

## BURIAL CHAMBER NUMBER X OF THE LATE ROMAN PERIOD CEMETERY IN PÉCS

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*In 1841 a Late Roman Period floor mosaic was uncovered on Káptalan Street in Pécs during a construction project. In 1984 Ferenc Fülepi linked the mosaic to the so-called burial chamber number X found in 1927, but this identification raises several problems. This study surveys the results of the research performed on the area, information which allows the conclusion that while the mosaic and the burial chamber were found not far from one another, they still were not from the exact same location. The mosaic, which may have been found below the eastern wing of the house at 6 Káptalan Street, may have covered the floor of an above-ground sepulchral structure, while the 1927 burial chamber is possibly the same as the burial chamber that was uncovered in 2005 and was given the number XXIV at that time.<sup>1</sup>*

Several problems have arisen in recent years in connection with the location of burial chamber number X of the Late Roman period cemetery in Pécs, and these have made it necessary to reevaluate this site.<sup>2</sup> Research into the structure began in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the chapter of the Cathedral of Pécs commissioned the construction of a new house on the lot at present-day 6 Káptalan Street. Right at the beginning of the construction interesting discoveries were made, which were reported in the contemporary literature as follows, “In 1841 [...] during the construction of a new canons’ house the workers came across a Roman period bathhouse, in the rear section of which, 9 feet below the surface, they discovered a mosaic that was 2 Vienna fathoms long and just as wide, made from slaked lime paste and depicting crosses made from squares of marble and brick and displayed a rug form.”<sup>3</sup> Some fragments of the mosaic floor have survived to the present day (Fig. 1). By studying these and the most recent reconstruction by Andrea Vaday it can be seen that the mosaic had a geometric pattern and was made up of mosaic tiles of white marble, black basalt and red fired clay brick.<sup>4</sup> The floor was divided into fields in the shape of crosses and octagons, while the remaining space was filled in with hexagonal fields. In the fields in the shape of crosses there were spirographic patterns, in the octagonal fields there were Solomon’s knots and triangular fields, and in the hexagonal fields there were stretched rosette motifs.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This study is an edited version of my talk given on 30 January 2014 at the conference on archaeology and ancient history entitled *Provincialia Romana* organized by the Archaeological Department of the University of Pécs’s Faculty of Arts. I would like to give thanks for the suggestions of Zsolt Visy, Andrea Vaday and Ferenc Redő, who provided their opinions on the talk and earlier versions of this study and assisted me with their advice.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. Nagy, Tibor: *Sopianae. Egy új városmonográfia margójára* (Sopianae. To the Margins of a New Urban Monograph). *Antik Tanulmányok* 33 (1987–1988 [1988]), 225; Gábor, Olivér: *Sopianae késő antik (északi) temetőjének épületei és festményei* (The Buildings and Paintings of Sopianae’s Late Antique [Northern] Cemetery). PhD dissertation (Pécs: University of Pécs, Faculty of Arts, 2008), 70–71; Gábor, Olivér: *Sopianae ókeresztény temetőjének épületei* (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I* (History of Pécs I), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207–208.

<sup>3</sup> *Baranya: emlékirat, mellyel a Pécssett MDCCCXLV aug. elején összegyűlt magyar orvosoknak és természetvizsgálóknak kedveskedik nagykéri Scitovszky János pécsi püspök* (Baranya: Records in which the Bishop of Pécs, János Scitovszky of Nagyker Indulges to the Hungarian Doctors and Examiners of Nature Gathered in Pécs at the Beginning of Aug. MDCCCXLV), ed. Haas, Mihály (Pécs: Lyceumi Nyomda, 1845), 226; Petrovich, Ede: *A pécsi káptalani házak* (The Chapter Houses of Pécs) (Pécs: Janus Pannonius Múzeum, 1983), 55–56.

<sup>4</sup> Andrea Vaday’s reconstruction: Gábor, Olivér: *Sopianae ókeresztény temetőjének épületei* (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I* (History of Pécs I), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207, fig. 13.

