



VISY 75
ARTIFICEM COMMENDAT OPUS

Studia in honorem Zsolt Visy

Pécs 2019

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EDITORIAL PREFACE

OUR DEAR PROFESSOR, DEAR ZSOLT!

Your former students wish to salute you on your birthday and congratulate you on your numerous influential achievements in the many fields and disciplines you are versed in.

Did any of us know what we signed up for when we bestrode the threshold of the University of Pécs? Certainly, we were drawn by the love of history and archaeology, yet as the years passed, the intricate motifs of the persian rug in your office that many have stared at long while pondering the answer for your questions during an exam are as clear an indication of your devotion to critical holistic thinking as an apt practical example of aerial archaeological point of view. You have included many of us in realizing your goals and although some have been drifted elsewhere in life, those of use who remained in academia, stood our ground as representatives of Your school of thought.

We have grazed your career for merely a score of years, thus we cannot undertake the charge of writing your CV, but taking a step back from many years of university education and the everyday of working together, seeing things from a perspective (while listening to classical pieces on Bartók Radio) the figure of our professor, representing your adamant set of values in every aspect of life, always moving forward true to his principles eroding any occurrent opposition, is drawn crystal clear.

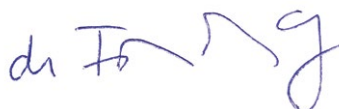
At one instance, investigating secret aerial photos in a darkened room during the paranoid communist era and jumping on the first aircrafts of Eastern European aerial archaeology, travelling far and wide on the *limes* paying no heed to Modern borders when dealing with the universal values of Roman frontiers. You have set the semi-subterranean Early Christian complex of Sopiana in stone as both World Heritage and as a new study major at the University of Pécs. At another instance, you are contending relentlessly for the „family silver” (the Sevso treasure) when their fate is unnoted by many, uplifting the always heavy hearted Hungarian with the noon bell and sculpted memory of Nándorfehérvár, and garbed in a summer jacket, persuading the herdsman of the cultural values of his Transylvanian homeland, the list could go on long.

You have always shared your thoughts and results in publications, lectures and your school founding work, persistently passing them to following generations in a genuinely „Visy” manner but with incontestably good intentions.

Your current projects are true testimonies of your indefatigable spirit: you just launched a quinquennial research project at the Roman fort of *Inlāceni/Énlaka*. At the same time, you orchestrated the inauguration of the CLIR Research Center at the University of Pécs, with colleagues working hard on making it an internationally nested hub of Roman frontier research.

Through this volume, all of us at CLIR Research Center joined by your colleagues and friends who contributed articles and applied for the *Tabula Gratulatoria*, wish you all the best – persistence, good health and fruitful work on occasion of your birthday!


Pécs, 20th of November, 2019



GERGŐ ISTVÁN FARKAS



RÉKA NEMÉNYI



MÁTÉ SZABÓ



The first season of the new series of excavations at Inlăceni/Énlaka
seen from the so-called Mihály lookout point (2019)

LAUDATIO

DEAR ZSOLT,

It is now over 40 years since we first met. Since then we have not only shared a love of all matters relating to Roman frontiers, but also worked closely on several aspects including the International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies, the Culture 2000 Frontiers of the Roman Empire project and the development of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. I have always been impressed by your wide experience and knowledge - and your sense of humour. I offer the following as an appreciation of your life's work and as a mark of our long friendship.

In the long history of Roman frontier studies Zsolt Visy is a towering figure not only in Hungary but also on the international stage.

Zsolt was born on 23 March 1944 in Szeged. After attending school in Szeged, he began his university education in the Faculty of Philosophy at Loránd-Eötvös-University in Budapest. He soon showed an interest in and aptitude for Roman history and archaeology. In 1967, he took up his first appointment at Intercisa Museum. In 1984 he moved into the academic world, accepting a position as Assistant Professor at Pécs, steadily rising within the university hierarchy over the following decades. From 1998 to 2000 he held office in the Hungarian Ministry of Culture as the Deputy State Secretary for Culture, an appointment which I suspect he did not find entirely congenial. Nevertheless, Zsolt has served as President of the Hungarian Limeskommission and of the Hungarian UNESCO-kommission as well as a Vice-President of ICOMOS. Today, he remains at the University of Pécs as Head of the Interdisciplinary Doctorate School.

