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**SOME REMARKS ON HUNGARIAN CONQUEST PERIOD FINDS
IN VOJVODINA**

ABSTRACT

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The last reviews of sites and finds dated to the 10th and 11th centuries on the territory of modern Vojvodina were made quarter of century ago. Development of the methodology of archaeological investigations, re-examination of old and appearance of new sites and finds, as well as the ongoing evaluation of the results of archaeologically explored necropolis in Batajnica, all suggested the necessity for a work dedicated to the problem of colonization of Hungarians as well as to the analyses of the phenomena typical for that period in Serbian part of Banat, Bačka and Srem.

Key words: Hungarian Conquest Period; Vojvodina; Batajnica; soil inhabitation; necropolis; warrior graves; horseman graves

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INTRODUCTION

In Serbian archaeology insufficient attention is dedicated to the problem of inhabitation of Hungarians as well as to the research of ancient Hungarian material culture¹. The reason lies in the fact that the territory of modern Vojvodina, in the time of more intense archaeological explorations of sites dated to the discussed period, was part of the Habsburg Monarchy. Archaeological material was sent mostly to the museums in Szeged or Budapest, so it became primarily the subject of interest of Hungarian specialists. Even later, after the founding of Yugoslavia or after the WWII and the establishment of modern museum network, the situation did not change significantly. There were almost no systematic archaeological investigations of the sites dated to the Period of Hungarian Conquest, so available information is based on accidental discoveries or small scale preventive excavations.

¹ This paper was created within the projects *The processes of urbanization and development of the medieval society* (No. 177021) and *Society, spiritual and material culture and communications in prehistory and early history of the Balkans* (No. 177012) supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

Besides, although the necropolis in Batajnica was completely archaeologically investigated in the end of the 1950s, it has not yet been adequately published except for several graves (Kovačević 1961; Marjanović-Vujović, Tomić 1982, 49–50; Janković, Janković 1990, 70–71). In order to correct this error, the researchers from Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, Archaeological Institute in Belgrade and Belgrade City Museum are currently working on the publication presenting the results of said excavations, including the analysis of paleoanthropological and paleozoological material.

Archaeological material from the territory of Vojvodina is an inherent part of archaeological literature since the second half of the 19th century, while at the beginning of the 20th century J. Hampel systematized the first compendium of overall finds and suggested its chronological determination (Hampel 1905; 1907). During the 20th century, authors returned to the older finds, but simultaneously their attention concentrated at newly discovered archaeological material (Szőke 1962; Fehér, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962). Among Serbian archaeologists, N. Stanojev gave the first compendium of sites and finds (Stanojev 1989), which was later supplemented by L. Kovács (1991; 1992). Considering the material from the territory in question, as an important factor in dealing with the chronology as well, one can point out the studies of J. Giesler and Ž. Demo (Giesler 1981; Demo 1983; 2012), while the study of Cs. Bálint is still the most complete summary of finds dated to the 10th and 11th century (Bálint 1991).² The last reviews about this topic were made for the conference dedicated to the 1100 years of Hungarians' inhabitation of Pannonia (Sekereš 1997).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Vojvodina (northern part of the Republic of Serbia) is a part of the south-eastern Pannonia, confined by the Sava and Danube to the south. Three main water flaws are the Danube, Sava and Tisa, which also divide it into three parts: Bačka is defined by the Danube and Tisa, Srem is outlined by the Danube and Sava, while only a part of Banat belongs to Vojvodina and, unlike the other two parts, it is not completely situated between the rivers, since its eastern border runs along the western slopes of Southern Carpathians (Vujević 1939, 1).

During the Great Migration Period, Pannonia was the prize that diverse tribes and peoples fought for. Later, for almost a quarter of millennium, Avars dominated this region. They were finally defeated by the Franks and Bulgarians by the end of 8th and the beginning of 9th century. The control over the Pannonian plain was then acquired by that same Franks and Bulgarians, and later by the Moravian Principality. The important change occurred at the very

² This important book was firstly introduced to the Serbian scientific public by D. Dimitrijević (1991).

end of the 9th century, when Hungarians arrived in the Carpathian plain, in search of the soil to inhabit (for newer results considering this problem *cf.* Lőrinczy, Türk 2011; Bíró, Langó 2013; Lőrinczy, Straub, Türk 2015).

Before arriving to Pannonia, Hungarians lived on the western coast of the Black Sea, somewhere between the Danube delta and the river Dniester. After conquering the area between Dnieper and the eastern slope of Carpathians, they started to turn toward the inland of the Carpathian Basin more often (Fodor 1996a, 16–17). They began to cross Carpathians after sack of their territories by the eastern neighbours and old enemies — Pechenegs. While the greater part of Hungarian army was occupied by the campaign against Bulgarians, as recorded in *De administrando imperio* by the emperor Constantinus VII Porphyrogenetus (913–959), Pechenegs started to invade their lands endangering their families (DAI, ch. 39–40, p. 174–179; Takács 2010, 51–53). When Hungarians returned and found their lands devastated and completely demolished, they left their old confines and set foot toward Pannonia.

After the migration, the warfaring part of the tribe undertook campaigns to faraway lands, to the Pyrenees and Atlantic Ocean on the west, Attica and Constantinople to the south, while the majority stayed in the territories suitable for their way of life. Plundering campaigns to western lands lasted until 955, when the German king Otto I (936–973) stopped them. The penetration into the Bulgarian and Byzantine territories started with the decline of Bulgarian power after the death of Simeon (893–927). According to the Byzantine sources, the first attack occurred in 934 when, after the sack of Tracia, Hungarian army arrived in the vicinity of Constantinople (Moravcsik 1970, 55–56).

Contemporary sources testifying about the Hungarian conquest of Pannonia are completely lacking. According to later Hungarian tradition, preserved in the writing of anonymous *notarius* of king Bela, the conflict between Hungarians and Bulgarians occurred short after the arrival of the former. Some of the presented data concerned the territory of modern Vojvodina. Namely, before writing about the Hungarian conquest, the mentioned *notarius* describes the overall situation in the eastern part of Pannonia immediately before it was occupied by Hungarians. According to those data, the soil lying between Tisa and Danube was conquered by Keanus Magnus, the ruler of Bulgaria, and settled by Slavs and Bulgarians. In the time of Hungarian arrival, the ruler of the territory was his grandson Salan. The region of modern Banat, from the river Maros (Mureş) in the north to *castrum* Vrsua in the south, was controlled by the prince Glad, recorded in text as the one who came from *castrum* Budin and acquired the dominance with the help of Cumans (*Gesta Hungarorum*, ch. 11, p. 51–54). During the reign of Hungarian king Stephen I (997–1038) this region was ruled by Achtum (*Ohtum*), the descendant of prince Glad, who was killed by Sunad during an uprising against Hungarian king.

