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HUNGARIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM*L.L. Simon, G. Virágos, V. Majerik*
Hungarian National Museum (Hungarian)

Abstract: The Hungarian National Museum is Europe's third oldest national collection, which has been collecting cultural artefacts relating to the people of Hungary and the Carpathian Basin for 220 years. In addition to the constant maintenance and expansion that an unparalleled collection like this necessitates, the tasks of the museum also include the scientific analysis and presentation of invaluable finds, as well as the presentation of research results.

In 2022, a major event occurred in the life and activities of the Hungarian National Museum. The National Institute of Archaeology (NIA) was founded within the museum, which took over the entire archaeological portfolio of the museum, including several fields such as archaeological museology and cultural heritage protection, as well as the departments responsible for various collections, exhibitions, excavations on major construction sites and topography. The Hungarian National Museum also functions as the coordinator of several archaeological institutions.

Keywords: Hungarian National Museum, National Institute of Archaeology, the Carpathian Basin, Coronation mantle, Seuso treasure.

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ВЕНГР ҰЛТТЫҚ МУЗЕЙІ*Л. Шимон Ласло, Габор Вилагош, Вера Майерик*
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Аңдатпа. Венгрияның ұлттық музейі 220 жыл бойы Венгрия мен Карпат ойпатының тұрғындарына қатысты мәдени артефактілерді жинап келе жатқан Еуропадағы үшінші көне ұлттық коллекция. Мұндай теңдесі жоқ коллекцияның сақталуын қамтамасыз ету және көбейтумен қатар, музейдің міндеттеріне баға жетпес жәдігерлерді ғылыми талдау және көрсету, сондай-ақ зерттеу нәтижелерін кіреді.

2022 жылы Венгрия Ұлттық музейінің өмірі мен қызметінде маңызды оқиға орын алды. Музейде Ұлттық археология институты (ҰАИ) құрылды, оған музейдің бүкіл археологиялық портфелі, соның ішінде археологиялық музейтану және мәдени мұраны қорғау сияқты бірнеше сала табысталды. Институт құрамына коллекцияларға, көрмелерге, құрылыс алаңдарында қазбалар жүргізу жауапты әртүрлі бөлімдер, топография бөлімі кіреді. Сонымен қатар Венгрия ұлттық музейі бірнеше археологиялық мекемелердің үйлестірушісі қызметін атқарады.

Тірек сөздер: Венгрия ұлттық музейі, Ұлттық археология институты, Карпат ойпаты, Коронация мантиясы, Сеусо қазынасы.

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ВЕНГЕРСКИЙ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ МУЗЕЙ*Л. Шимон Ласло, Габор Вилагош, Вера Майерик*
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Аннотация. Венгерский национальный музей – третья старейшая национальная коллекция Европы, которая уже 220 лет собирает культурные артефакты, относящиеся к народам Венгрии и Карпатского бассейна. Помимо задачи постоянного сохранения и расширения такой беспрецедентной коллекции, в задачи музея входит также научный анализ, презентация бесценных находок и результатов исследований.

В 2022 году в жизни и деятельности Венгерского национального музея произошло важное событие. При музее был основан Национальный институт археологии (НИА), который взял на себя весь археологический портфель музея, включая несколько таких сфер как археологическая музеология и охрана культурного наследия. В состав института входят отделы, ответственные за различные коллекции, выставки, раскопки на крупных строительных объектах, а также отдел топографии. Венгерский национальный музей также выступает координатором нескольких археологических учреждений.

Ключевые слова: Венгерский национальный музей, Национальный институт археологии, Карпатский бассейн, Коронационная мантия, сокровище Сеусо.

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Hungarian National Museum is the first national and greatest museum of Hungary, which was established in 1802 as the third national one among European museums by Ferenc Széchenyi. Its iconic building designed by Mihály Pollack was being built 1837-1847 in classicist style in the heart of Budapest.



Figure 1. Hungarian National Museum from bird's eye view

The museum's importance in Hungarian history.

