



**28TH EAA ANNUAL MEETING
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
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**28TH EAA ANNUAL MEETING
(BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 2022)**

ABSTRACT BOOK

The paper will review and contextualise data from more than 2,500 1m square archaeological 'test pits' excavated in more than 75 different inhabited rural settlements in England to show how ceramics can reveal change in medieval society, showing how communities ebbed and flowed, shifted and relocated, as people responded to changes over which they had little control, but with which they had to live. Firstly reviewing evidence showing how places responded to the eleventh century Norman takeover and the fourteenth century Black Death plague pandemic (both experienced widely across Europe), the paper will then explore what light similar data might be able to throw on even more poorly understood earlier changes including the sixth century Justinianic plague pandemic and the conversion to Christianity.

2 CERAMIC VESSELS WITH TWO HANDLES FROM 10THC. AD – A SHORT RECAPITULATION OF DATA

Abstract author(s): Czuppon, Tamás (Hansagi Museum, Mosonmagyaróvár; Pázmány Péter Catholic University) - Takács, Mikós - Langó, Péter (Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network)

Abstract format: Oral

Our presentation aims to give a short analysis about the form, chronology, territorial spread and the major trends of interpretation of vessels with two handles from 10th century AD. The ceramic vessels with two handles from 10th century form a type of artifacts, which was frequently analyzed. It was usually studied as part of the vessel type, or several vessel types with ribbed neck. Our aim is to give a new approach, by treating not the ribbed neck, but the presence of handles as a main criteria for the separation of the given vessel type. The first part of the interpretative part of our study is going the deal with the question of production, and within this issue with the problem of workshops. The second part of the interpretation will analyze the questions connected with the possible ways of usage. The last part of our study will focus on the issue questions of the origin of the given vessel type. This importance of this issue is emphasized by the fact, that the given vessel form with two handles seems to be not present in the material culture of the 9th century Carpathian Basin.

3 MASTERPIECE OF 14TH CENTURY RUSSIAN CERAMIC ART

Abstract author(s): Koval, Vladimir (-)

Abstract format: Oral

In 1989, in the city of Kolomna (Moscow region), fragments of a light-clay glazed vessel with relief images (hunters, warriors, musicians, bear and camel, monster) were found on the bishop's estate. More than half of the vessel has survived, which suggests that it was an aquamanile, perhaps, with a tubular spout. Today, on the territory of Russia, we know only a few small fragments from similar vessels (most were found in Novgorod) in the contexts of the second half of the 14th - early 15th centuries. The glaze and ceramic mass of the vessel suggest that it was not an import. Probably, the vessel was made by a Russian craftsman who lived in Novgorod or Tver (the largest centers of Northern Russia). The uniqueness of the finds indicates that very few such vessels were made for no more than 20 years, i.e. they were all masterpieces of one man. The vessels made by him, undoubtedly, had a very high cost, and only the richest people (the aristocrats of the upper stratum) had the opportunity to buy and use such vessels. The Bishop of Kolomna was just such a person. It is interesting that there is not a single religious plot on the vessel - all images are exclusively secular, connected with the life of the aristocracy. The vessel has no connection with the European Renaissance, however, jugs with relief images produced in the 12th-14th centuries in Northern Europe could serve as a model for its creation. It testifies to the perception by Russian masters of the artistic achievements of European colleagues already at such an early time.

4 THE SOUTHERNMOST EXCEPTIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY FROM THE HUNGARIAN CONQUEST PERIOD: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SEVERAL FINDS FROM BAČKA REGION (SERBIA)

Abstract author(s): Radišić, Milica (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade) - Uzelac, Viktorija (City Museum, Sombor)

Abstract format: Oral

This paper will present several interesting archaeological finds from the period of the Hungarian Conquest, originating from Stanišić in Bačka – a part of a gilded belt set, a golden hoop and a golden finger-ring set with carnelian gem. These objects were discovered on a necropolis located on a mound, which was damaged in intense ploughing activities during the 1980s. After having been sold to the City Museum in Sombor the findings were kept in a safe, without being presented to a wider scientific public. According to their traits they correspond to the material culture of the Hungarian warrior elite from the first half of the 10th century, and they have close analogies in necropolises from the Upper Tisza valley (e.g. Karos). On the other hand, certain similarities can also be noted with sites from the wider area of Eastern Europe. In this paper, we will analyse the origin, symbolism and artistic and crafting milieu of the items from Stanišić, with a special attention given to the interpretation of the gem with representation of a lion carved into it. According to preliminary analyses, the gem is most similar to Sasanian glyptic specimens, which imposes interesting

questions regarding its use. In this sense, a wider social-historical context and routes of long-distance trade in early Middle Ages will also be taken into consideration.

