

INVESTMENTS FOR TOURISTIC PURPOSES AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

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The 20th conference of the European Archaeological Council (EAC) was held in Ireland in February 2019. The meeting took place in Dublin Castle and focused on the proper management of monuments and archaeological sites as well as the possibilities of presenting them to the wider public.¹ For years, discussions on monument protection in the EAC symposiums have focused on the problems posed by the relationship of archaeology to investments. Cultural tourism is a critical issue, in which the interests and needs of these two fields meet—or clash. In Hungary, this is most conspicuous in connection with the so-called heritage developments undertaken within the framework of the National Program for Castles and Fortresses, coordinated by the National Heritage Protection and Development Ltd (in Hungarian: Nemzeti Örökségvédelmi és Fejlesztési Nkft, NÖF). Two sites, Sárospatak and Szabadkígyós, are presented in this paper as examples of archaeological research projects undertaken in preparation for the further development of an area.

The period after WWII is traditionally viewed as the golden age of monument protection; both its institutional and legal framework were progressive even in a European comparison. However, the considerable success of this era is somewhat shadowed by its negative consequences, which remained unaddressed after the political regime change following the collapse of the soviet system. Transformations made necessary by the changing functions of sites, in-building, the division of these areas, as well as the lack of proper professional management has had an impact on the sites. Long-term strategies are crucial but hampered by the present project-based financing system. The tasks of the National Program for Castles and Fortresses have been divided between several institutions and state-owned companies: project planning and coordination belongs to NÖF, while research-related tasks are subdivided. Academic documentation of garden history is done by professionals at NÖF, the remains of walls are researched by the Heritage Protection Documentation Center, Hungarian Museum of Architecture, Hungarian Academy of Arts (in Hungarian: Magyar Művészeti Akadémia Magyar Építészeti Múzeum Műemlékvédelmi Dokumentációs Központja, MÉM-MDK), while restoration of the artifacts and monuments as well as the preliminary archaeological documentation (in Hungarian: Előzetes Régészeti Dokumentációk, ERD) are undertaken by the Castle Headquarters Integrated Center of Regional Development Ltd (Várkapitányság Integrált Területfejlesztési Központ Nonprofit Zrt., Várkapitányság Nkft.).

At some of the sites involved in the program, archaeological surveys proved to be a precondition for developing any concept on further planning. These explorations were undertaken as ERD-related test excavations. Castles were explored through test pits, while in castle parks the study of historical gardens was carried out in cooperation with landscape architects at NÖF, as well as heritage protection specialist András Koppány (MMA MÉM-MDK).

RESEARCH ON THE WESTERN TOWN WALL IN SÁROSPATAK

A promenade is planned to be built on the western side of the wall that once encircled the early modern town of Sárospatak. This promenade would connect the area to the already restored castle park. Accordingly, test excavations were made in two locations: on the external side of the western town wall, in the area of the so-called Lion Bastion [Oroszlán bástya] in the center, and on the internal side of the same wall, in the area of the so-called cannon hill, on an elevation. The aim was to identify the closure and the floor-level of the zwinger—the open area between the two defensive walls—and its relation to the Lion Bastion.

¹ For more on the 20 years of EAC and for details of the conference see: Eszter Kreiter and Katalin Wollák, “The European Archaeological Council celebrates its 20th anniversary,” *Hungarian Archaeology*, 2019 Spring.

The promenade's plans were made with the ambition that its line and floor level should reflect the structure of the old fortification, and there should be a passage between the higher floor inside the town wall and the lower floor outside it.

The settlement is situated on the right bank of the Bodrog Stream. This piece of land came into the possession of Péter Perényi in 1526, who then had the castle, the town walls, and the bastions built between 1534 and 1541.² In the 17th century the town was in the ownership of the Rákóczi family, and this period is seen as a second heyday, when large-scale constructions and modernization started, and the castle and the fortifications were enlarged. However, in 1702 the Habsburg Chamber ordered the castle to be blown up and made useless. The 18th-19th-century owners of the complex transformed the Red Tower and the castle wings into a romantic-style aristocratic mansion, and their environment into a landscape park. The moat around the walls was filled up; its line is perceptible today on the western side (NOVÁKI – SÁRKÖZI – FELD 2007, 102; 104–105) (Fig. 1).

