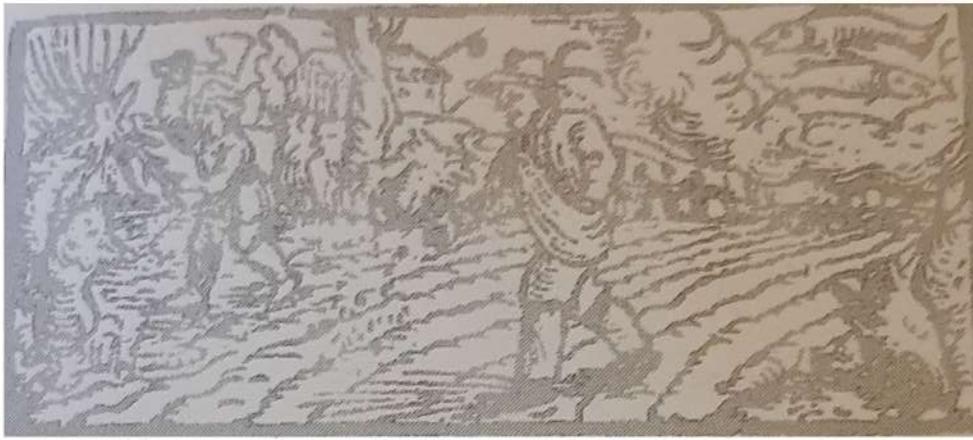


# People and Nature *in Historical Perspective*



Edited by  
József Laszlovszky and  
Péter Szabó

Central European University  
Department of Medieval Studies  
&  
Archaeolinguia  
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## EDITORS' PREFACE

This collection of essays is the outcome of a summer university course held at the Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, in Budapest, July 2002. This volume aims to present the wide variety of methods and approaches (historical, archaeological and natural scientific) now available to scholars studying the relationship between people and nature throughout history. The book consists of two major parts. The general articles in the first section present broader frameworks of understanding in this field. The second section contains works representing individual examples of methods and analytical case studies. The emphasis is on the Middle Ages, however, case studies range from the Neolithic to the present day. A speciality of the book is that it also focuses on Central and Eastern Europe, a hitherto neglected region in environmental history. It is hoped that this volume will serve as a handbook for scholars interested in human–nature interactions in the past.

We would like to thank those who helped us develop the concept of the summer university course and this book: János Bak, László Bartosiewicz, Alice Choyke, Richard C. Hoffmann, Gerhard Jaritz and Verena Winiwarter. Special thanks are owed to the copy editor, Alice Choyke, for revising the manuscript. This volume is a joint publication of the Department of Medieval Studies and the Archaeolingua Foundation. We wish to express our gratitude to Archaeolingua, the ever-competent and helpful publishers of several of our publications, and hope that our co-operation will be as fruitful in the future as it has always been.

József Laszlovszky and Péter Szabó

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