The chronology of the Hungarian conquest is not completely precise. It seems that the earliest conflicts between Hungarians and Bulgarians occurred sometime between 896 and 907, since Hungarian Grand Prince Árpád, who died

in 907, participated in those confrontations. Yet, it is more probable that they occurred during the last years of the Árpád's reign. Then, during the battle of Alpar, the Bulgarian ruler Salan was defeated and he escaped to Belgrade (*Gesta Hungarorum*, ch. 38–41, p. 93–99). Hungarian army then crossed the Danube without any obstructions and a battle took place in close vicinity of Belgrade, which held on thanks to the arrival of reinforcements (Kalić-Mijušković 1967, 32–33).

After this battle a peace treaty was signed. This was followed by a campaign south of the Danube, during which Rascia was devastated, as well as by an incursion to the Adriatic coast. Only later did Hungarians subdue the areas ruled by the prince Glad (*Gesta Hungarorum*, ch. 11, p. 50–53, ch. 44, p. 102–107). The campaign against Glad, followed by an incursion into Greece to the south, cannot be precisely dated, but it is usually believed to have happened sometime during the first four decades of the 10th century (Dimitrov 1998, 5).

Known data provided by Constantinus Porphyrogenetus testify about the Hungarians during their occupation of Pannonia. In order to describe the area they inhabited, Byzantine emperor used familiar concepts or clear geographical markers. Thus we know that the bridge of Traianus marked the beginning of the territory of Turkey, i.e. the land occupied by the newly inhabited Hungarian tribes, as well as that the city of Belgrade was situated at a distance of three days walk, wherefrom after two days journey one can get by river upstream to Sirmium, and behind it lies Great Moravia. He further recorded that the lands of Turkey are, at the moment, called after the rivers that ran there: Tamiš (Timiș), Tutis, Maros (Mureș), Karaš (Caraș) and Tisa (Tisza). At the end their neighbours are listed, therefore we know that the eastern border between Hungarians (Turks) and Bulgarians was river Istar (Danube), while to the east of Hungarian territories lived Pechenegs, to the west Franks and to the south Croatsians (DAI, ch. 40, p. 174–179).

Based on available sources, one can clearly notice that the territory of modern Vojvodina was within the Hungarian state. Therefore, an opinion was already given in scholarly literature that Vojvodina was included in the zone of early Hungarian occupation immediately after their arrival to the Carpathian Basin (Ćirković 1997, 27–37; Sekereš 1997, 138). No archaeological data were taken into consideration in such speculations, or were considered only in general terms, so it seems important to give more precise insight into the available archaeological material that can be associated with the earliest presence of the Hungarian population.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTIMONIES

According to information available in literature, a certain number of sites dated to the period of the 10th and 11th century have so far been identified on the territory of modern Vojvodina. Although most of them are not archaeologically

explored, it is obvious that necropolises constitute an absolute majority. In this region no finds from settlements are detected up to date that could with certainty be tied to the newly arrived Hungarian population. Some scholars tied certain settlements in Vojvodina to the Period of Hungarian Conquest (Bálint 1991, 102; Takács 2000, Fig. 2; 2013, 652), but it seems that there is no sufficient undisputed evidence, which could be connected to Hungarians. Yet, it does not exclude the possibility that Hungarian settlements of such an early date, which would correspond to the finds known from the graves, existed but it has not been archaeologically clearly and undoubtedly confirmed so far.

When considering the ancient Hungarian heritage dated to the Period of Hungarian Conquest of Pannonia, until now it is mostly known through the grave finds (Révész, Nepper 1996, 37–56; Türk 2014, 137–155). Those finds primarily refer to the different steppe-nomadic elements of typical funerary costumes and material culture, which the newly arrived Hungarian tribes brought with them. The existence of this kind of finds was recognized at 34 sites (Fig. 1).³

The location of these sites testify about the inhabitable areas, based upon the decisive role of geophysical and morphological characteristics of the terrain. It is concluded that the majority of sites were situated on higher agricultural fluvial terraces, elevated 3–5 m above the level of the river (Koščal, Menković 2005, 15). According to the map dated to 1838 (Bugarski 2008, map No. 1) it is clear that, before melioration, this part of Carpathian Basin was covered with large swamps. Therefore, there were less inhabitable spaces than there are today.

The importance of flooding areas in choosing a place for settlement in the Carpathian Basin was the subject of interest to geographers (Timár, Gábris 2008, 252), as well as to archaeologists who studied the zone around the Balaton lake in the time of Keszthely culture (Heinrich-Tamaska 2008). In some parts of Vojvodina the analysis of the distribution of archaeological sites and geo-morphological zones was carried out. The sites from the period of Avar domination were mapped (Bugarski 2008, Fig. 2; 2014, map Nos. 1–3), as well as the sites from the Great Migration Period (Ivanišević, Bugarski 2008). In the same manner, all known sites dated from the prehistory to the Middle Ages are, for example, mapped in the municipality of Novi Kneževac (*Arheološka topografija* 2012).

In short, it was ascertained for all mentioned periods that the settlements were mostly situated away from the flooding zones, on point of contact of different geo-morphological areas, which enabled successful functioning and development of settlements. Although less sites in Vojvodina belong to the period in question than to the period of Avarian domination, gained results of micro topographic geo-morphological analysis are practically identical for both

³ Mapping of sites was done on geo-morphological map of Vojvodina in scale 1 : 200.000 (see Koščal, Menković, Mijatović, Knežević 2005).