Systematic archaeological research started in Sárospatak in 1958, preceding the restoration works in the castle and the town. These excavations focused primarily on the fortified castle in the south-eastern corner of the settlement. The large-scale reconstruction project made it possible for archaeologists Katalin Dankó, István Feld, and Csaba László to undertake a research of the Red Tower's walls, using test pits. At the same time, further archaeological surveys were conducted in several locations of the town. The northwestern New Bastion on the western town wall—important for the 2018 excavations—, the southwestern corner bastion, and the Matthew Bastion north of it in the castle garden, were also excavated. These were also restored after their scientific exploration (NOVÁKI – SÁRKÖZI – FELD 2007, 103-104). North of the Matthew Bastion, the Lion Bastion was partially excavated by Katalin Dankó in 1983. This project showed that there was a double defense wall on the northern side of the western town wall and clarified the relationship between the zwinger's wall and an earlier, rectangular bastion erected in the Perényi period. The upper floor of this latter, two-story building consisted of two, barrel-vaulted parts and a small opening between them, which was later walled up. The two stories were divided by a flat ceiling. On the northern and southern sides there were three loopholes each on both

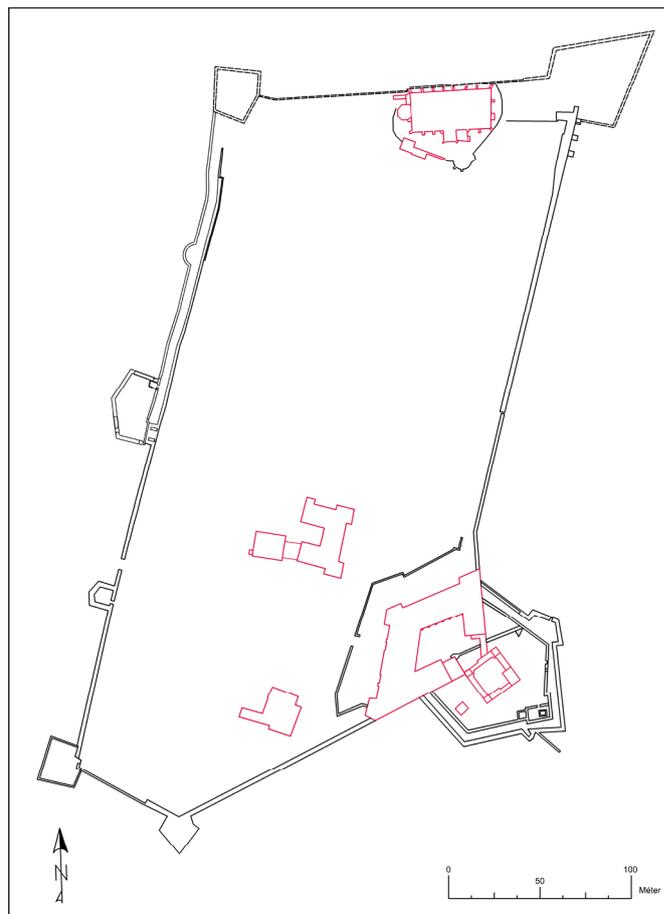


Fig. 1. Ground plan of the town

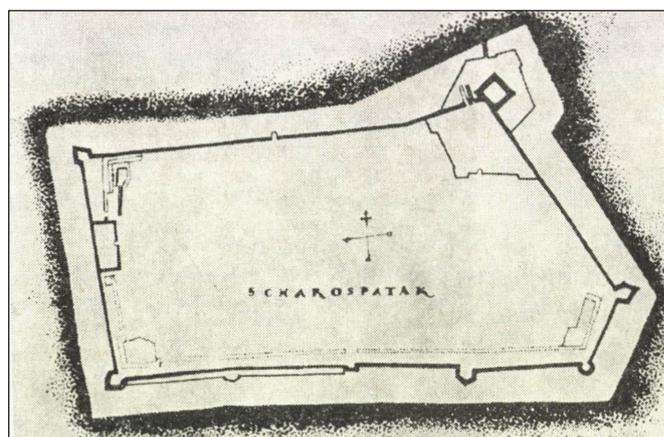


Fig. 2. Exploratory trenches in the area of the western town wall and the Lion Bastion

² Historical research had earlier identified the Red Tower of Sárospatak—a spectacular, rectangular, four-story bastion equipped with a cannon emplacement—with the fortification known from 13th-14th-century sources as *Castrum Patak*, *Castrum Potak*, or *Castrum Potok*. In 1966 Mihály Détshy clarified that the 13th-century castle of Patak stood on the Castle Hill in present-day Sátoraljaújhegy in the vicinity.