Not surprisingly his work has been recognised not only within Hungary but outside through his appointment as a Corresponding Member of the Germany Archaeological Institute (DAI) in 2002 and his election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, where he lectured on the Sevso Hoard, in 2006.

Zsolt began his excavation career early, in fact immediately on taking up his appointment at Intercisa. He excavated there from 1967 to 1981. He also excavated at the fort at Lussonium, where he later was instrumental in the presentation of the site to the visiting public, and the villa Babarc, interspersed with work at the baths at Weissenburg and other Roman sites in Germany, before examining the Early Christian Cemetery in his adopted home of Pécs in 2005-6.

As an archaeologist, Zsolt developed an interest in aerial survey as a method of researching the Roman frontier in Hungary. His discoveries were carefully published and provided a strong foundation when his country came to prepare its nomination for World Heritage Site status for its Roman frontiers. In the meantime, his international colleagues were introduced to the unique elements of Hungary's Roman frontier. This was largely through his participation in the International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies. At Stirling in 1979, he delivered his first contributions, on his work at Intercisa with his friend and colleague Barnabas Lőrincz, and on a late Roman building at Intercisa. Thereafter he contributed regularly to the meetings of the Congress.

The Congress of Roman Frontier Studies first visited Hungary in 1976, but Zsolt's great achievement was to organise the 2003 Congress in Pécs. This followed the Roman Military Equipment Conference in Vienna. Zsolt's coaches conveyed the participants from Vienna to Bratislava and then Budapest before heading for Pécs. Here, a most successful Congress was held with a wide range of lectures and site visits. Zsolt produced a handbook on the Roman army in Pannonia for the Congress participants and edited the proceedings of the Congress, a volume extending to just over a thousand pages.

Publication has been important to Zsolt. He not only prepared excavation reports but several books on the Pannonian frontier, some specifically aimed at underpinning Hungary's nomination of its Roman frontier as a World Heritage Site.

Zsolt's experience on the international stage coupled with his knowledge of Roman frontiers and his administrative experience gave him the vision to appreciate that the time had come to promote all Rome's frontiers as a World Heritage Site. Hadrian's Wall had become a World Heritage Site in 1987 and towards the end of the century German colleagues led by Reinhard Dietrich and Andreas Thiel were actively working on a nomination for the Upper German and Raetian frontier. Zsolt saw that these actions could be extended to embrace the frontiers not only in Europe but the Middle East and North Africa as well. So was born the proposal to create a single Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, a concept approved by UNESCO in 2002. Zsolt played a leading role in its development by preparing the nomination of the section of the European frontier in Hungary for submission to UNESCO as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, working closely with colleagues in neighbouring countries.

Also in 2002, at a meeting of the European Archaeological Association's Annual Conference at Thessaloniki, a workshop considered an implication of the creation of such a World Heritage Site, that is, the formation of a research strategy for the Roman frontiers in Europe. Zsolt readily joined the team which won a grant from the European Union's Culture 2000 programme in 2005. Over the next three years he worked closely with colleagues from Austria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom on four main projects. These were the creation of a website for Roman frontiers, where he worked closely with his Hungarian colleague Adam Szengali, the creation of interpretative material for use in museums, research into frontiers, and a statement on the methods to be used in the conservation, presentation and interpretation of Roman military remains. The programme of research was successfully completed and a report submitted to the European Union in 2008.

Zsolt's experience and knowledge were recognised by UNESCO and ICOMOS, not least when he was invited by the organisation to act as their assessor for the nomination of the Antonine Wall in Scotland as a World Heritage Site.

Zsolt sits firmly in a line of distinguished Hungarian archaeological investigators and interpreters of his Roman frontier. He is, quite simply, the powerhouse of Roman frontier studies in Hungary. But more than any of his predecessors, he has participated at an international level in a wide range of activities, not just archaeological research but conservation and presentation. We all owe him a great debt.

DAVID J. BREEZE

LAUDATIO

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

*... wish we all, the authors of this celebratory volume
and I personally to Professor Zsolt Visy!*

Half a century has passed since I first met Zsolt at the ELTE university building, which at that time was on the Danube bank: both of us were training to be archaeologists and researchers of the Roman era. As I recall, he was intrigued by the history and archaeology of Sarmatians, Dacians as well as the story of Dacia – later on he made good use of this interest by establishing close relations with the archaeology department of the Babeş-Bolyai University at Cluj and organizing a series of conferences on Székely culture at Énlaka.