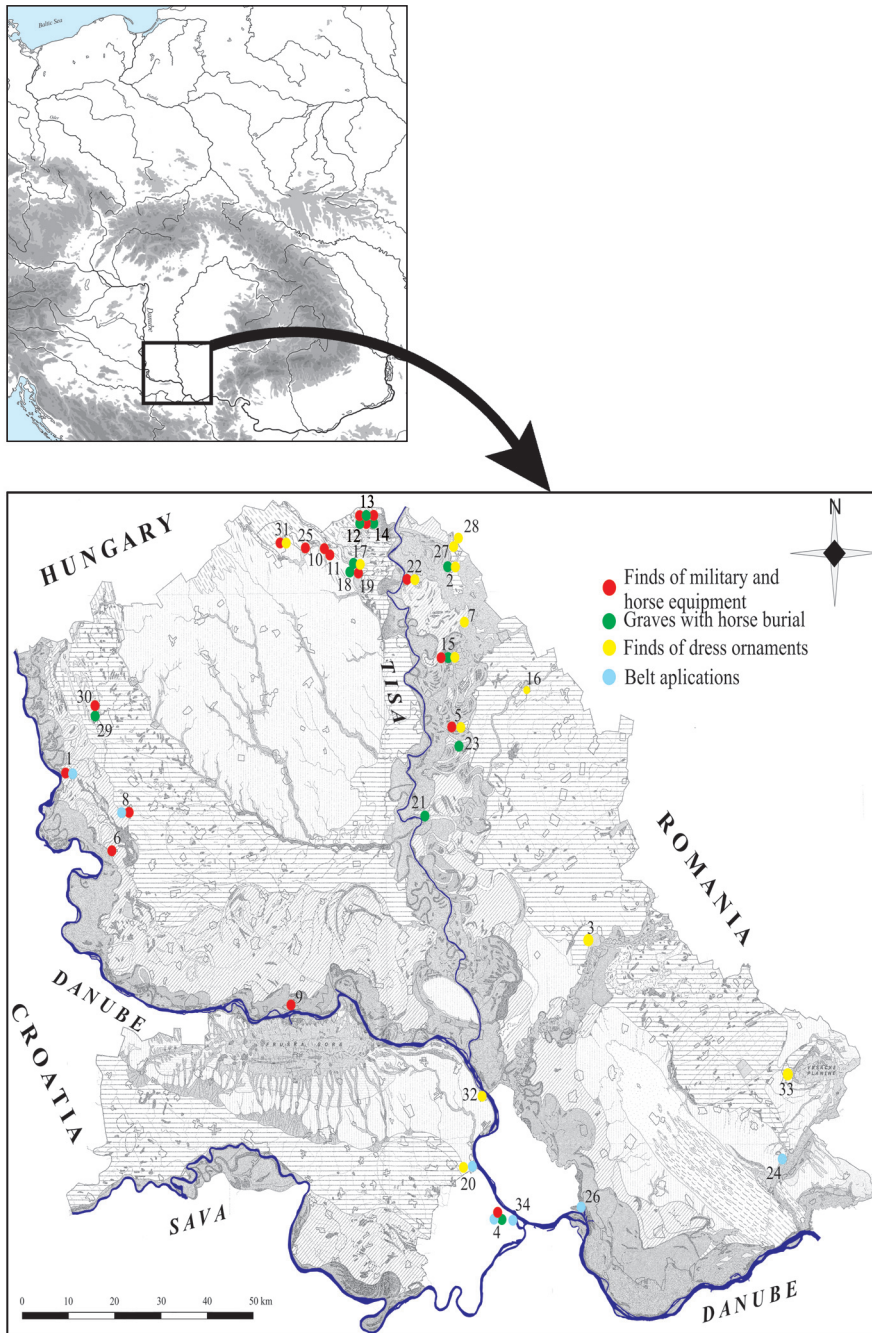


Fig. 1. Sites dated to the Magyar Conquest Period in Vojvodina (for administrative data see Annex); drawn by D. Radičević, P. Špehar and I. Jordan.

periods. Namely, the pattern of choosing the geo-morphological contact zones as the best spots for inhabiting is repeated.

The majority of sites in question, i.e. 19 of them, are situated on both sides of the river Tisa, in upper part of its flow through Vojvodina, while 11 sites are situated along the Danube. Four of them are situated on the right bank of the Danube in Srem, while 6 are situated on its left bank — 5 in Bačka and one in Banat. Four more sites were discovered in the remaining Serbian part of Banat (Fig. 1). The data on the number and size of the necropolises are mostly disputable. For some of the sites we have only the information about the lowest possible number of graves. The only exception is the necropolis in Batajnica, where 115 graves were detected within the bronze-age tumulus.

Warrior graves are recognized as the most cognizable characteristic of the ancient Hungarian pagan funeral, with typical weaponry (sabre, composite bow, quiver and arrows), parts of the horse bodies buried with the deceased (skull, legs) as well as horsemen's equipment (saddle, curbs, stirrups, wainscot for bridles) and belt parts (Gáll 2010, 283–294). Grave inventory found at the necropolises dated to the Period of Hungarian Conquest is in accordance with the data about the military equipment available in written sources. Namely, the core of Hungarian army was made of light cavalry armed with reflex bows, 1.10–1.15 m long, and arrows that had the range of 200–250 m, although they were lethal at a distance of 60–70 m. The precision was not decisive, since their tactics was based on hurling a large quantity of arrows on the enemy (*Taktika*, const. 18, p. 455–457; Gáll 2013, 889). On the territory of Vojvodina the existence of warrior graves was testified on 17 sites, while on 11 sites horse burials were also recorded (Fig. 1).

Opposite to a relatively numerous accidental discoveries of this kind of finds kept today in museums' depots, there is quite a small number of archaeologically explored graves. Therefore, the usual information about the form of burial is missing (orientation of graves, depth of burial, shape and dimension of grave pits, grave constructions etc.) The exceptions are professionally led excavations on sites Matejski Brod, Jazovo, Novo Miloševo and Batajnica, which we will review more comprehensively.

At a multiple horizons site of Matejski brod in the vicinity of Novi Bečej, during the excavations conducted in 1952, one lonely medieval grave was discovered (Nađ 1953, 107–117; Stanojev 1989, 63). The grave itself was not documented, but the skeleton of a male 1.68 m high was discovered on the relative depth of 1 m. The deceased was extended on his back, with his head reclining on its occiput. Both hands were bended in the elbows. The right hand was placed above the pelvis and the left on the right side of the chest. Inside the skull a part of an arrow was found, which denotes the probable cause of death, while the skull of a horse and four shanks were discovered beside the legs of the departed.

Next to the left hand of the deceased the bone wainscot of the reflex bow was found, while the parts of quiver lied beside the left side of the thorax

and left side of pelvic bone. In the waist area, an iron knife and a flint were found, as well as curbs on the left shank, while beside the skull of the horse, placed on the feet of the deceased, a couple of stirrups and iron buckle were found (Fig. 2).

During rescue excavation in Jazovo in 1966, ten graves were discovered, in 9 of which the finds were recorded (Stanojev 1989, 46–51; Bálint 1991: 127–128, 225–229). Most of the finds were decorative objects. Exceptions are: stirrup and parts of horse skull discovered in grave No. 3, while unidentified animal bones were found next to the deceased in grave No. 10 (Girić 1996, 144).

Not far from Novo Miloševo rescue excavations were done in 1977 at a necropolis dated to the 10th and 11th centuries (Stanojev 1989, 67–69). Fourteen graves oriented E-W were explored, which had burials in regular rectangular pits with no construction. Deceased were buried reclining on their back with the heads likewise positioned on the occiput, while the positions of their arms were diverse, although they were mostly lying beside the body or on the pelvis.

Grave finds were detected in 7 graves, and those were: weaponry (knives, arrows, quiver), cavalry equipment (stirrups, curbs), as well as small amount of jewellery and buttons. In one grave, above the left hand of the deceased, unidentified animal bones were found, while in two graves horse bones were detected. Those were horse skull and parts of the forelegs, as well as horse mandible discovered next to the left shank of the deceased (Girić 1996, 148). The discovery of horse skull above the pelvis partly differs from the results of the newest studies, which suggest that the horse skulls were laid directly on or below the legs of the deceased, sometimes dislocated to the left or right. Disregarding the variant, the head of the horse was always “looking” at the deceased (Türk 2014, 146).

Finally, we will mention the necropolis on site Batajnica, situated in Srem, not far from Belgrade. Above the urn, within a prehistoric tumulus, a necropolis with 115 graves was discovered (Fig. 3).⁴ Deceased were buried in simple rectangular pits, mostly oriented E-W with some deviations, except for the grave No. 80 which was of N-S orientation. It is necessary to mention that in 11 graves the remains or traces of wooden coffins were detected. Deceased were laid down reclining on their backs with heads laid on occiputs or turned on one side. Hands likewise were placed in various positions. Hungarian coins dated to the first half of 11th century, from the mintage of Stephan I (1000–1038) and Peter (1038–1046), were also found in the necropolis.