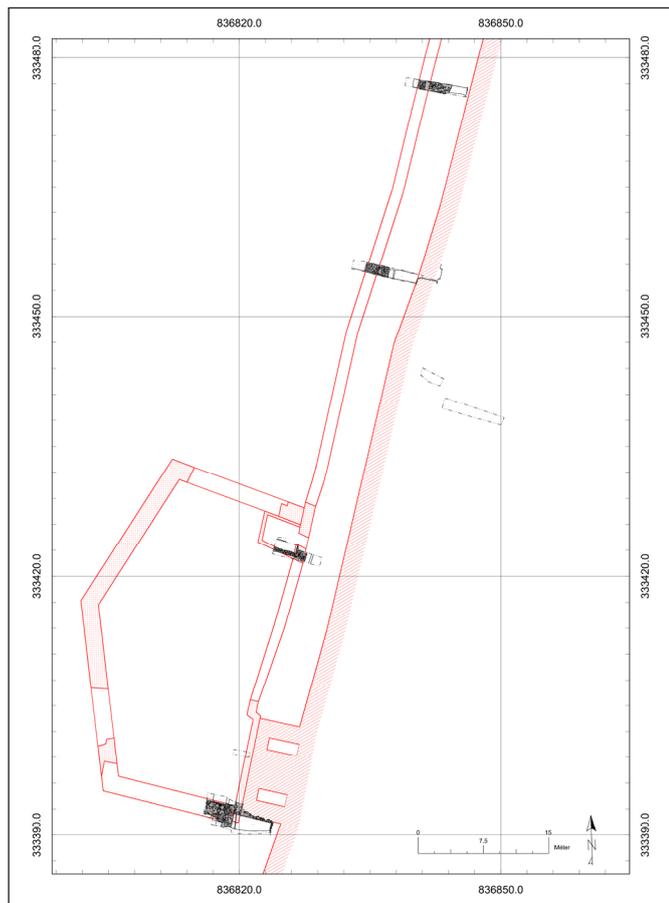


Fig. 3. Survey by the Italian military engineer Nicolo Angelini, around 1570

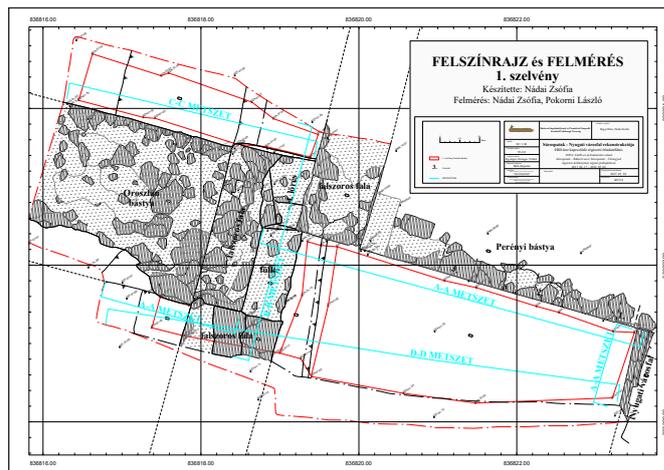


Fig. 4. Overview of the exploratory trench on the southern side of the Lion Bastion [Oroszlán bástya = Lion Bastion; lőrés = loophole; fülke = niche; falszoros fala = walls of the zwinger; Perényi bástya = bastion built in the Perényi period]

of the Lion Bastion. The two construction phases of the defense system differ in terms of building materials as well: while in the 16th century light limestone was used, the later builders preferred gray andesite (DANKÓ 1984: 242-244, 245).

During the 2018 test excavation (Fig. 3) one trench was dug at the southern wall of the Lion Bastion's Perényi-period predecessor, precisely at the location where it abutted on the western town wall. Here it was possible to investigate the relationship between the southern wall of the later bastion and the earlier building. The southwestern corner of the earlier bastion, the southern end of the zwinger wall that was built on the early bastion's western side, and the eastern end of the Lion Bastion's southern wall came to light first. Connections between the walls in a depth of two meters below present-day floor level are interpreted as follows (Fig. 4):

1. The western town wall, built in the Perényi period, represents the earliest building phase. The Perényi-period bastion and the western town wall are separated: the ashlar overlay that fortified the bastion's walls does not continue on the town wall (Figs 5-6).
2. In the next phase, the zwinger was built on the western side of the Perényi-period bastion.