In the first fifteen years of his career he worked briefly at the Szentes Museum, and later on for a considerable time at the Dunaújváros Museum, which he was also director of. Also, he played the violin in the municipal orchestra and his devotion to music has not lessened since. It is likely, that his unquenchable, systematic interest towards Roman frontiers, especially the Danube Limes, his research ideas and adamant resolution for the protection and conservation of Roman remains were all formed here, in Intercisa. And here, along the limes did Zsolt find his partner in life and faithful companion, Katalin Gémes.

He played a crucial role in perpetuating our national and European cultural customs and monuments and enlisting them as World Heritage. It is without a doubt, that the extensive intellectual and material cultural heritage of the Roman Empire provided the foundations for our European culture, in spite of it being often overlooked, or misinterpreted for the worse. Tending and conserving it is our immutable task. For these noble reasons did Zsolt take upon himself various work and charge in the UNESCO organizations ICOMOS and ICCROM. At Pécs, he organized a conference underlining the importance of protecting archaeological heritage. In this spirit did he forward and edit with his peers the spectacular volume of „Hungarian Archaeology in the Turn of the Millennium” in 2003, which was published in English and Hungarian, presenting recent scientific results with the academic circle both in Hungary and abroad.

His ideas concerning limes research and archaeological surveys hit their strides when in 1984 he became partner of István Tóth at the University of Pécs in the developing archaeological training. From that point on, means were available to help him accomplish his ideas. One of his many accomplishments was establishing, organizing and securing the institutional framework for archaeology training at the university alongside introducing modern archaeological research methodology. In 2003 the full time archaeology major was accredited at the University of Pécs and in a few years BA and MA levels for archaeology were created with high level of training available in Prehistory, Roman provincial archaeology, Ancient Near Eastern history, Migration Period archaeology and Early Hungarian archaeology. Training was overseen by Zsolt Visy personally. As a result a functioning archaeological training is still present at the university, with numerous archaeologists having defended their theses and PhD theses successfully.

Regarding science promotion, as circumstances enabled and in the person of Otto Braasch an apt partner and technical background became available, the establishment of aerial archaeology was a cornerstone. This permitted the foundation of the Aerial Archaeological Archives of Pécs, which under Zsolt's supervision became a collection of aerial images on a national level and has proved a particularly useful aid for researchers.

Of Roman Imperial history and archaeology the fields most dear to him were military history and the study of monuments researchable with archaeological means and he became expert in several related disciplines. His numerous works on discharging veterans and military diplomas are especially important. Zsolt published several monographies on the Pannonian limes in topological order. His research of the Roman army and limes are not restricted to Pannonia but examine other areas of the Empire. In the field of latin epigraphy, he picked up on the topic of *instrumenta domestica*, organized a related exhibition as well as a conference and studies with inscription incised in pottery. His interests were comprehensive and concluded a wide range of specific topics, such as Roman scales and weighs, on which he published several innovative papers.

Alongside excavating the auxiliary fort Lussonium on the limes, within an international collaborative framework he was involved in the archaeological survey of settlement and villas in the Pannonian hinterland, on which he penned numerous reports and publications together with his colleagues. An outstanding milestone was 2003, when Zsolt organized

the Pécs could host the 19th Limes Congress (International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies), which is the single most important triennial event in the study of Roman frontiers. Several hundred participants came together from 27 countries and while the Limes Congress was but one of the many conferences Zsolt organized over the years, it is unanimously considered the most noteworthy one.

Zsolt also coordinated and conducted research on the Late Antique cemetery of Pécs and as a result numerous buildings and graves were confirmed and discovered, the most substantial of which were enlisted on the UNESCO World Heritage List and presented as a visitor center, following Zsolt's work.

To the incessant continuation of your work, we all and I personally wish you strength, endurance and good health!

ENDRE TÓTH

LAUDATIO

ZSOLT VISY AND HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The author of this introduction is in a doubly difficult position, since the work of the person we are celebrating, Professor Zsolt Visy, was crucial to research on the Roman period, and in addition, there were times in his life when his activities in heritage management and publications related to this also played an important role. The proportion is illustrated by his publications found in the national scientific bibliographical database, the Hungarian Repository of Scientific Works, where 60 of his listed 372 publications are related to heritage management.