<sup>5</sup> Literature on the Pécs mosaic: Pósta, Béla: *Baranya az őskortól a honfoglalásig* (Baranya from Prehistory to the Hungarian Conquest). In: *Baranya múltja és jelenje II* (The Past and Present of Baranya), ed. Várady, Ferenc (Pécs: Telegdy, 1897), 191;

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*Fig. 1: Photographs of the Roman mosaic fragments, found under 6 Káptalan Street, Pécs, Hungary, now owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pécs. Photograph by Róbert Loósz (by the permission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pécs)*

Ákos Kiss placed the making of the mosaic at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and Ferenc Fülep mentioned several parallels to the geometric designs found on it.<sup>6</sup> However, these parallels are for the most part distant and generalized. For example, the Solomon's knot was a widespread motif for a long time in the Roman Period. In addition, in the Pécs mosaic they are of the square sided variant, while the basic form appears in Ferenc Fülep's analogies. The closest parallel to its composition is the mosaic found in the Early Christian basilica in Grado, Italy, where there are spirographic patterns in cross-shaped fields, alternating with octagonal and hexagonal fields. In the octagonal fields Solomon's knots, rosettes and windmill motifs alternate with one another and in the hexagonal fields there are stretched rosette motifs: the same as in the Pécs mosaic.<sup>7</sup> The main difference between the two mosaics is that in the Pécs mosaic the motifs (with the exception of the stretched rosettes) appear simplified: in place of the customary spirographic motif with eight loops it is a variation with four loops and the version of the Solomon's knot has square sides in place of the more widespread version with rounded sides. Similar compositions also from the Late Roman Period are known from Split and Syria as well.<sup>8</sup> Certain motifs, such as the stretched rosettes in the hexagonal fields or the transverse spirographic patterns, are primarily known from Early Christian Aquileia,<sup>9</sup> but they also appear in Rhodes, with similar dating.<sup>10</sup> Altogether,

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Gerecze, Péter: Pécsi püspöki museum (Episcopal Museum of Pécs). *Archaeológiai Értesítő* 19 (1899), 379; Szőnyi, Ottó: *A pécsi püspöki museum kőtára* (The Lapidarium of the Episcopal Museum of Pécs) (Pécs: Taizs, 1906), 44–45; Szőnyi, Ottó: *A pécsi őskeresztény sírkamra* (The Early Christian Burial Chamber of Pécs) (Budapest: Stephaneum, 1907), 10; Szőnyi, Ottó: *A pécsi püspöki múzeum kőtára* (The Lapidarium of the Episcopal Museum of Pécs). *Archaeológiai Értesítő* 27 (1907), 176; Szőnyi, Ottó: *Pécs. Utmutató a városban és környékén és a Mecseken* (Pécs. Guide to the City and Environs and the Mecsek Hills) (Pécs: Danubia, 1926), 67–75; Pleidell, Ambrus: *A magyar várostörténet első fejezete* (The First Chapter of Hungarian Urban History). Anon.: Baranyában római catacombát fedeztek föl (Roman Catacombs Have Been Discovered in Baranya). *Századok* 68 (1934), 285; Nagy, Lajos: Pannonia Sacra. In: *Szent István Emlékkönyv* (Festschrift for Saint Stephen of Hungary), ed. Serédi, Jusztinián (Budapest: Szent István Társulat, 1938), 134; Gosztonyi, Gyula: *A pécsi Szt. Péter székesegyház eredete* (The Origins of the St. Peter Cathedral in Pécs) (Pécs: Dunántúl, 1939), 124; Gosztonyi, Gyula: *A pécsi őskeresztény temető* (The Early Christian Cemetery of Pécs) (Pécs: Dunántúl, 1943), 36–37; Kiss, Ákos: *Roman Mosaics in Hungary*. *Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1973), 31–32, fig. 21; Petrovich, Ede: *A pécsi káptalani házak* (The Chapter Houses of Pécs) (Pécs: Janus Pannonius Múzeum, 1983), 55–59; Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopiana. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 62; Nagy, Tibor: *Sopiana. Egy új városmonográfia margójára* (Sopiana. To the Margins of a New Urban Monograph). *Antik Tanulmányok* 33 (1987–1988 [1988]), 225; Gábor, Olivér: *Sopiana őskeresztény temetőjének épületei* (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopiana). In: *Pécs története I* (History of Pécs I), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207–208.

