

# ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BRONZE AND IRON AGE

Experimental Archaeology  
Environmental Archaeology  
Archaeological Parks

Proceedings of the International Archaeological Conference  
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Edited by

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## Preface

In the millicentennial year of 1996 the “Matrica” Museum, financially supported by the municipality of Százhalombatta, organised an international archaeological conference on 3–7 October. It is quite unique that such a conference is organised by a smaller museum in a small town without the help of any central or major institutions.

In many respects this conference was a milestone in the history of the “Matrica” Museum established in 1987. Developing consistent museum policy for many years it was decided to open the doors of the museum towards Europe and invite people from different countries for a meeting focusing not only on traditional archaeology but also on the results of other investigations such as geomorphology, soil survey, pollen analysis, dendrochronology or experiments for reconstructing the past.

The conference was attended by 72 delegates – mostly archaeologists – from 11 different countries. On the one hand papers were about up-to-date topics of the Late Bronze and Iron Age archaeology, on the other current results of environmental and experimental archaeology. Last but not least some papers were presented about archaeological parks, their organisation and maintenance. It was the first time that such a wide range of experts working on different fields of inter-related research could meet and discuss.

Even at the time of the conference a strong desire was expressed for scientific co-operation, which later has become a real result of the meeting and has been carried on in working relationships between the participants. It was also decided to publish the papers in a post-conference volume.

The closing event of the conference coincided with the ceremonial inauguration of the Százhalombatta Archaeological Park. Within 5 hectares this park is the first open air museum in Hungary in the area of the Iron Age tumulus cemetery (hundred mounds lent its name to the settlement). In this park authentic reconstruction of houses, kilns and outbuildings from the Bronze and Iron Age can be seen together with environmental reconstruction. A special attraction is the reconstructed burial mound and chamber No. 115. In the interior of the tumulus a film was produced by E. Jerem and I. Poroszlai to present the burial rite 2700 years ago. This multimedia show is accompanied by sound and light effects.

In this volume Ágnes Holport reports on the excavation of this tumulus and András Morgós writes about the unique conservation process of the wooden grave chamber.

After the conference the museum decided to offer and give teaching and practical courses on environmental and experimental archaeology. Since 1997 this programme is carried out in September for students and archaeologists. The papers are regularly published in the form of a small series of the “Matrica” Museum.

The current volume includes a wide range of papers. With the various information and interpretation this volume has reached the goal of the editors: to transcend the limits of traditional archaeology, give a brief summary of the modern interdisciplinary methods and provide new insights into the prehistory of the Százhalombatta region and beyond.

Erzsébet Jerem

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