.40–15.05*

### **Bronze Age sickles in the hoards of the Baranya region**

*Eszter Fejér*

The south-east Transdanubian region is important for the research of the deposition practices, since the quantity and assortment of the Late Bronze Age hoards in this area are remarkable. The sickles are one of the most common artefacts in these hoards, therefore their investigation is the main focus of my studies. This paper deals not only with the quantity and variety of bronze sickles in south-east Transdanubia but also applies use-wear analyses. It aims to discuss the phenomenon of sickle depositions on both sides of River Drava.

Understanding the enormous amount of sickle finds in this region requires a broader perspective on the archaeological record. After presenting the methodological background I will show in my paper some preliminary results from an ongoing project. Analyzing the composition of the hoards, and the traces of use and damage of the objects offers information about the hoarding process itself. It can bear clear regional and chronological characteristics. Based on some special types of sickles my paper wants to provide new data on the role of this region and on the questions of marking distributional or innovational centers.

# NOTES

*24th February, 15.05–15.30*

**View from the sky: Neolithic and Bronze Age enclosures in the southern Baranja and lower River Drava Basin**

*Hrvoje Kalafatić and Bartul Šiljeg*

This paper will be focused on the results of aerial survey in the southern Baranja and neighbouring region of lower River Drava basin. This area was chosen due to its characteristics as it is a lowland area with fertile land divided on large agricultural plots. Fertile soil provided important basis for the human occupation and large plots provide better visibility of archaeological remains.

The satellite imagery and aerial photography data were analyzed and compared with results of systematic field survey. Regular usage of UAVs significantly increased discovery of new sites. The result is identification of few dozen newly discovered archaeological sites throughout the area. The majority of the discovered sites can be attributed to periods from Neolithic to Bronze Age. Some known and excavated sites could for the first time be viewed more accurately, in their entirety and within their landscape.

In the past decade extensive archaeological rescue excavations were conducted on several Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in the eastern part of Croatia. Results of these excavations combined with data obtained by remote sensing provide completely new insight on land occupation, settlement pattern and subsistence strategy in Neolithic and Bronze Age.

# NOTES

24th February, 15.50–16.15

## **Late Bronze and Early Iron Age cemetery in Batina – A princely center on the Danube**

*Tomislav Hršak and Marko Dizdar*

As part of the Archaeological Heritage of Baranja project, after undertaken field surveys an area between Batina and Kneževi Vinogradi, a trial excavation started in Batina in 2010. The prehistoric site in Batina has been known from the end of the 19th century when, during intensive agricultural works, numerous extraordinary finds, probably from destroyed burials, have been revealed which point out the existence of an important site from the late Urnfield period and the Early Iron Age. A prehistoric site in Batina was situated at the elevated position on the extreme north-eastern part of BANSKO BRDO, rising above the Danube, with outstanding visual communication westward toward Transdanubia up to Pécs, eastward up to the Bačka and southward to the Eastern Slavonia. The settlement has been located at the position Gradac, while cemetery at Sredno was separated from the settlement by deep natural ditch. Numerous rescue excavations conducted at the settlement area revealed intensive occupation layers from the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age.

In a trial excavation started in 2010 on Sredno, a flat cemetery has been documented with exclusively cremation burials in an urn or directly in the grave pit. Also, during the field survey, the existence of several burial mounds has been confirmed which are at the greatest part razed during the agricultural work. A single grave belongs to the beginning of the late Urnfield phase with characteristic cremation burial in the so-called amphora covered with a bowl (11th century BC). More intensive burials start at the 10/9th century BC when numerous characteristic ceramic vessels appear in graves which belong to the phase II according C. Metzner Nebelsick. Flat burials continue to be in the Early Iron Age when it is possible to notice changes in shapes and decoration of ceramic vessels, but also in items of costume and jewellery. An important novelty that marked the beginning of the Early Iron Age is the burial of prominent individuals under tumuli. The transition occurred at a time when the community, which controlled the important communication route along the Danube, was participating in the transfer of new ideas and technologies, probably supervised by the local elite. Until now, two burial mounds have been excavated with wooden burial chambers which contain extraordinary finds from the late 8th–early 7th century BC (phase IIIB). Postholes were discovered around mounds as part of a wooden fence around the tumuli. Both burials were furnished with rich grave goods: weapons, horse gear, costume, jewellery and characteristic vessels belonging to banquet sets. Some pots are decorated with tin and bronze lamellas organized in very complex motifs.