Eight warrior graves were discovered in this necropolis, while four of them had parts of horse skeletons (skull, leg bones) next to the deceased's feet. Within warrior graves parts of bone overlay of the bow were found, as well as arrowheads, metal elements of quiver, and rare finds of flints, knives or buttons. As part of cavalry equipment stirrups and curbs were likewise discovered

⁴ A hundred and two graves were archaeologically documented and their locations are marked on the situational plan, although the boxes in which osteological and paleozoological material is preserved in the Belgrade City Museum suggest that there were at least 115 graves.

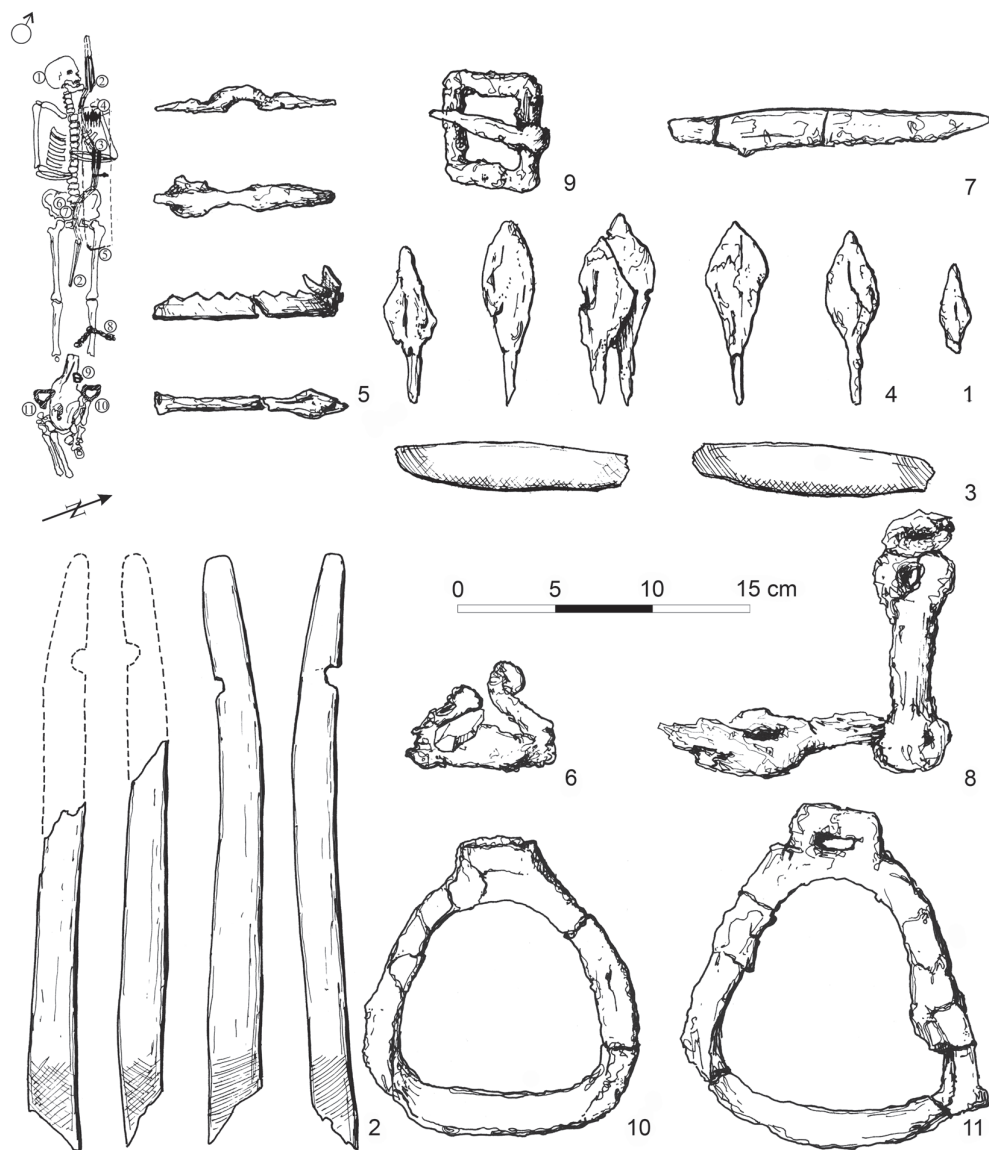


Fig. 2. Early Magyar grave from Novi Bečej — Matejski brod, Srednjobanatski okrug; after N. Stanojev (1989, 64–65); computer design D. Radičević, P. Špehar.

1, 4 — arrow heads; 2–3 — bone plates of the bow; 5 — iron parts of the quiver; 6 — flint; 7 — knife; 8 — bit; 9 — buckle; 10–11 — stirrups.



Fig. 3. Early Magyar necropolis from Batajnica, Beograd. Ground plan;
drawn by D. Radičević, P. Špehar.

a — warrior graves and graves with horse burials.

(Fig. 4:3). In some cases, when next to the deceased horse bones were buried, on its legs stirrups were also found. Since a monograph about this site is in preparation, on this occasion, we will illustrate mentioned finds using ground plans of graves 13 and 95 at the moment of their discovery (Fig. 5).

Remaining finds of military and horse equipment, gathered mostly during agrarian works without any accompanying dating and clear archaeological context, allow similar conclusions. Yet, different forms of weaponry can also be sporadically found. For example, during agrarian works in Novi Kneževac on the land of count Bela Talijan in 1899, except for the remains of a horse skeleton, a willow leaf shaped lance point with accentuated rib and a fragmented one-