Fig. 5. The bastion built in the Perényi period, the predecessor of the Lion Bastion, viewed from the northwest

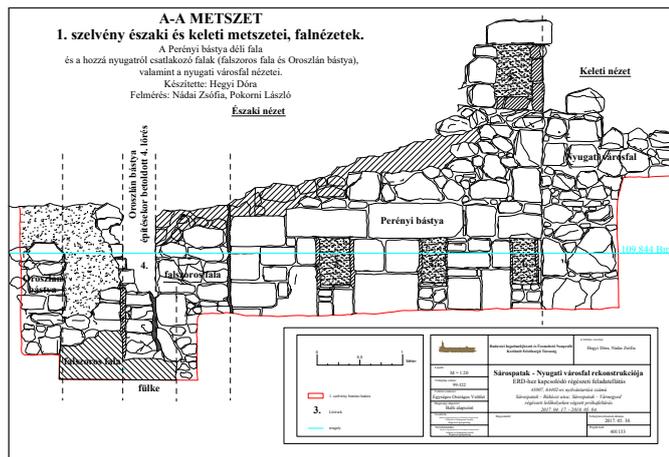


Fig. 6. The southern facade of the Lion Bastion and the Perényi period bastion; the numbers indicate the location of the loopholes [Oroszlán bástya építéskor betoldott 4. lőrés = the fourth loophole, created when the Lion Bastion was built; nyugati városfal = western town wall; for the rest of the legend see Fig. 4]

According to Angelini’s documentation, the zwinger continued north of the Perényi-period bastion in a corner, widening the space between the two defensive walls. The excavation revealed that the zwinger continues on the southern side of the Perényi-period bastion in a similar projection; however, it is still uncertain how the northern and southern segments of the zwinger relate to each other. Research so far suggests that the zwinger’s southern part was finished earlier than its northern half, and the latter was adjoined to the southwestern corner of the bastion by a loophole, which thus became the fourth opening in the lower row of the already existing loopholes. This loophole later opened to the interior of the Lion Bastion; however, at the time when the zwinger was constructed, this part of the building was still on the outside of the town fortifications. Later a niche was created in front of this fourth loophole in order to make it useable (Fig. 7).

3. Thereafter, in the next phase, the Lion Bastion was erected, adjoining the southern projection of the zwinger. As seen in the 18th-century documentation, the Lion Bastion abutted on the zwinger’s wall and not on the western town wall. The zwinger was partly dismantled when the bastion was built; however, the above-mentioned fourth loophole was neither destroyed nor walled up.



Fig. 7. The meeting point of the Lion Bastion and the zwinger, with the fourth loophole



Fig. 8. The zwinger wall north of the Lion Bastion

We investigated the zwinger further in a trench south of the pentagonal bastion’s northern wall. Here the southeastern corner of a building of yet unknown function, which was erected later than the zwinger’s wall, was unearthed. It was undoubtedly built after the Perényi-period zwinger had been partly dismantled, and stones from the zwinger were probably used in its construction; the north-south oriented section of this



Fig. 9. The white rock surface north of the Lion Bastion



Fig. 10. The section of the cannon hill

building rests on the stub of the previously dismantled zwinger wall. Katalin Dankó already recorded this segment in 1983, but she could not date it more precisely either. The northern wall of this building's small room abuts on the wall of the Lion Bastion.

The zwinger wall was investigated further at two locations north of the Lion Bastion. The space between the two walls became narrower towards the north (Fig. 8). It was observed in both trenches that the external surface of the wall was tiered; it cannot be excluded that this is a trace of deliberate dismantling. In a depth of 1.5 m there was a homogenous, brown, clayey fill that slanted westwards, in the direction of the once existing moat. The internal surface of the zwinger walls, however, was even, and the excavated wall segments showed that it was almost vertical. In the southern trench it was possible to explore the zwinger in a depth of ca. 3 m; the top 2.5 m was a homogenous, brown clay fill that yielded no artifacts. Underneath this a white, limey, friable layer was present, which was mixed with pebbles at places. This may be interpreted as the historical floor level of the zwinger (Fig. 9), but more research is needed to validate this argument, as the southern segments formerly excavated by Katalin Dankó failed to resolve this question. Our excavation team cut this layer in a half-meter-long section in the lee of the external wall in order to find the bottom of the wall foundation. This, however, could not be accomplished: when the friable, marly upper layer was removed, a white rock surface came to light, which was identified as a natural, undisturbed subsoil surface.

Two further exploratory trenches were dug within the western town wall to explore the structure of the cannon hill, its relation to the western town wall, and the hypothesized road between the two. Unfortunately, modern disturbances and the heavy ruination of the wall top hampered our observations. The structure of the cannon hill could partly be explored. The uppermost, 15–20 cm thick layer of humus yielded a considerable number of artifacts. Under this there was a harder, yellowish brown, clayey layer, from which

a few objects were recovered. Underneath the latter, a grayish brown, limey, and very dense layer of soil came to light on top of another brown, very hard, clayey layer. These two lowermost layers must belong to the historical structure of the cannon hill; they yielded a few 17th-18th-century pottery fragments (*Fig. 10*).