<sup>6</sup> Kiss, Ákos: *Roman Mosaics in Hungary*. *Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1973), 31–32; Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopiana. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 62.

<sup>7</sup> Mirabella Roberti, Mario: *Motivi aquileiesi nei mosaici della Val Padana*. In: *La mosaïque gréco-romaine II. Actes du 2<sup>ème</sup> Colloque International pour l'Étude de la Mosaïque Antique (Vienne, 30 août-4 septembre 1971)*, ed. Stern, Henri – Le Glay, Marcel (Paris: CNRS, 1975), pl. LXVII.2.

<sup>8</sup> Mano-Zissi, Dorde: *La question des différentes écoles de mosaïques gréco-romaines de Yougoslavie et essai d'une esquisse de leur évolution*. In: *La mosaïque gréco-romaine, Paris 29 Août – 3 Septembre 1963. Colloques Internationaux du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*, ed. Picard, Gilbert Ch. – Stern, Henri M. (Paris: CNRS, 1965), 295, fig. 11; Donceel-Voûte, Pauline: *Les pavements des églises byzantines de Syrie et du Liban. Décor, archéologie et liturgie I*. *Publications d'Archéologie et d'Histoire de l'art de l'Université Catholique de Louvain No. 69*. (Louvain-la-Neuve: Institut Supérieur d'archéologie et d'histoire de l'art Collège Érasme, 1988), 125, fig. 89.

<sup>9</sup> Bertacchi, Luisa: *La basilica postattiliana di Aquileia. Relazione preliminare dei recenti scavi*. *Aquileia Nostra* 42 (1971), 37–38, fig. 17; Marini, Graziano: *The Basilica of Aquileia* (Aquileia: Società per la Conservazione della Basilica di Aquileia, 1998), 5; Marocco, Ezio: *Das römische und frühchristliche Aquileia* (Roman Period and Early Christian Aquileia) (Trieste: Bruno Fachin, 2000), 23/4, 29/3, 31.

<sup>10</sup> Pelekandinis, Stylianos: *Corpus mosaicorum christianorum vetustiorum pavementorum graecorum I. Graecia Insularis. Monumenta Byzantina* (Thessaloniki: Thessaloniki Kentro Byzantinon Ereunon, 1974), pl. 57.γ.

both the set of motifs and the composition could be dated to the 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D., however Olivér Gábor and Zsolt Visy consider this to be too late.<sup>11</sup>

### THE SITE WHERE THE MOSAIC WAS DISCOVERED, ITS LATER FATE AND ITS ANALYSIS

It is a known fact in the scholarship that the mosaic was discovered in the lot of 6 Káptalan Street, but there is no information about the precise location within this lot. If it would be possible to determine the precise site of the mosaic, we would also get closer to understanding the function of the building. For this it is necessary to examine more closely everything known about the construction project in 1841.

Prior to 1841 there was already a well on the present-day lot at 6 Káptalan Street, as well as a long barrel-vaulted cellar dug parallel to the route of the street, essentially in an east-west orientation. The latter structure survives to this day, and it stretches under the lot at present-day 4 Káptalan Street.<sup>12</sup> A second long, north-south oriented cellar on the eastern side of the lot can be accessed from an outbuilding. This was most likely constructed in 1867, when according to a contemporary report a grave – a cremation burial – was discovered on the lot.<sup>13</sup> Thus, in 1841 cellar construction only took place underneath the house, and therefore the mosaic in all likelihood was discovered during the excavation for the foundations of the chapter house or rather its so-called “upper cellar”. Taking into account its discovery at a depth of 9 feet (2.84 m) only the eastern end of the house, where the “upper cellar” is located (depth: 2.33 m), can be considered.<sup>14</sup> The foundations of this part of the house reach down 3 meters, while the foundations for the rest of the house are not nearly this deep (*Fig. 2*).