Results of conducted excavations have confirmed that Batina is an extraordinary archaeological site in the Croatian Danube region with precious data for the transitional period between Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the southern Carpathian basin.

# NOTES

*24th February, 16.15–16.40*

**Early Iron Age cultures in Baranya – Dalj, Bosut, Srem: correlations and differences**

*Csilla Gáti*

The exact cultural milieu, the cultural changes and interactions of the Early Iron Age (800–400 BC) in the Baranya region raise a number of questions even today. It is challenging to discuss them not only because of the uncertainties in the absolute chronology of well-known cultural entities (Dalj, Bosut, Srem), but many aspects of their relationships in general are also not resolved yet. One part of the problem is, that the proportion of the recorded and investigated cemeteries and settlements seems to be very uneven at current state of research. The Iron Age settlement of Szajk (near Pécs) may provide some indications for these issues. A currently unique settlement of the Srem culture was uncovered on this site, however some elements of the ceramic assemblage show characteristics of the Dalj and Bosut cultures as well. The analyses of the finds may serve as a basis for future investigations of cultural and chronological relations on a regional level.

# NOTES

24th February, 16.40–17.05

## **La Tène settlement in Novi Čeminac (Baranya county, Croatia)**

*Slavica Filipović and Marko Dizdar*

The understanding of the development of the La Tène culture in the territory of eastern Croatia has changed considerably in the last thirty years, when many new sites have been discovered on which trial or rescue excavations were subsequently carried out. The number of excavations has grown considerably in the last decade when rescue excavations of large surfaces of settlements were carried out, which will significantly contribute to further understanding of the La Tène culture in eastern Croatia. The first detailed descriptions of La Tène sites from the Baranja/Baranya county (Croatia) are the result of the work of K. Minichreiter, who carried out a series of fieldwork surveys as well as trial and rescue excavations. The La Tène settlement, located some 3 km to the southwest from Novi Čeminac, was revealed in a field survey which was conducted before the construction of the highway between Osijek and Beli Manastir. Fragments of ceramic vessels collected on the surface of the gentle elevations north of the Barbara channel point to the existence of a lowland La Tène settlement. The rescue excavation conducted in 2015, lead by S. Filipović from the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek, uncovered the part of the settlement at a surface of around 2.4 ha. Remains of infrastructure of the settlement with houses and semi-pit-dwellings have been discovered on the excavation. The houses were documented only by postholes, organized in rectangular plan. The excavation also yielded semi-pit-dwellings of rectangular plan with postholes at the bottom of the shorter side. Pit-dwellings were recessed 1.0 m deep, suggesting the existence of above ground structures and were probably used for some everyday activities. Settlement infrastructure also includes a number of pits of various shape, size and depth which were mostly located close to houses. In the course of the excavation it was possible to recognize the clustering of features in smaller units, which is probably connected with the family-based organization of the settlement.

The most numerous finds are fragments of ceramic vessels, followed by metal and glass objects which are important for the chronological determination of the excavated part of the settlement. Ceramic vessels were generally made on a potter's wheel, but there were also hand-made vessels of some specific shapes. As for the wheel-made forms, the most numerous are S-profiled bowls, then bowls with a rounded body and inverted rim. The pots include those with an S-profiled body with a horizontal rib on the shoulder; pots with a rounded body with a thickened rim and larger storage pots with a rounded body and a horizontal, profiled rim (*dolium*). Kantharoi with a rounded body and a conical neck, with two profiled strap handles, were also wheel-made. One of the characteristic forms are so-called situla-shaped pots with dense vertical combed decoration and traces of graphiting. It is possible to recognize hand-made pots with rounded body and a wider horizontal groove below the rim of a narrow rectangular cross-section. The preliminary analysis of ceramic vessels suggests that the excavated area of the settlement belongs to the late La Tène period. Analogies for ceramic vessels, especially for the wheel-made pots and kantharoi, confirm connection with sites of the Scordisci who settled south of the Drava river in eastern Slavonia.

One of the most significant results of the large excavated surface of the settlement in Novi Čeminac is the recognition of family-based organization with houses as the basic dwelling units. An analysis of ceramic vessels and their chronological classification, which is supported with glass and metal finds, allows us to date the settlement to LT C2/D1.