In conclusion, several segments of the 16th-17th-century zwinger that fortified the northern part of the western town wall were brought to light, and so its line could be reconstructed. Moreover, it was clarified that the zwinger shown in Angelini's survey north of the Perényi-period bastion, in the middle of the western town wall, in fact continues beyond the bastion in a southern direction. This segment must have been built in a later phase and adjoined the southwestern corner of the already existing fortification by a loophole created in alignment with the loopholes on the bastion's lower floor. Later, a 17th-century pentagonal bastion was erected abutting on the external wall of the zwinger. Our observations on the cannon hill's structure suggest that no built support was utilized when the hill was built; layers of clay, partly mixed with lime, were deposited and compressed, and the hill proved to be sturdy enough even without any wooden construction to support it.

RESEARCH IN THE PARK OF THE WENCKHEIM CASTLE IN SZABADKÍGYÓS

Development plans concerning the Wenckheim Castle in Szabadkígyós aimed, among other things, to reconstruct the castle's huge park. Our team was involved in the research of this castle garden, within the framework of the preliminary archaeological documentation (ERD). Present investment involves the 19th-century landscape park in an area of 25.3 hectares.

The research started with the preparation of a study on the area's garden history by Ágnes Bechtold (landscape architect, art historian, NÖF), and in connection with this phase the whole castle park was declared a historical monument garden in 2017.³

The first available piece of data on the landed properties in Kígyóspuszta dates from the 1720s, when the village, which had been abandoned in the Ottoman Turkish Wars, came into the possession of the Haruckern family. József Wenckheim acquired it in 1790 as an entailed land, and it remained in the possession of the Wenckheim family until the end of WWII. József Wenckheim's grandson, József Antal Wenckheim

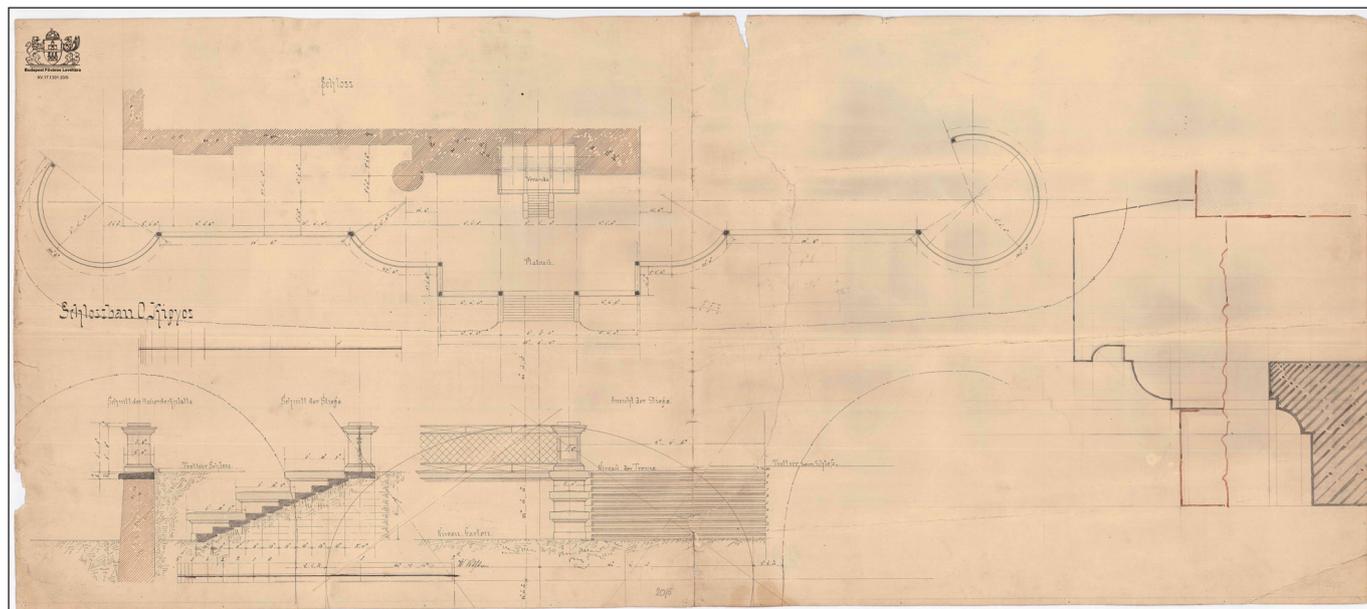


Fig. 11. The plans of the terrace by Miklós Ybl (Source: BFL XV.17.f.331.20/5)

³ The position of historic gardens among protected monuments is a complicated issue. Present regulations can provide protection in two ways: the garden may be considered a historic monument in itself, or it may enjoy protection as the environment of a historical monument building. The latter case is more problematic, because only the area registered under the same lot number as the monument itself, is under protection, which means that usually only certain parts of such historical gardens are protected (Bechtold 2017).