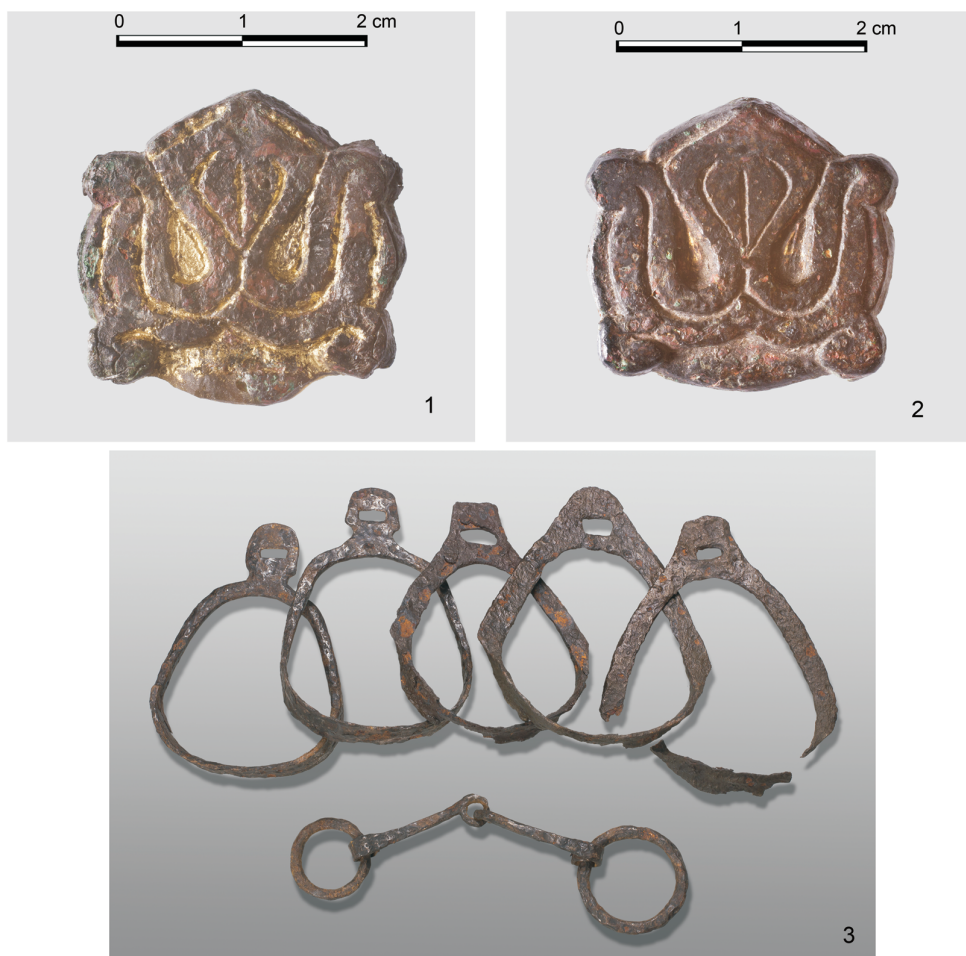


Fig. 4. Early Magyar necropolis from Batajnica, Beograd; Photo by N. Borić.

1-2 — belt applications from grave No. 51; 3 — horse equipment from different graves.

-edged blade sword were also discovered (Stanojev 1989, 66; Kovács 1991, 410–411). Besides, at site Mala Pijaca — Mali Pesak human bones, parts of horse skeleton, silver applications and a sabre were found (Szekeres 1971, 92; Ric 1979, 33). Until now, this is the only find of this type of weaponry, and nothing more can be said about it, since it was lost in the meantime. A find unique due to its nature originates from a grave in Doroslovo, where an axe was found, as well as wainscot of a reflex bow (Fodor 1981, 149–164).

Except for the male warrior graves with suitable finds, typical female decorative items can be associated with the ancient Hungarian horizon, like different types of applications and pendants, fully casted and band-like bracelets,

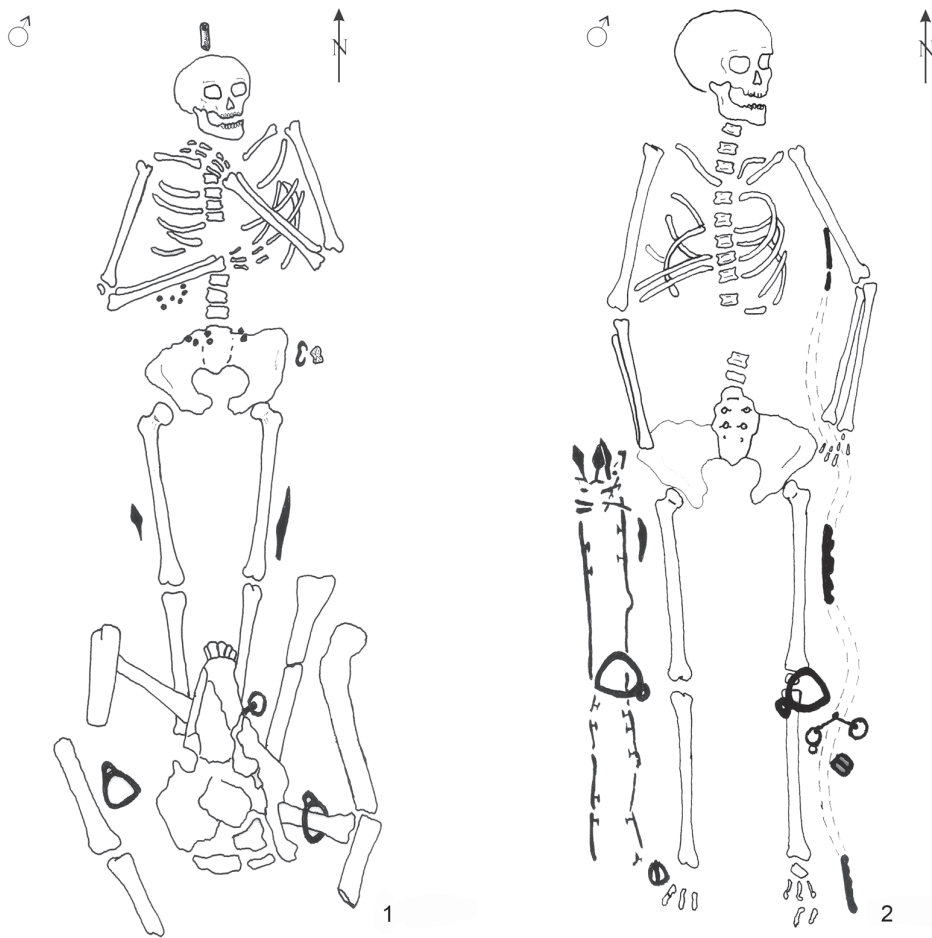


Fig. 5. Early Magyar necropolis from Batajnica, Beograd. Ground plan of the selected graves; drawn by D. Ćirković.

1 — grave No. 13; 2 — grave No. 95.

bracelets made of spirally twisted wire, characteristic rings etc. Generally speaking, those are also mostly accidental discoveries originating from devastated graves discovered during the last decades of the 19th and the first decade of the 20th century. According to the available data, this type of finds was detected on 14 sites. Distribution of the sites point to their grouping in the wider area of the Tisa valley, above all in the northern Banat, while in other parts of Vojvodina they were encountered only sporadically (Fig. 1).⁵

⁵ The southernmost finds of this type are those from Vršac (Hampel 1905, vol. II, 858–859; Fodor 1980, 194–195), but the origin of which we can not be positively sure. To be more precise, these are the finds from the Hungarian National Museum, which were acquired as a gift from

Occasional finds of earrings of so called Saltovo type (Fig. 6:1–2), known from Banatsko Arandjelovo and Rabe (Stanojev 1989, 18, 99), as well as silver hair and chest decorative set of Várpalota type from Surduk (Fig. 6:3), today kept in Archaeological Museum in Zagreb (Demo 2012), also belong to this group. This type of finds was sporadically discovered on several other sites (Szőke 1962, 24; Stanojev 1989, 13–16, 23–25, 53, 99, 129; Bálint 1991, 208, 232, 245–247, Pl. LIII:a:1, 7–8, 10–11, 17–18, Pl. LX:b:4–6; Kovács 1991, 399–400, 403; 1992, 38–40, 60–61, Pl. 2:6–15, Pl. 3:16–17, Pl. 14:1–13).