The second challenge is created by the differing interpretations of the concept of heritage management or cultural heritage. Although the phrase cultural heritage had appeared in the political and scientific discourses in the 1970s (e.g. the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, which was enacted in Hungary through the legally binding decree 21 of 1985), its spread in Hungary can be placed in the 1990s (the name of the responsible ministry has been changed to the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage in 1998). While the phrase was already used in Act 140 of 1997, its legal definition is found in Act 64 of 2001 on the protection of cultural heritage. This law, which was later referred to as the heritage management act, fundamentally encompassed built heritage (monuments), archaeological heritage and cultural goods, but did not deal with intangible cultural heritage, the materials in public collections or the World Heritage (although the latter comprised a section of the act between 2006 and 2011 and from 2011 was placed in an independent act). The act was intended to introduce an integrated heritage preservation viewpoint, however this approach and the practices based upon it caused numerous problems. The interpretation of the concept was not aided by the widening of the scope of the heritage preservation act to include the heritage of military history, memorial sites and the townscape preservation areas related to them as well as the European Heritage Label sites.

The definitions and recommendations of Zsolt Visy can be integrated into the diverse interpretation, according to which a special subset of cultural heritage relates to the preservation of archaeological monuments. It was possible to see the topic crop up already in 1990 in his article (Recommendation for the Creation of an Archaeological Monuments Office) published in the *Múzeumi Hírlevél* (*Museum Newsletter*). The opportunity to realize his concept was provided by the offer that caused him to shift from the University of Pécs to the post of deputy state secretary

of culture at the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage. During the two years spent in this position (1998-2000) he oversaw the newly created Directorate of Cultural Heritage, which saw to the duties related to the preservation of archaeological heritage and cultural goods. He supported the institute's initiatives of major significance related to the creation of a central archaeological database, a revision of the status of the protected archaeological sites and the reform of the series of Archaeological Investigations in Hungary. His scope of duties also included expediting the restitution of artworks that had been taken from Hungary during the Second World War, and he supervised the compilation of the list sent to the Russian Federation. Since he considered the strengthening of the protection of archaeological heritage to be of fundamental importance, he initiated the composition of an independent law on archaeology. Work on this continued until May of 2000, when the completed draft law was integrated into the act on the protection of cultural heritage adopted in June of 2001.

Special mention is warranted for his activities performed in connection with his work at the ministry aimed at promoting Hungary's World Heritage and tentative World Heritage sites. In 1998, we had three World Heritage sites, but in the subsequent four years, that number increased to eight. Through his involvement as the managing chairperson of the Hungarian National World Heritage Commission (1998-2000), he contributed to the success of the nominations for the sites at Pécs, Hortobágy, the Lake Fertő region and Tokaj wine region.

Despite the fact that following his position at the ministry his activities in research and education again came to the forefront, many of his previous initiatives bore fruit in this period. Prominent amongst these was the publication "Hungarian Archaeology at the Turn of the Millennium" that appeared in Hungarian in 2003 and in English in 2004. This was created through more than two years of work, with the contribution of nearly 80 authors and broad cooperation within the profession. In March of 2002, nineteen presenters at the conference series of the Almond Blossom Scientific Days at the University of Pécs organized by Zsolt Visy examined the issue of the breadth of the duties included in the care for archaeological monuments and the extent to which these depend on collaboration with other disciplines. The presentations were published the next year in a book entitled "Research and Care for Archaeological Monuments on the Threshold of the 3rd Millennium". He was also one of the people behind the publication in 2009 of the volume with the title "Studies on Heritage Management Series 1. The World Heritage and

Its Management”, in which he was not only one of the authors, but also contributed to having Francesco Bandarin, the director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, write the foreword to the book.

His dedication to the topic clearly appears in his activities as a university professor and educational planner, since he provided the opportunity for students to learn about heritage management as the head of the Archaeological Seminar then of the Department of Archaeology as well as in the doctoral program. As a result of his labours, the major of archaeology received accreditation. Within the educational program in the field as well as in his own research, he has considered training and widespread utilization of new scientific methods facilitating the discovery and investigation of archaeological sites to be important, in particular geophysical surveying and the use of aerial photography. One of the key results of this within the context of the university was the establishment of the Pécs Aerial Archaeological Archive in 1994 that he directed for ten years, and which was given the status of a museum collection of public interest in 2004. Within this framework, he organized numerous aerial archaeology training workshops and exhibitions and gave several presentations, which was followed by a series of publications. In addition, he contributed to the heritage management specialisation education program that was begun in 2008 at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Sciences, Institute of Geography, and appeared as a lecturer in 2014 and 2015 at the Central European University’s summer university program, *Luminous Limes: Geographical, Ethnic, Social and Cultural Frontiers in Late Antiquity*.