(1780-1852) had the first manor built here between 1808 and 1831. The smaller house, its annexes, and the family crypt are still standing east of the Neo-Renaissance castle. József Antal Wenckheim modernized the Kígyós manor which enjoyed a period of economic flourishing thereafter.

Krisztina Wenckheim (1849–1924), the daughter of József Antal Wenckheim, and her husband Frigyes Wenckheim (1842-1912) had the Neo-Renaissance castle built according to the designs of architect Miklós Ybl, between 1875 and 1879. Krisztina ordered the castle to have as many windows as there are days in a year, as many rooms as weeks, and as many entrances as seasons. Unfortunately, the plans of the castle were lost during WWII; however, drawings of the garden buildings have been preserved and these also show characteristic elements of Miklós Ybl’s designs (Fig. 11). Four subsidiary buildings were constructed in the park: a kitchen, a stable, a coach-house, and a gas house, where the gas used in lighting was produced.

The castle park was created in the 1870s in the deliberately archaic, historical landscape style typical for that period. It was certainly finished by 1883, because it is shown in draft drawings by Gyula Dolesch, made in preparation for cadastral maps (Fig. 12). Exotic tree species, such as sweet chestnut, hybrid planes, gingko, pond cypress, and large-leaved linden were planted in the already existing oak woodland.

A so-called bosco, a reserve for pheasants, was established in the southern part of the park in 1874.



Fig. 12. Identified elements of the garden in the 1883 cadastral map (by Ágnes Bechtold, based on MOL S79 No. 0216/0459, 0467, <http://www.archivportal.arcanum.hu/kataszter/>) [kapu helye = location of the gate; gázház = gas house; játszóter = playground; babaház = doll-house; pavilion = pavilion; szobortalapzat = plinth of a statue; télikert = greenhouse; medence = basin; utak, kerti pihenők = pathways and resting places; lovaspólya pálya széle = edge of the polo field; keleti kapusház helye = location of the eastern gatehouse; déli kapusház helye = location of the southern gatehouse]



Fig. 13. The Wenckheim Castle, photo by György Klösz, 1895-1899 (Source: Fortepan 83296 / HU BFL XV.19.d.1.11.204)



Fig. 14. The doll-house in Szabadkígyós, viewed from the south (photo in the private collection of János Tuska, 1940s [Bechtold 2017, Fig. 108])



Fig. 15. Overview of the explored surfaces (by Péter Szökrön) [árók = trench; szonda = test pit, sondage]

There was one gate on each of the four sides of the park, and the southern and eastern gates had gatehouses as well. An artificial terrace adjoining the southern halls of the castle was created from the soil piled up around the building. In front of the southern facade a geometrical, ornamental garden, a ‘pleasure ground’ was built, with a decorative flowerbed featuring a water basin and a fountain in the middle as the main attraction. Archive photographs suggest that the fountains of the park’s two ornamental basins were later transposed (Fig. 13). Another attraction of the park was an amorph, artificial lake with a small island, an iron bridge, and a wooden pavilion on a hill. The artificial lakefront is still visible today.

Frigyes and Krisztina Wenckheim had built a swimming pool, a training field, and a so-called doll-house for their seven children. The latter building stood in a visual range from the castle, next to the road that led northwards. This small, bipartite brick construction copied a peasant house with a porch and a thatch roof (Fig. 14). Later a polo field and a tennis court were established as well, and Dénes Szigfrid Wenckheim (1921-1943), the grandson of Frigyes and Krisztina, had built a landing strip and a hangar for aircrafts.

After WWII the castle was nationalized, and the complex housed several agricultural schools after 1945. The last school ceased to operate in the castle in 2011, and since then the building has been managed by the local administration of Szabadkígyós. Earlier the castle belonged to the Szabadkígyós Natural Reserve, and since 1997 it has been part of the Körös-Maros National Park.