The museum building played a significant role in the Hungarian people's war of independence against the Habsburg empire. Its building and surrounding was a crucial scene of the Hungarian Civic Revolution and War of Independence of 1848–1849, providing venue for several popular assemblies. The Upper House of the popular representative assembly held its sessions in its Ceremonial Hall in 1848, too. Subsequently, the House of Representatives was functioning here in 1861, 1865-66, while the Upper House from 1867 until the completion of the new Parliament building in 1902. Consequently, the building of the Hungarian National Museum is not only the most important depository and exhibition site of our national collection, but also the symbol of national liberty. This symbolism is represented by the practice of the state's organising central commemoration of the Hungarian nation in the middle of every March.



Figure 2. The Széchenyi Hall designed by Miklós Ybl was completed on May 7, 1865. It is one of the most distinguished ceremonial halls of the National Museum nowadays, hosting to exhibitions, events, conferences, and book launches.



Figure 3. Main stairway

The rapidly developing collections had already outgrown the building by the second half of the 19th century. Besides that, the evolution of international museology was also headed toward specification, and the establishment of specialised museums. Some of its collections disunited as time passed by, thus concluding the independent institutions of the Museum of Applied Arts in 1872 and the Museum of Fine Arts in 1896.

An overwhelming renovation of the building was taking place between 1926 and 1927. They gained further venues in the attic on the basis of Jenő Lechner's design plans, which solved storage difficulties for a while. The following big structural reconstruction was being implemented between 1996 and 2006, when – among others – workrooms, restoration workshops and another exhibition venue (the Roman Age Lapidarium) were being built under the two inner courtyards. As far as the Museum Garden is concerned, its historically accurate restoration in 2019 resulted in the birth of a modern, multifunctional green area in the downtown. Nonetheless, the museum building claims further development and modernisation, whose preparations have already begun.

Mission of the museum

A key task of the Hungarian National Museum is to collect in compliance with scientific methods, restore and exhibit the past of the Carpathian Basin's onetime inhabitants, and the historical memories of the Hungarian nation from the Palaeolithic until today. In our collection consisting of several millions of art pieces, there are world renowned archaeological artefacts, including invaluable treasures of the Hungarian history and cultural history. Hence, the Hungarian National Museum has become the most important and richest art pieces' depository of the historical past of the Carpathian Basin. More precisely, it safeguards more than 400 000 years of the European and 1100 years of the Hungarian history, and more than three and a half million art pieces. We manage such emblematic treasures as the Hungarian Coronation Mantle, the heaviest and most valuable silverware treasures from the Roman Age (Seuso treasure), the Scythian golden deer, and the personal belongings of the Hungarian history's most significant figures.



Figure 4. Coronation mantle

Our museum's most treasured treasure among these is the 1100-year-old (!) Coronation Mantle, which is in itself the most outstanding piece of the European textile art. Originally it could have been worn as a vestment in church liturgy, and it seems quite certain that it could have been existed as early as the time of the first coronated King (St) Stephen I (997/1000-1038). Since the Latin inscription on the mantle suggests that it was commissioned by King (St) Stephen I and Queen Gizella themselves in 1031 for the Church of the Virgin Mary in Székesfehérvár. Byzantine silk with rosette pattern is the base material, which is almost entirely ornamented with gold thread made with overlaying technique. Its cut could have been modified around the turn of the 12-13th century, when sleeveless cloaks flowing off the shoulder became fashionable. The first data referring to the mantle derive from the records about the coronation of King Andrew III (1290-1301), saying that "the king was wearing a garment exactly the same as that of Saint Stephen". The clothing's historical significance is further increased by the fact that it had been used for more than 900 years as the coronation mantle of Hungarian kings up until the 20th century, when the monarchical form of government ceased to exist. And hence, it was selected as the symbol when the National Museum's former image was replaced, being the most significant and precious art piece of its possessions. Thus, it has become the logo of our institution.