Decorative applications made of precious metals are relatively numerous when considering the territory of Vojvodina. Repeatedly, as accidental finds, they were sent to the museum in Szeged (Reizner 1898, 184, 190, Fig. 1–5; Hampel 1900, 675–676, Pl. LXXVIII:c:1–5; 1905, vol. II, 654–656; 1905, vol. III, Pl. 430; Tömörkény 1904, 264–269). Most of them came from graves ruined during public works on sand mounts in the vicinity of Oroszlamoš, modern Banatsko Arandjelovo. It is obvious that a larger necropolis at that place has been devastated for a long time, and that, thanks to the typical ancient Hungarian material, it can be dated to 10th and 11th centuries (Stanojev 1989, 14–16; Kovács 1991; 1992).

Among the finds from the above mentioned necropolis within the estate of count Bela Talijan in the vicinity of modern Novi Kneževac, earrings, twisted and band-like bracelets, as well as decorative applications are mentioned (Hampel 1902, 314–315; 1905, vol. II, 668–669; 1907, 149–150; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 58; Stanojev 1989, 66; Kovács 1991, 410–411). Particularly interesting are round hair applications, i.e. braid ornaments, which were made of silver-plated brass foil (Fig. 6:4). They are ornamented with geometrical motifs in the middle, surrounded by palmette running around the edge of application. On its reverse there is a cotter for attaching. Applications of this kind were defined as typical of early Hungarian goldsmithing and of the earliest phase of Hungarian presence in the Carpathian Basin, while it was supposed that the finds from Novi Kneževac most probably come from a female grave of some rich and respectable member of the local community (Fodor 1996b, 355–356, Fig. 1).

Archaeologically explored graves that have early Hungarian objects typical of female population are rare. One such feature was found at site Anka Sziget in village Rabe, and it was explored by J. Reizner in 1890 (Reizner 1891, 206–210; Hampel 1905, 658–660; 1907, 191–192). A necropolis was excavated there, that consisted of seven graves oriented N-S. Part of the grave inventory consisted of cowries, round applications of gilded silver foil, as well as golden earring (Stanojev 1989, 99; Kovács 1991, 411).

The richest archaeologically researched graves originate from above mentioned site Jazovo (Girić 1996, 144). Out of nine discovered graves, grave No. 5

a teacher from Arad in 1900, who only knew that they originate from “[...] somewhere on the outskirts of Vršac” (Fodor 1996c, 358).



Fig. 6. Selected finds from Vojvodina dated to Magyar Conquest Period;
computer design D. Radičević, P. Špehar.

- 1 — Banatsko Arandelovo, opština Novi Kneževac, Severobanatski okrug; after I. Tömörkény (1904, 268);
2 — Rabe, opština Novi Kneževac, Severobanatski okrug; after N. Stanojević (1989, 99); 3 — Surduk, opština
Stara Pazova, Sremski okrug; after Ž. Demo (2012, Pl. I); 4 — Novi Kneževac, Severobanatski okrug; after
I. Fodor (1996b, 355, Fig. 1).

is exceptional when it comes to the wealth of finds (Fig. 7; cf. Stanojev 1989, 46–51; Bálint 1991, 127–128, 225–229). In the area of the deceased's chest, fragments of a necklace made out of perforated cowries were discovered. On the left forearm there were two bronze bracelets: one band-like bracelet with open, widen and rounded ends, decorated by fluting and incisions. On the upper part of the chest four applications made of silver foil in the shape of rosette were found, while on the clavicles twelve bipartite pendants made of casted gilded silver were placed in a row. On both sides of the spine two parallel rows of fourteen gilded silver dress ornaments were detected that were made by imprinting on matrix, as well as nine heart shaped applications of gilded silver, made by casting.

Finally, the last group of finds that can be ascribed to the horizon of the Hungarian conquest are different types of belt applications, discovered at seven sites (Fig. 1). Among the Hungarians, as well as among the Avars, belt was the insignia of rank (Révész, Nepper 1996, 48; Révész 2006, 119–124). It could be decorated by the bends made of precious metals or bronze, depending on financial abilities of the owner. The finds of this kind are not usual on the territory of Vojvodina and available data are gained only thanks to some individual finds.

Not a single belt set is completely preserved, as was in the case of the finds from northern parts of Pannonia. It is interesting to emphasise that the appearance of this type of finds is not yet recorded in northern part of Tisa valley in Banat and Bačka, where ancient Hungarian finds are usually concentrated. The northernmost finds, up to date, are discovered in Danubian valley in Bačka, Doroslovo and Apatin (Fodor 1981, 149–164; Mesterházy 1996, 299), while some accidental discoveries are known from southern Banat, from Orešac and Pančevo (Bálint 1991, 106, Pl. XXXIII:a:8; Stanojev 1989, 89–90, No. 494). This type of finds is most often found in Srem, in Novi Banovci, Zemun and Batajnica (Stanojev 1989, 61–62; Bajalović-Xadžić-Pešić 1984, 50, No. 492–498, Pl. XIII:7–10; Bálint 1991, 106, Pl. XXXIII:a:9–11, 17–18, 20–21).

For the above mentioned specimens, the question of their origin in regard to the workshop, as well as of their attribution to the ancient Hungarian horizon, will be kept open for the time being. Mentioned belt applications can be associated with the material culture of the Hungarians from the period of their conquest of the Carpathian Basin (Schulze-Dörflamm 1991, 405, Fig. 29; Révész 2006, 124), which is testified among others, by an early Hungarian warrior grave from Gnadendorf (Tobias 2006, 5–7, Cat. Nos. 4–10, Pl. (Farbtafel) III; Daim 2006, 285–289). Yet, it must be mentioned that the adequate analogies can likewise be found south of the Sava and Danube rivers (Bálint 1991, 106, Pl. XXXIII:a:3–7, 12–16), areas that during the 10th century were under the Bulgarian rule, for which these finds were also typical (Stanilov 1991; Plet'nov, Pavlova 2002, 24–118; Inkova 2012 [with said literature]; Langó 2014).