The fragments of the mosaic floor that came to light and were saved were later taken to various different institutions. In 1906 there were still six mosaic fragments known, which were kept in the Lapidarium of the Episcopal Museum of Pécs,<sup>15</sup> but later reports only talk about five fragments.<sup>16</sup> The fragments may have broken down further and in all likelihood one part was lost, since the five fragments mentioned above do not include all the pieces that were still there in 1906.<sup>17</sup> In 1973, the pieces of the mosaic were kept in the National Museum in Budapest and at various places in Pécs: in the Janus Pannonius Museum, in the

<sup>11</sup> Gábor, Olivér: *Sopianae késő antik (északi) temetőjének épületei és festményei* (The Buildings and Paintings of Sopianae’s Late Antique [Northern] Cemetery). PhD dissertation (Pécs: University of Pécs, School of the Humanities, 2008), 175–176; Gábor, Olivér: *Sopianae ókeresztény temetőjének épületei* (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I* (History of Pécs I), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207–208; Visy, Zsolt: *Sopianae településtörténete* (Settlement History of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I. Az őskortól a püspökség alapításáig* (History of Pécs I. From Prehistory to the Foundation of the Bishopric), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 131.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. Petrovich, Ede: *A pécsi káptalani házak* (The Chapter Houses of Pécs) (Pécs: Janus Pannonius Múzeum, 1983), 11, footnote 2, nr. 176. The ground plan of the cellar can be found in the design archives of the Forster Center (inv. no. 67369).

<sup>13</sup> Anon.: *Baranyában római catacombát fedeztek föl* (Roman Catacombs Have Been Discovered in Baranya). *Századok* 2 (1868), 69; cf. Petrovich, Ede: *A pécsi káptalani házak* (The Chapter Houses of Pécs) (Pécs: Janus Pannonius Múzeum, 1983), 58.

<sup>14</sup> Forster Center Archives, inv. no. 67369. Here I would like to thank the Forster Center for its consent to publish the plan.

<sup>15</sup> Szőnyi, Ottó: *A pécsi püspöki museum kőtára* (The Lapidarium of the Episcopal Museum of Pécs) (Pécs: Taizs, 1906), 44–45.

<sup>16</sup> Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopianae. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó), 1984, 62; Nagy, Tibor: *Sopianae. Egy új városmonográfia margójára* (Sopianae. To the Margins of a New Urban Monograph). *Antik Tanulmányok* 33 (1987–1988 [1988]), 225; Gábor Olivér: *Sopianae ókeresztény temetőjének épületei* (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I* (History of Pécs I), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207–208.

<sup>17</sup> For example piece number 18 disappeared: Szőnyi Ottó: *A pécsi püspöki museum kőtára* (The Lapidarium of the Episcopal Museum of Pécs) (Pécs: Taizs, 1906), 44–45; cf. Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopianae. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 62, 346–347, pls. XXVI–XXVII. I would like to thank Andrea Vaday for bringing this to my attention.