Figure 5. Seuso treasure

The name Seuso treasure encompasses the most famous silver dining set from the late imperial period of the Roman Empire (ca. 350-450 A.D.) known in Europe until this day, which consists of fourteen pieces of mostly large, richly ornamented vessels (primarily jugs, platters, stoup set, and a toilet casket). The treasure hoard was named after Seuso, whose name appears in the inscription of the gilded silver hunting platter, and who could have been a provincial officer,

probably of military service and a wealthy member of the elite. Carefully hidden in a cauldron, the archaeological artefact, bearing unparalleled historical information, was found near Székesfehérvár (ca. 80 kms from the present-day capital, Budapest) in the mid-1970s and experienced several twists and turns subsequently. After the violent death of the finder (who performed compulsory military service then) in 1980, the silver tableware went missing for long, before it appeared in the illegal international artwork market. The repatriation of the finds could only take place after several years of negotiations and investigations. It cannot be excluded that further pieces of the collection will crop up in the future, nor that archaeologists will manage to localize the former owner's villa and the site of the treasures' discovery.



Figure 6. The golden deer of Mezőkeresztes-Zöldhalompusztá

Golden deer, having been placed beside the cremated burials of the Scythian elite's burial mounds on the Great Hungarian Plain and was found in Tápiószentmárton in 1923 and in Mezőkeresztes-Zöldhalompusztá in 1928, represent the most famous pieces among the archaeological treasures of the Museum. Depiction of the deer of Mezőkeresztes-Zöldhalompusztá (as seen on the figure) is fairly stylised, its contour is followed by a cord-like, slanting row of notches in some places, and the eye and ear formed by compartments were once filled with coloured glass paste. Based on parallels known from the steppe north of the Black Sea and from the Kuban river's catchment area at the northern foothills of the Caucasus (Kostromskaya, Kul-Oba) we assume that shields and quivers with golden deer (zoomorphic representations of tribal ancestors) mounts could have been worn as power or military insignias by the highest-ranking Scythian elites, probably princes of the Scythian peoples near the Tisa in the case of Hungarian artefacts. We assume they could have been produced to order in the 7-6th centuries by the goldsmiths of Olbia, a Greek provincial city at the Black Sea, according to the specification of Scythian purchaser.



Figure 7. Gilded silver sabretache plate with palmette bouquet inside tendril lozenges forming an infinite net.

It was recovered from a disturbed male burial in Galgóc (Hlohovec, Slovakia) in 1868. This was the first artefact of the 42 sabretache ornaments dated to the first half of the 10th century in the Hungarian Conquest period. United exhibition of all of them took place on the occasion of the museum's 220th anniversary in 2022. Sabretaches, holder of the fire-starter kit, were part of the daily wear of the Hungarian, who set out from the Ural Mountain area and arrived in the Carpathian Basin through the steppes. Versions ornamented with fine mounts, or with entire silver or gilded silver plates, however, could have been produced by the prince's goldsmiths and demonstrated social rank: they were probably worn by the leaders of the prince's military escort. This clothing piece diffused surprisingly in some portions of Scandinavia inhabited by the Vikings due to the Hungarian's relationship with the Kievan Rus principalities while living in the area north of the Black Sea.



Figure 8. Open Repository

Glass, porcelain, and ceramic objects of the Modern Department (18-20th century), as well as a smaller unit containing pharmacy jars, can be seen in the repository, which is open to the public. The hall bears the name of Ágoston Kubinyi, the former scholarly director of the museum (1843–1869). The ground floor furniture was made in the 1860s at the same time as the Széchenyi Hall, and the upstairs part in 1907. Pieces representing the keepsakes of Hungarian history, social and cultural history and industrial history can be seen here. Special treasures of the collection are personal relics and depictions of famous historical personalities, politicians, artists, scientists (e.g. Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II, Lajos Kossuth, Lajos Batthyány, Ferenc Deák, Queen Elisabeth).