The castle park was investigated through test pits in July 2017.⁴ These explorations focused on the immediate environment of the castle and the northern part of the garden, because the first stage of the park’s

⁴ Ágnes Bechtold, Zita Németh, and András Koppány contributed to this work. In addition to the survey of the castle park, two further trenches (trench nos 15-16) were made in order to explore any potential archaeological features in the area where a parking lot was to be built. This is the western edge of the archaeological site known by the name Szabadkígyós-Sütőipari Tanműhely (54774); however, these test trenches turned out negative.



Fig. 16. Foundation of the southern great basin and its transposed fountain



Fig. 17. Foundation of the pathway in front of the castle's southern façade

reconstruction targeted this area. This survey primarily aimed to locate sites already known from historical documents (Fig. 15), and to examine their built structure and foundations. Built features of the pleasure ground, i.e., the foundation of the central basin, the pathways, and the stone jar foundations around the garden, were brought to light. A flight of stairs leading to and a retaining wall around the terrace, and the foundation of another, smaller stone basin was also explored in the castle's near vicinity (Fig. 16).

Concerning the garden pathways, we observed that only the main routes running to the four gates were supported by artificially made structures (Fig. 17). Their track could be reconstructed. The remaining pathways, however, were hardly perceptible; at places, not even their gravel surface was preserved. These must have been simple, small dirt roads with an elevated stripe of lawn on the two sides. The edges of the polo field were damaged by the running track of the later training field, while the tennis court was partly destroyed by the waterworks that was established here later.

The greenhouse in the southeastern zone of the complex was surrounded by the walls of the chapel and the dining room. It could be accessed from two directions: from the park and from the dining room. Its stone plinths and the stairs are still visible today; its shape followed the chapel's ground plan. Its walls and vaulted roof were glass-and-iron structures, as seen in archive photographs (Fig. 13). One arched iron element is still there on the facade of the chapel, embedded in the plaster. Archaeological explorations were conducted in the greenhouse in 2003, led by András Liska (LISKA 2003). The results suggest that the building was heated by a structure of brick corridors circulating hot air under the floor; this structure went around the whole room in a rectangular shape, 130 cm under the greenhouse floor. During the 2017 excavations the whole surface of the greenhouse's stone wall plinth was brought to light, and the building's ground plan was also explored. This makes the reconstruction of the greenhouse possible.

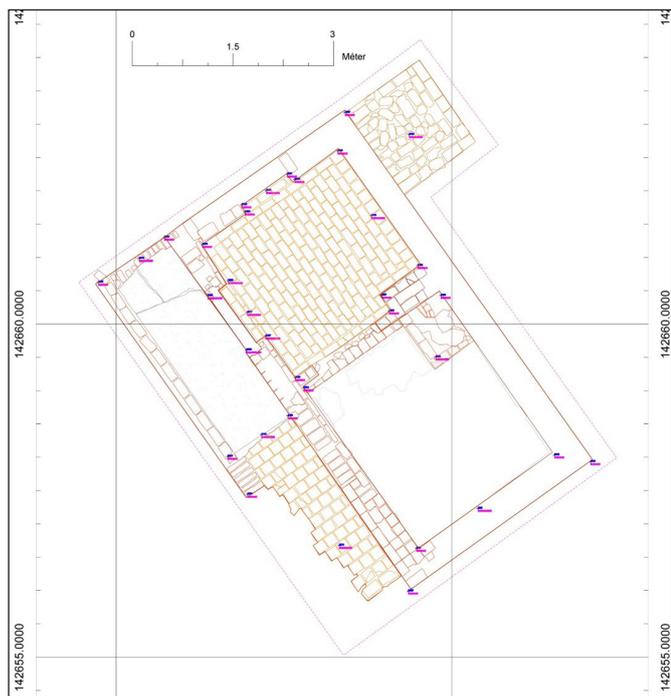


Fig. 18. Georeferenced overview of the doll-house in Szabadkígyós (by Péter Szökrön, Dóra Hegyi, and Zsófia Náda)

A single 1940s photograph is known of the doll-house, probably built in the early 20th century. The building was demolished in the 1970s. When the rubble was removed, a bipartite brick house, oriented from northwest to southeast and equipped with a patio, came to light (Fig. 18). The timber-supported patio, covered in bricks, ran along the western wall. The northern room of the building also had a brick floor. A niche window was found in the northern wall of this room. The southern room could be accessed from the other room through a relatively large opening. The original floor of the southern room was not preserved; its window opened to the patio. At the northeastern end of the dividing wall between the two rooms there was a heating structure with a chimney that projected into both rooms. After 1945 the part of the patio that was parallel to the northern room was transformed into a narrow hallway and its floor was covered in cement. A small, rectangular storage building was also added east of the northern corner of the doll-house (Fig. 19).