Alongside his activities as an excavating archaeologist that have continued up to the recent past, he has paid particular attention from the beginning to the conservation of excavated remains and their display as restored historic monuments in connection with his research both here in Hungary and in Germany. Without attempting to be comprehensive, a few of his more important projects should be mentioned: Roman residence (Dunaújváros), Roman baths in Weissenburg, Kempten and Übach-Palenberg, Roman food drying structure (Seebruck), basin of a Roman workshop (Epfach), Roman baths and town wall and medieval monastery (Zülpich) and sections of Roman forts (Dunaújváros, Dunakömlöd). The work on the latter fort included a volumetric reconstruction of its northern gate. His interest in this leads into the field of the preservation of built heritage, where in numerous essays he studied the areas where these two fields, the protections and management of archaeological and built heritage meet, overlap and often contradict one another. Examples of this

include the conference organized in 2004 for the 40th anniversary of the Venice Charter (see: *Műemlékvédelem* XLVIII. 2004), the publication including the presentations for the 30th anniversary of the International Day for Monuments and Sites “Opportunities for Historic Preservation and Society during Crisis” (2013), and his writing, including drafting the closing document, in connection with the conference and travelling exhibition that was organized by the Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS in 2013-14, entitled “Heritage for the Future – the Future for Heritage”.

This brief introduction does not provide sufficient space to detail the role and activities of Zsolt Visy in various professional organizations, but it is necessary at least to highlight his multifaceted work with the Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS. He is one of 11 honorary members of this organization, and previously was a vice-chairperson and was one of the founding members and then chairperson of its Archaeological Sub-Commission. His wide-ranging work as an expert in this organization provided a background for the position statements related to the planned gold mining project at Verespatak / Roşia Montană, Romania. He also worked on two professional committees at another Hungarian organization, the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, previously known as the Hungarian UNESCO Committee. He held formerly the office of chairperson of its Cultural Committee and presently (since 2017) he is the chairperson of its World Heritage Committee, contributing to the advancement of the affairs of Hungary’s 8 World Heritage sites and 10 tentative sites. He also represents both domestic organizations on an international level, and in recognition of his expertise and professional understanding, he has been elected deputy chairperson of the International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) of ICOMOS. As a member and representative of the organization, he has provided expert opinions on issues related to the management of archaeological sites and landscapes on several occasions at the request of the international centre of ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. His collaboration with the Hungarian National World Heritage Commission between 1998 and 2000 contributed to Hungary becoming one of the 21 members of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the first time and then hosting the 26th session of the Committee in June of 2002. It was at this time that the Budapest World Heritage site was extended to include the ensemble of Andrásy Avenue and Heroes’ Square, and in addition, the Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the World Heritage list. It can be considered a professional accomplishment that in

2017 Hungary was elected again to be a member of the Committee for four years, and was even elected to the Bureau and as one of the vice-chairs will contribute to the preparations for the 44th session to be held in 2020. Since 2017, Zsolt Visy has been a member and then leader of the delegation of the Hungarian State Party that is working as member of the Committee. In addition, his efforts to prevent the illegal trafficking in cultural goods and their return to their countries of origin has played a role in his representing Hungary as a member and then chairperson between 2016 and 2018 of the UNESCO professional committee related to this (the Intergovernmental Committee ICPRCP).

Amongst the numerous international archaeological organizations, he has expressed his views at several conferences of the European Association of Archaeologists, which brings together individual archaeologists, and has spoken up for endangered sites. He participated at the inaugural meeting of the *Europae Archaeologiae Consilium* in 1999 that brings together European state organizations for archaeological heritage management (his contribution is given appreciation in one of the essays in the present volume), then again at the 20th meeting celebrating its formation, which looked into the subject of “Archaeological sites and monuments in the care of the state – sharing our experiences”.