Member institutions

Hungarian National Museum's network of branch museums encompasses the entire country, its institutional system is comprehensive not only structurally, but it also offers a wide cultural spectrum from the prehistoric exhibition site to the 20th century history museum. The non-exhaustive list includes three castle museums as being among the most popular destinations of the country: the Rákóczi Museum of Sáropatak, the King Matthias Museum of Visegrád, the Castle Museum of Esztergom (including the municipal museum). Semmelweis Museum of Medical History is the depository of a particular collection in Budapest. The house where Hungarian physicist Ignác Semmelweis, who pioneered in terminating the risk of puerperal fever, hosts one of the most significant collections of European medical history, and has been open to the public since 1965. By introducing "The Circles of Hell ... Malenki Robot – Forced Labor in the Soviet Union" Malenkij Robot Memorial is a permanent exhibition site in Budapest to commemorate the massive deportation of women and men to the Soviet Union after WWII. The nuclear-proof building at the Ferencváros Railway Station used to be a civil defence centre for the Hungarian State Railways, and where the majority of the deported were entrained.

All three castle museums and two further museums in the country among the member institutions have also developed separate archaeological collections, and the National Museum itself maintains three other archaeological exhibition sites, too.

Campona Victrix legionary camp is located at the southern gate of Budapest, the onetime fortification (castellum) of the Roman limes, the system of border defensive structures of the

Roman Empire, which used to be a permanent camp of the cavalry (ala), too. Sarmatians, who arrived from the steppes and settled down on the other side of the Danube in the middle of the 1st century, besieged the fort in 322 A.D., when Constantine the Great at the head of his troops defeated them at the walls of the castellum. The victory made Campona a significant site at the imperial level.

Villa Romana Baláca is a villa estate on the northern shore of the Balaton. The ancient residential building in the core is the most impressive historical memorial of the ruin garden, whose floor area of 2400 m² is the largest among the known villa buildings of Pannonia. Among others they excavated the collapsed and thus preserved cellar with its original equipment from the 2nd century a.d., and four mosaic floors in the building.

In the area of the present-day **Vértesszőlős Archaeological Park** archaeologist László Vértes dig (1963-68) at the site of a Palaeolithic archaic human and found a fragmentary occipital of a specimen typically assigned to *Homo heidelbergensis*, the *Homo erectus paleohungaricus*, and his tools and traces of animals. The dig's unique significance is represented by the fact that it was the first assemblage being so complex.

National Institute of Archaeology (NIA).

A key task of the Hungarian National Museum is the comprehensive management of Hungary's archaeological heritage. On January 1, 2022, pursuant to the legislative amendments, Hungarian National Museum took over the coordination, implementation and cooperation of archaeological operations relating to the large-scale investments of outstanding importance. In favour of that, Hungarian National Museum established the National Institute of Archaeology (NIA) on the 220th anniversary of its own establishment. The organisation employing nearly 300 employees has integrated and supplemented several former dependent institutional sections and encompassed remarkably complex and versatile functions. Its launch and formation were influenced by many factors. Firstly, that the relevant law repeatedly appointed the museum the institution of the Hungarian archaeological heritage protection, and accordingly, it has to perform its professional duties with respect to the deadlines, and as an eligible partner in administrative procedures. Preventive archaeological operations including risk assessment and necessary interventions are primarily considered here. Secondly, that the designation of institution and its form of operation demonstrate the traditional tasks and operational models, too. Thus it implies overwhelming international embeddedness, science-specific applied researches, as well as well-defined publication and dissemination goals. Thirdly, that it can uniquely integrate archaeological heritage protection and museology in one organic unit. All archaeological activities of the Museum have been integrated in one system. Not only planned research, but also preventive excavations are inseparable from the artefact processing and restoration, the depository, or the exhibition of archaeological content. And last but not least, it is also of key importance for the institute to manage the whole archaeological process from site detection to public relations. Several workshops operate within the framework of the HNM NIA, which help not only the daily operations, but also the elaboration of future development and foundation of its own. It is considered an outstanding goal that results of archaeological research coordinated by the HNM shall be ready to exhibit to the public as soon as possible.