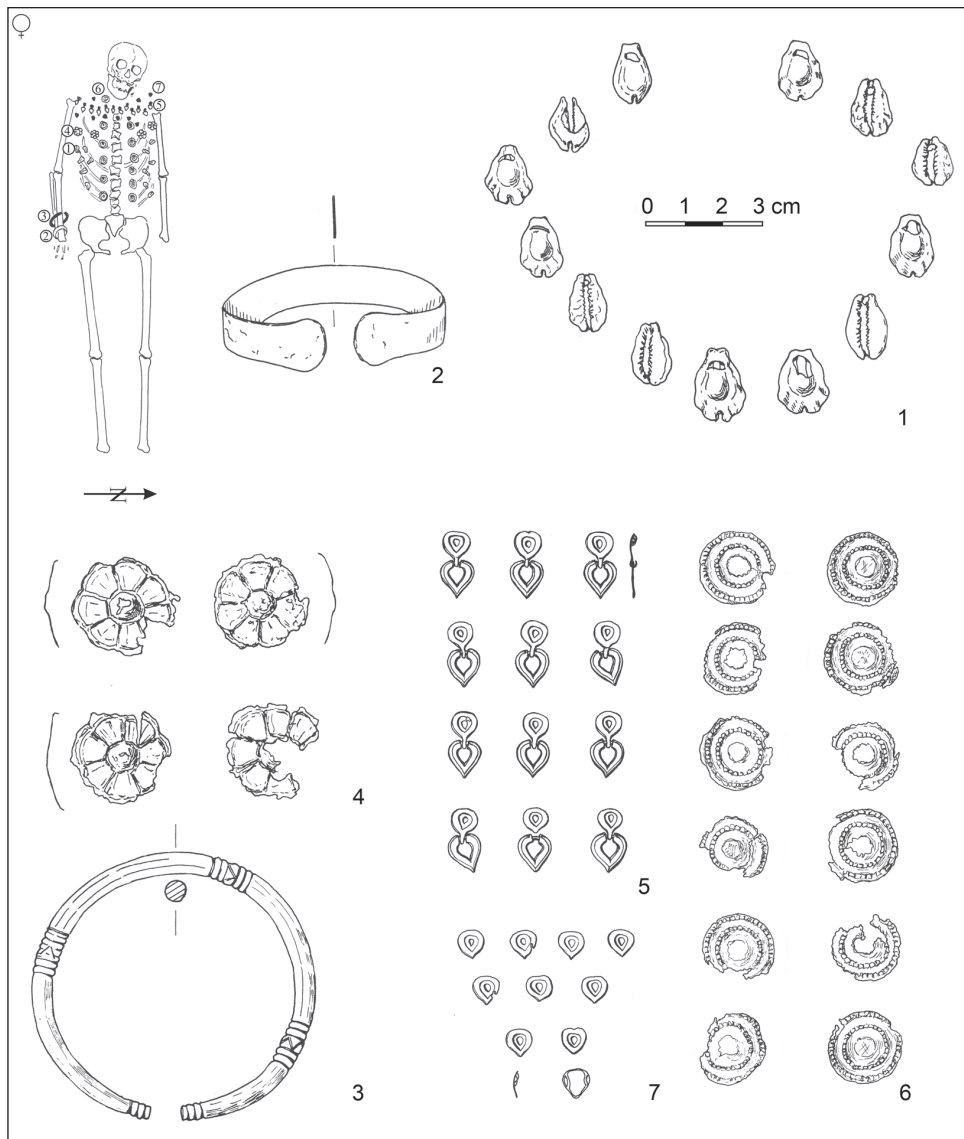


Fig. 7. Early Magyar grave from Jazovo, opština Čoka, Severnobanatski okrug; computer design D. Radičević, P. Špehar.

1 — necklace; 2-3 — bracelets; 4-7 — dress ornaments; after N. Stanojević (1989, 48-49).

Two completely preserved samples from the grave No. 51 (Fig. 4:1-2), as well as one fragmented find from grave No. 95 are the only finds of this type discovered during the archaeological excavations in Batajnica. These are, for now, exceptional pieces when it comes to the appearance, with no analogies in their close vicinity. Similar finds are dated to the later phase of Saltovo

culture, i.e. from the middle of the 10th century (Türk 2012, Fig. 4), while related specimens can be found in the area of central Hungary (Fodor 1996d, 285, Fig. 4) and Transylvania (Gáll 2013, Pl. 117). Almost identical finds are known from south-western Slovakia (Točík 1968, Pl. XLII), which might lead to the conclusion that the owners of the items found in Batajnica could have arrived somewhere from the North.

CONCLUSION

Finds from the graves typical of the Period of Hungarian Conquest in northern Banat and Bačka testify that the newly arrived tribes were present in this area since the 10th century. Based on the typical funerary rites and grave inventories, it was possible to extract the horizon of funerals associated to the appearance of the steppe-nomadic population, which came from the northern Black Sea region. Their chronological determination is made by the grave finds, while coins can be found in graves only during later phase. The oldest discovered specimens originate from Senčanski Trešnjevac, where two coins of Stephan I (997–1038) were found (Stanojević 1989, 109–113), and from Batajnica, where two coins were discovered in grave No. 31, one of Stephan I and the other of Peter (1038–1041, 1044–1046). Further, one more coin of Stephan I, reused as the part of necklace, was discovered in grave No. 83.

The distribution of the typical ancient Hungarian finds clearly shows that the Tisa valley was the main direction of conquest and inhabitation, while the course of Danube was less used. From geographical point of view, the appearance of warrior graves, with the exception of Batajnica and, maybe, Futog, can be traced north from Apatin in Bačka and Novi Bečej in Banat (Fig. 1). Similar image can be seen when considering the distribution of other typical finds. The majority of sites is found in the northern part of Tisa valley in Banat and Bačka and this group of necropolises can without any doubt be associated with the related numerous sites around the confluence of Maros (Mureş) river and on both banksides of the river Tisa in Hungary, where they clearly testify about the existence of an area of intensive inhabitation of ancient Hungarian population (Kürti 1997, 127–136 [with said literature]). According to the available data, the sites in northern Vojvodina represent the southernmost part of this area, while the image is completely different further south. However, since the available information is not completely reliable, this conclusion is about to be confirmed. For now, the only exception is the necropolis in Batajnica, but we must still await for the finished monograph.

According to the data provided by Constantine Porphyrogenetus, Srem was a part of the territory ruled by Hungarians (DAI, ch. 40, p. 175–179). The presence of Hungarians, which due to the available finds was confined to the area along the left bank of the Danube upstream from Belgrade, is further confirmed by the finds from Surduk (Demo 2012).

Apart from that, when considering the Porphyrogenetus' description of the territory inhabited by the Hungarians, the prevailing opinion is that it relates to the situation as was in the time of creating this important writing. According to the opinion of J. Kalić, the consistent use of the present tense in sentences stating that it is the land in which Hungarians "now dwell" or "now live", indicate the 10th century and the time of the Constantine VII Porphyrogenetus rule (Kalić 1993, 7–10). It seems that even then there was a distinction between the territories subordinated to the supreme rule and those inhabited by seven Hungarian tribes and related to them Kabars or Khavars. This conclusion is suggested by the available archaeological finds.

When considering the territory of modern Banat, there are some opinions that Glad's territories suffered only slightly from Hungarian conquest, and were finally conquered after the break of Achutum's rule at the beginning of the 11th century (Dimitrov 1998, 51). The possibility must not be excluded that this area, even after Glad's surrender retained some semi-dependant status, unlikely those areas west from Tisa ruled by Salan that were incorporated within the territory under direct Hungarian governance.