All the data available suggests the possibility that the findings from Stanišić belonged to a prominent member (members) of the military elite. As the southernmost findings with clear emblematic meaning, they bear witness of the invasion routes of the Hungarian army outside of their primary settling zone in the north of the Carpathian Basin, on which there is little archaeological data for the time being.

5 THE ADOPTION OF CHRISTIANITY OF THE HUNGARIAN RURAL POPULATION IN LIGHT OF THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE

Abstract author(s): Rácz, Tibor (Ferenczy Museum Centre) - Füredi, Ágnes (Hungarian National Museum)

Abstract format: Oral

The foundation of the state in Hungary around the year 1000 assumed the adoption of Christianity, a long and complex process itself. It is difficult to reconstruct the main features of the spiritual life of the rural population, as contemporary written sources inform on the history of the elite and the ruling dynasty. Archaeology however has the means to research the material traces of the adoption and practice of the new religion. The emergence of the political and social systems of the Christian state can be understood only in a wide perspective, including the archaeological material of the 10th-century population.

Research focusing on the development of Christianity is a fashionable topic these days; however, it resulted primarily in theoretical foundations and overviews. The elaboration of details and the evaluation of regional archaeological material can bring us closer to the way of thinking of the masses. The present paper focuses on the central part of Medieval Hungary, today's Pest County in the 10-12th centuries, comparing different layers of information on a series of maps.

From the period before the conversion to Christianity, burial customs and grave goods indicate the spiritual life of the population. The cognitive antecedents of the use of amulet-like or superstitious objects in the popular belief that are clearly identifiable in the post-11th century Christian period must be related to the concepts of the "pagan" ancestors, as the population was clearly continuous in the 10-11th centuries. The spread of non-Christian amulets and Christian liturgical objects (primarily discovered by intensive metal detecting surveys) will be contextualized in the network of early settlements, row and field cemeteries, as well as church sites. Statistical and network analysis may help to clarify the details of this long and contradictory process of transmittance and adoption.

6 PORPHYRY OBJECTS, EARLY CHRISTIAN BURIALS IN BORGUND, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHRISTIAN PRACTICE IN NORWAY

Abstract author(s): Hansen, Gitte (University Museum of Bergen, University of Bergen) - Laugerud, Henning (Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies, University of Bergen) - Jansen, Øystein (Dep of Natural history, University Museum of Bergen, University of Bergen) - Lørvik, Katharina (NIKU, Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research)

Abstract format: Oral

During excavations in Borgund in the 1960's an early 11th century Christian burial ground was found and more than 300 graves uncovered. An early 11th century Norwegian Christian graveyard is a rather unique find since at this time Christianity was barely established yet in this country. Borgund is a deserted 10th-16th century town in western Norway and according to written sources there were three or four churches there during the Middle Ages. The ruins of two or three 12th c. stone churches are known archaeologically in addition to a fourth which is incorporated in the still standing parish church. No church ruin has been identified in the vicinity of the 300 graves. During excavations in the 1960's the burial ground puzzled the archaeologists, was this an early Christian burial ground without a church or what? In the cross disciplinary Borgund Kaupang Project (2019-2025) legacy data from decades of excavations in Borgund is re-assessed and studied. Among 18th century pottery a stone-fragment classified during the 1960s' as a 'possible stove tile' was recently found. The fragment is a piece of an object of green porphyry. This stone type is in current research associated with sepulchral stones. It is furthermore seen in travelling altars 'altare portable', which have survived in European collections of medieval church art. The paper discusses the significance of the porphyry fragment from Borgund as an object, which may reflect the introduction - and implementation - of Christian practice in Norway.

7 LITERACY IN MEDIEVAL RUS' TOWNS: EVIDENCE FROM SUZDAL'

Abstract author(s): Fedorina, Anastasia (-)

Abstract format: Oral

Conceptions of level of literacy of the medieval population largely depend on the source base. As for Rus', before the discovery of numerous birch bark documents in Novgorod, the narrative culture in between the 11th century and