The National Institute of Archaeology managed nearly 1000 projects in 2022.



Figure 9. The excavation of a Middle Bronze Age settlement and cemetery at Bátorfyerénye. Lead archaeologist: N. Larsson

Our colleagues conducted field walking surveys on an area of 1.244 million m², and 630 kms along linear facilities. We performed geophysical surveys of more than 22 million m². It shall be noted that in addition to our geophysical devices, an archeometric laboratory has also been established, which is one of the most advanced European labs in terms of equipment.

The Archaeometry Laboratory is multi-disciplinary research and education centre. It was established in 2007 and since then its infrastructure has continuously increased allowing the laboratory to conduct research on a much broader scale supporting archaeologists, students and academics from universities and other institutes. The laboratory offers a variety of analytical services to the archaeological community and promotes the integration of analytical sciences into all aspects of archaeology. Over the years, analytical capabilities have expanded to include:

- Soil micromorphology (thin section made from soils, floors, daub walls etc. analysed by polarizing microscope and other analytical equipment)
- Analysis of ceramics, stone tools, building materials, metals, glass (thin section analysis by polarizing microscope and other analytical equipment)
- Analysis of organic materials
- 3D analysis (analyses of use wear, technology, decoration, inscription etc.)

Main analytical instruments:

Bruker Lumos II Fourier transform infrared microscope (FT-IR)

Bruker M4 Tornado Plus AMICS 36S micro-XRF

Bruker Tracer 5G portable XRF

JEOL JSM-510LA scanning electron microscope equipped with Bruker Quantax Esprit Core XFlash 7 EDS, Bruker Quantax WDS and Horiba Flex-CLUE CL

Renishaw inVia Qontor Raman microscope

These analytical instruments are suitable for compositional analyses of archaeological objects and provide data on manufacturing technologies and provenance. The FT-IR and Raman are also suitable for the analysis of organic materials. Other equipment at the laboratory includes a 3D microscope (Leica), fume hood, hot plate, electric furnace (Nabertherm), vacuum drying oven (Binder), polishing and thin sectioning machines (Buehler, BrotLab), petrographic microscopes (Leica, Nikon, Olympus), binocular microscopes (Leica, Nikon, Olympus). Since 2007 the Archaeometry Laboratory has carried out more than 1000 research projects and conducted analyses on over 400 archaeological sites. The Laboratory strives to support research and education, it provides research training for BSc, MSc, MA and PhD students.

Common cooperation plans.

The Carpathian Basin with the historical and modern Hungary inside play an outstanding role in European and Eurasian archaeology. Studying early (i.e. Bronze Age, Iron Age, Migration period, and Hungarian Conquest Age) eastern parallels and precedents of the peoples having inhabited the Carpathian Basin is of outstanding importance for both the Hungarian and the Kazakh archaeological and historical research. We are still looking for the answer for many scientific issues.



Figure 10. Signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation, in the HNM, Budapest. László L. Simon director general (HNM), Rashida Haripova director (The Central State Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan), Gábor Virágos, Ph.D., deputy director general of archaeology (HNM),

János Hóvári, Ph.D., ambassador (†), Abdrashov Zhanibek ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Hungary

Direct contact and the Hungarian meeting in April 2023 were facilitated and supported János Hóvári, Ph.D. (1955-2023), the Executive Director of the Representation Office of the Organization of Turkic States in Hungary. In April 2023, the Memorandum of Strategic Cooperation was signed between our museums during the visit of Rashida Haripova, director of The Central State Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan. A further meeting was organised with a view to reinforcing our relationship on August 8, 2023, in The Central State Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almati. We initiated the preparations of a joint exhibition to be held in a museum during the negotiations. Our long-term goal is to develop a permanent relationship at the national level between the two countries by means of the cooperation of our institutions. We consider launching research and training programmes in both countries primarily in restoration and archaeology, and secondarily in anthropology, zoology, ethnography and art history, and the organisation of archaeological excavation projects and comprehensive research expeditions.

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