According to the byzantine sources, Kabarrian tribes came to Pannonia together with Hungarian tribes. At the beginning of the 11th century, on the territory of lower Tisa flow, Black Hungarians (*Nigri Hungari*) are mentioned to be baptised at that time by the missionary Bruno of Querfurt, who arrived to Kovin by Danube (Bruno, p. 100–101). Some researchers recognized in them the descendants of those Kabars that settled together with Hungarian tribes (Györfy 1987, 308; Tóth 1997, 81–94). However, the archaeological researches on the territory of Vojvodina, aimed at identification of this population, still gave no results.

APPENDIX

List of the sites dated to the Magyar Conquest Period in Vojvodina, Serbia

1. Apatin-Rimski šanci, Zapadnobački okrug (Roediger 1904, 263; Bálint 1991, 207, Pl. LXII:b:1).
2. Banatsko Arandelovo (Oroszlámos), opština Novi Kneževac, Severnobański okrug (Reizner 1898, 184, Fig. 1–5, 190; Hampel 1900, 675–676, Pl. LXXVIII:c:1–5; Tömörkény 1904, 264–268; Hampel 1905, vol. II, 654–656; 1905, vol. III, Pl. 430:c:1–5; Szóke 1962, 24; Stanojev 1989, 14–19; Kovács 1991, 399–404; Kovács 1992, 38–41).
3. Banatski Despotovac (Ernőháza) — Ciglana, opština Zrenjanin, Srednjobanatski okrug (Stanojev 1989, 13).
4. Batajnica, Beograd (Kovačević 1961, 282–283; Marjanović-Vujović, Tomić 1982, 49–50; Janković, Janković 1990, 70–71).
5. Bočar (Bocsár), opština Novi Bečej, Srednjobanatski okrug (Stanojev 1989, 32–35).

6. Bogojevo (Gombos) — Biboja ulica, opština Odžaci, Zapadnobanatski okrug (Cziráky 1900, 265–267; 1901, 424–428; 1903, 54–61; Hampel 1905, vol. II, 762–765; 1907, 167–170; Szőke 1962, 36, 40, 69; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 24, 25 [93]; Giesler 1981, 157, 161; Stanojev 1989, 24–29).
7. Crna Bara (Feketetó) — Prkos, opština Čoka, Severnbanatski okrug (Garašanin, Garašanin 1951; 1957; Stanojev 1989, 129).
8. Doroslovo (Doroszló) — ulica Žarka Zrenjanina 48, opština Sombor, Zapadnobački okrug (Fodor 1981, 149–164).
9. Futog — Režo majur, Novi Sad, Južnobački okrug (Roediger 1904, 261–263; Hampel 1905, vol. II, 858; 1907, 150; Szőke 1962, 33; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 36 [323]; Bálint 1991, 260; Stanojev 1989, 124).
10. Hajdukovo (Hajdújárás) — Fizfašor (Fűzfásor), opština Subotica, Severnobački okrug (Szekeres, Ricz 1998, 19; Dimovski, Sekereš 2012, 8).
11. Hajdukovo (Hajdújárás) — Čurgo/Pereš, opština Subotica, Severnobački okrug (Bálint 1991, 248; Szekeres, Ricz 1998, 86; Dimovski, Sekereš 2012, 8).
12. Horgoš (Horgos) — Hinga, opština Kanjiža, Severnbanatski okrug (Dimovski, Sekereš 2012, 7–19).
13. Horgoš (Horgos) — Nosa, opština Kanjiža, Severnbanatski okrug (Szél 1872, 40–43; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 41; Bálint 1991, 224, Pl. LXII:b:7).
14. Horgoš (Horgos) — Kamaraš, opština Kanjiža, Severnbanatski okrug (Tergina 1894, 204–206; Szekeres 1971, 9; Stanojev 1989, 126–128; Bálint 1991, 224; Dimovski, Sekereš 2012, 8).
15. Jazovo (Hódegyháza), opština Čoka, Severnbanatski okrug (Stanojev 1989, 46–51; Bálint 1991, 127–128, 225–229).
16. Kikinda (Nagykikinda), Severnbanatski okrug (Stanojev 1989, 53; Bálint 1991, 232, Pl. LX:b:4–6).
17. Male pijace (Kispiac) — Mali pesak, opština Kanjiža, Severbanatski okrug (Szekeres 1971, 92; Ric 1979, 33; Bálint 1991, 234).
18. Male pijace (Kispiac) — obale Kireša, opština Kanjiža, Severbanatski okrug (Farkas 1971, 209; Szekeres 1971, 91–92; Bálint 1991, 234).
19. Male pijace (Kispiac) — Bogarzo, opština Kanjiža, Severbanatski okrug (Dimovski, Sekereš 2012, 8).
20. Novi Banovci, opština Beograd (Stanojev 1989, 61–62)
21. Novi Bečej — Matejski brod, Srednjobanatski okrug (Nađ 1953, 107–117; Stanojev 1989, 63).
22. Novi Kneževac — Posed grofa Talijan, Severbanatski okrug (Hampel 1902, 314–315; 1905, vol. II, 668–669; 1907, 149–150; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 58; Stanojev 1989, 66; Kovács 1991, 410–411; Fodor 1996b, 355–356).
23. Novo Miloševo (Beodra), opština Novi Bečej, Srednjobanatski okrug (Stanojev 1989, 67–69; Girić 1996, 148).

24. Orešac, opština Vršac, Južnobanatski okrug (Bálint 1991, 224, Pl. XXXIII:a:7; Kovács 1991, 419).
25. Palić (Palics) — Žuta obala, opština Subotica, Severnobački okrug (Szekeres, Ricz 1998, 119).
26. Pančevo, Južnobanatski okrug (Stanojev 1989, 89–90).
27. Rabe (Rábé) — Anka Sziget, opština Novi Kneževac, Severobanatski okrug (Reizner 1891, 206–210; Hampel 1905, vol. II, 658–660; 1907, 191–192; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 52; Stanojev 1989, 99; Kovács 1991, 411).
28. Rabe (Rábé) — Vasúti órház, opština Novi Kneževac, Severobanatski okrug (Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 52; Balint 1991, 247; Kovács 1992, 60–61, Pl.14:1–13).
29. Sombor (Zombor) — Bezdanska ulica, Zapadnobački okrug (Bálint 1991, 262).
30. Sombor (Zombor) — Rančevo, Zapadnobački okrug (Takács 2013, 652, 660, site. No. 124).
31. Subotica (Szabadka) — Neđhalom (Négyhalom), Severobački okrug (Bálint 1991, 248).
32. Surduk, opština Stara Pazova, Sremski okrug (Demo 2012).
33. Vršac, Južnobanatski okrug (Hampel 1901, 189; 1905, vol. II, 858–859; 1907, 212–213; Feher, Éry, Kralovánszky 1962, 84; Giesler 1981, 158, 163; Demo 1983, 271, 280; Fodor 1980, 192–194; 1996c, 358; Stanojev 1989, 43; Bálint 1991, 260; Kovács 1991, 408).
34. Zemun, opština Beograd (Bajalović-Hadži-Pešić 1984, 50, Cat. No. 492–498, Pl. XIII:7–10; Bálint 1991, 106, Pl. XXXIII:a: 9–11, 17–18, 20–21).

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