

ANTÆUS

Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico

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INHALT – CONTENTS

<i>List of Authors</i>	6
<i>Abbreviations</i>	7
<i>Foreword</i>	11
<i>Ágnes Kustár – Dániel Gerber – Szilvia Fábrián – Kitti Köhler – Balázs Gusztáv Mende – Anna Szécsényi-Nagy – Viktória Kiss: Facial reconstruction of an Early Bronze Age woman from Balatonkeresztúr (Western Hungary)</i>	13
<i>Eszter Melis – Viktória Kiss – Gabriella Kulcsár – Gábor Serlegi – Bence Vágvölgyi: Bronze Age microregional settlement investigations in the locality of Nagycenk (Northwestern Hungary)</i>	33
<i>Gabriella Kulcsár – Borbála Nyíri – Kitti Köhler – Tamás Hajdu – Vajk Szeverényi – Timothy K. Earle – Viktória Kiss: Middle Bronze Age burial at the settlement of Sós-kút-Barátház, Site 26/4 (Central Hungary)</i>	81
<i>Róbert Bozi – Géza Szabó: The beginnings of the use of equids as work animals in the Bronze Age Carpathian Basin</i>	107
<i>Gábor Ilon: Casting moulds in the Bronze Age of the Carpathian Basin: a catalogue of sites and finds</i>	143
<i>Géza Szabó: The bronze hoard from Mucsi: dress ornaments of a high-status woman</i>	187
<i>Vajk Szeverényi – Péter Czukor – Anna Priskin – Csaba Szalontai: Csanádpalota-Földvár: a Late Bronze Age ‘mega-fort’ in Southeastern Hungary</i>	213
<i>Anna Priskin: The analysis of Bronze Age macrolithic tools: a case study from Csanádpalota-Földvár (Southeastern Hungary)</i>	251

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As with the previous (37th) issue of the *Antaeus* (Yearbook of the Institute of Archaeology), the present volume brings together a selection of research papers addressing a certain time period; the Bronze Age on this occasion. The current volume, despite containing fewer studies than the previous issues, is in line with the editorial board's ambition to publish a new volume at regular – annual – intervals, even at the expense of the overall length of the publication. With the aim to assemble a broad spectrum of Bronze Age research studies from the territory of Hungary, the current issue touches upon a wide range of themes stretching across the many hundreds of years of the Bronze Age period: from the facial reconstruction of an Early Bronze Age woman, to the domestication of horses and Middle Bronze Age dress ornaments, to the study of the large, Late Bronze Age fortified settlements. These topics cover the key issues of current European Bronze Age research, including the archaeological application of DNA analyses, and the theoretical approaches of political economies, therefore the outcomes presented here will hopefully be of wide international interest. Some of the research was carried out within the framework of the Lendület/Momentum Mobility Research Group launched in 2015, supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at the Institute of Archaeology, Research Centre for the Humanities.

The paper by Ágnes Kustár and her colleagues presents the facial reconstruction of an Early Bronze Age female burial. The work serves as the first facial reconstruction study where DNA data was also considered regarding the pigmentation (eye and hair colour, skin tone) of a Bronze Age individual from present-day Hungary.

The two studies put forward by Eszter Melis and Gabriella Kulcsár as main authors, both discuss the results of micro-regional settlement investigations aimed to explore Early and Middle Bronze Age settlement structures using non-destructive methods. The settlement investigations conducted by Eszter Melis and her team focussed on the region of Nagycenk, nearby Lake Neusiedl. The data published here represents a significant piece of archaeological research as information from the region occupied by the Gáta–Wieselburg culture has been lacking in the past three decades. Furthermore, the site of Nagycenk-Kövesmező is one of the few Gáta–Wieselburg settlements investigated by a modern archaeological excavation.

Gabriella Kulcsár and her team discuss the Middle Bronze Age pit burial of a mature adult female with evidence for multiple physical trauma, from Central Hungary. The study touches upon the interpretation of pit burials in the context of the settlements of Bronze Age communities who otherwise practiced inhumation and cremation as their nominal mortuary tradition.

Géza Szabó's paper examines the so-called Tolnanémedi-type hoard horizon comprised primarily of dress ornament assemblages across to the Middle Bronze Age along with a newly discovered hoard from Mucsi in Tolna county. The publication includes the reconstruction of a costume worn by high status female members of the Transdanubian Encrusted Pottery culture and provides an interpretation of the symbolism of such ornaments.

The study by Gábor Ilon provides an overview of Bronze Age moulds and their distribution in the Carpathian Basin. The paper considers the assemblage as important evidence for local metallurgy, and sheds new light on the organisation and specialisation of bronze production.

Róbert Bozi and Géza Szabó explore the question of horse domestication within the context of Bronze Age cultures in Central and Eastern Hungary, based on the evidence of horse gear made of antler appearing first during the 2nd millennium in the Carpathian Basin. The study relies on newly discovered horse remains and their associated absolute dates.

The paper by Vajk Szeverényi and his colleagues discusses the results of their most recent excavation programme conducted at Csanádpalota; a prime example of a so-called 'mega fort' or large-scale fortified settlement typical in the Late Bronze Age in Southeast Europe. Anna Priskin in her study gives a detailed insight into the production and use of grinding stones recovered at the site.