Fig. 19. Details of the excavated doll-house

Such garden houses, where people could rest and play, were typical for 19th-20th-century gardens built in a deliberately archaic style; such buildings were usually ornamented with folklore elements. In the royal gardens of Buda, a peasant house was built for Queen Elisabeth in 1898 in place of the 'Dutch peasant house'; this house was embellished with Hungarian folklore motifs. This building, also called 'the Hungarian house'—although its style is rather typical for houses in Switzerland—was built according to the plans

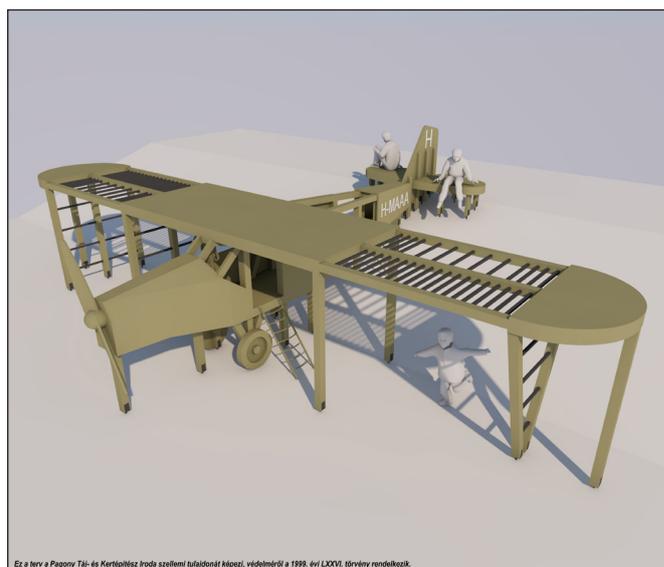
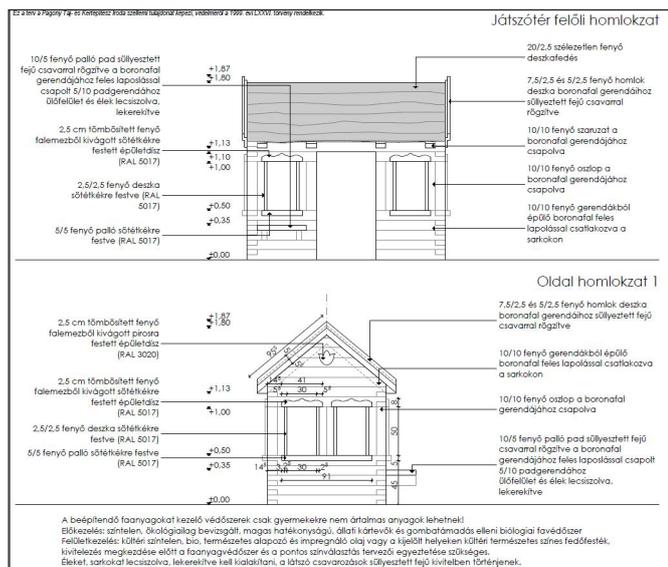


Fig. 20. Toys planned for the playground: doll-house (Pagony Tájépítész Iroda)

Fig. 21. Toys planned for the playground: jungle-gym in the shape of an aircraft (Pagony Tájépítész Iroda)

of Alajos Hauszmann. The playhouse built for the children of the count of Nádasdladány also belongs to this type: it was a small, rectangular, bipartite building with a thatch roof and a patio around it. This was known as the so-called ‘school of Hungarian farmer women,’ which later, when the children grew up, was used as an ornamented garden house.

The plans for the park’s reconstruction were developed by Ágnes Herczeg (Pagony Tájépítész Iroda, ‘Pagony’ Landscape Building Office). The park was renovated in three phases; first the castle’s immediate environment was reconstructed. The garden pathways were rebuilt according to the hierarchy suggested by research, partly as gravel-walks and partly as simple dirt roads. Substructures of the built heritage, such as retaining walls, flights of stairs, basins, and garden fountains, will be re-made as copies of the originals. In addition to the reconstructed features there will be a playground in the northeastern part of the garden, with special toys referring to the history of the Wenckheim family. A timber house will be erected next to the original foundations of the doll-house; this will not copy the original but rather give an idea about it. Another interesting element of the planned playground is a jungle-gym in the shape of an aircraft, aiming to remind visitors of Dénes Szigfrid Wenckheim as a passionate pilot (Figs 20-21).

SUGGESTED READINGS

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