Since 2014, he has been one of the 18 professors emeritus of the University of Pécs’ Faculty of the Humanities. His uninterrupted momentum in research is underlined by the annual that was published by the university’s Department of Ancient History and Department of Archaeology in 2013 (*Specnova Tomus XXI-XXII*), in which he composed his positions on a professional issue that has been studied for a long time (Contributions to the archaeology of the *Seuso Treasure*) alongside four of his studies on the subject of the Roman period. Several of his positions on the matter of the gold mine in Roşia Montană as well as the text from two earlier presentations on the issues of the World Heritage and urban archaeology (World Heritage Policy in Hungary - Goals and Strategies; Urban Archaeology in Hungary) can be read in the publication entitled *Heritage Preservation Studies 2000-2012* in the same volume.

In conclusion, there should be a few words about his work from the last four years, during which time, between December of 2015 and July of 2019, he held the title of ministerial commissioner responsible for professional issues for the “Coordination of tasks related to the proposal of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes in Hungary tentative World Heritage site for inscription on the World Heritage List

and the presentation of the governor's palace on Hajógyári Island" and then the "International proposal submitted for obtaining the title of UNESCO World Heritage". The processing of the history and relics of the Ripa Pannonica, the border defense system along the Danube, was one of the defining areas of Zsolt Visy's research, and is the subject of several essays in the present volume. Alongside the scientific research program dealing with this topic, and based on this, he was one of the initiators of the overarching conception to make the entire border defense line of the Roman Empire a single World Heritage site. He was one of the founding members of the Bratislava Group formed in 2003 bringing together the experts from the European countries involved that pushed the recommendation forward. The conception was also supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and its professional advisory body, ICOMOS, and due to this, the Upper German and Rhaetian Limes (2005) and then the Antonine Wall (2008) were inscribed as extensions to the World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall. This international serial property fits in with the fundamental principle of the World Heritage Convention, according to which outstanding cultural (and natural) sites must be preserved as a part of the heritage of all humanity due to their significance. Constructive cooperation aimed at this goal has begun amongst the countries concerned. Through the professional coordination of Zsolt Visy, the first version of a World Heritage nomination for the Frontier of the Roman Empire running through the territory of Hungary was prepared with support from the EU Central Europe Program. This document later had to be reworked in part on the basis of the Hungarian World Heritage Act that took force in January of 2012 and in part on due to new expectations from UNESCO and ICOMOS related to serial transboundary and international nominations.

He directed the next period of the nomination process (and the preparation of the World Heritage nomination dossier) as a ministerial commissioner. Following numerous international agreements, the thematic World Heritage study extending to the entire frontier of the Roman Empire (A Thematic Study and Proposed World Heritage Nomination Strategy) was completed at the beginning of 2017. This was accepted by the World Heritage Committee in its session in July of 2017, opening the door for moving the nomination forward. This solution differed from the previous plan inasmuch as instead of the extension of the existing World Heritage site, it envisioned the nomination of three new European limes sites, including the Danube Limes that involves eight countries. In accordance with this, it was necessary for the four principle countries involved in the preparations, Germany (Bavaria), Austria, Slovakia and

Hungary, to make agreements and combine their various working drafts into a joint World Heritage nomination. This was completed during 2017, and then Hungary submitted the document on behalf of the four countries to the World Heritage Centre in January of 2018. The evaluation of the proposal took a year and a half (including the preparation of the modifications drafted due to the ICOMOS on-site inspection performed in September and October of 2018), then the UNESCO World Heritage Committee judged the nomination at its session in Baku in July of 2019. On the basis of the positive ICOMOS evaluation, UNESCO planned to recommend The Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (western segment) to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. However, in the meantime the Hungarian state removed Óbuda Island (the site of the former governor's palace) from the nomination, and so the UNESCO World Heritage Committee referred the nomination back to the submitting countries for "modification" to perform the necessary supplementations or alterations. The nomination can again be submitted with the indicated amendments and the Committee will be able to assess it at its 44th session in June and July of 2020. This will bring to a conclusion, hopefully with a positive result, a decade and a half process that has sometimes met with difficulties, but has been seen even more success.

I have had the opportunity to be the colleague of Zsolt Visy in this program in recent years. Although our professional background and traditions are quite different from one another's, our successful cooperation has been based on our professional commitment. During our work together, I have learned a great deal about Hungary's Roman period sites as well as the World Heritage process, and I hope that through my work as a coordinator I have helped in bringing the World Heritage nomination of the four countries successfully to its objective.

Dear Zsolt, thank you for the three years we have spent together, I wish you much success in your work as a scholar and in organizing education and I trust that the saying will come to fruition: sic itur ad astra.

KATALIN WOLLÁK

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<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10010943#>