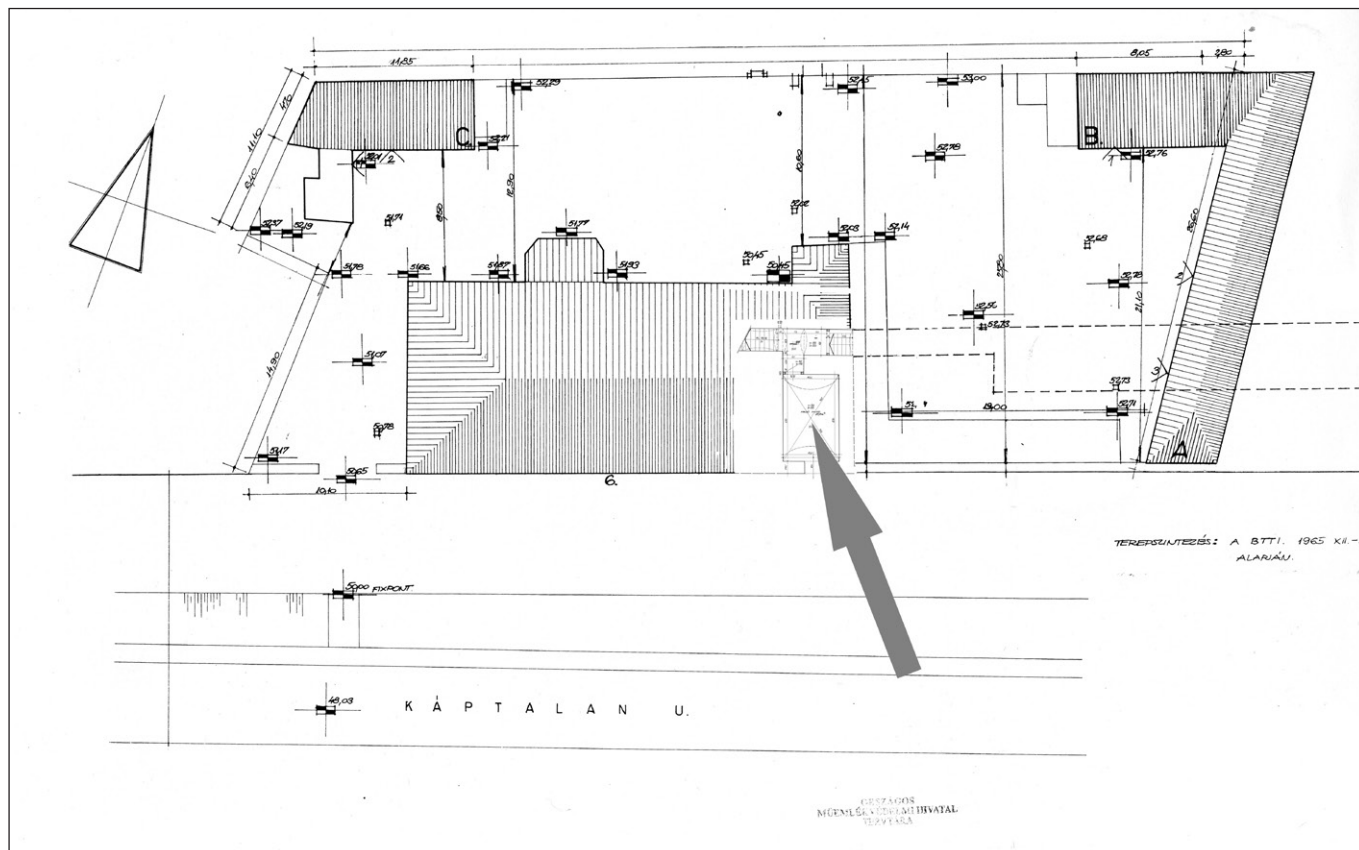


Fig. 2: Layout of the lot at 6 Káptalan Street and the location of the 'upper cellar' within the building (based on a plan in the Forster Centre, 1014 Budapest, 1 Táncsis Mihály Street, Inv. No. 67369)

Cathedral, in the *Cella Trichora* and in the Cathedral Rectory.<sup>18</sup> However, a decade later it seems that in Pécs fragments were only kept in the *Cella Trichora*.<sup>19</sup>

According to certain hypotheses, the mosaic adorned one of the rooms of the bath wing of a suburban villa, as the author of the report published in the 1840s suggested.<sup>20</sup> However, if on the basis of the above reasoning we accept the dating of the mosaic to the 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> centuries it is not likely that we would be dealing with a bathhouse. After all, from this period there has only been a cemetery discovered in the area, with no remains suggesting a Late Roman period villa.<sup>21</sup> The thought has also arisen that the mosaic possibly covered the floor of an above-ground sepulchral structure,<sup>22</sup> although no similar examples are known from Pannonia. While Alice Burger hypothesized that the mausoleum at Kővágószőlős had a mosaic floor, it was

<sup>18</sup> Kiss, Ákos: *Roman Mosaics in Hungary*. *Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1973), 31. The inventory number of the fragment at the Hungarian National Museum is 68.5.1.

<sup>19</sup> Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopianae. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 346–347, pls XXVI–XXVII.

<sup>20</sup> Gábor, Olivér: *Suburbanum Sopianarum. Az antik Pécs város környéke és vonzáskörzete* (The Environs and Vicinity of the Antique City of Pécs). In: *Mozaikok Pécs és Baranya gazdaságtörténetéből* (Mosaics of the Economic History of Pécs and Baranya), ed. Szirtes, Gábor – Vargha, Dezső (Pécs: Pro Pannonia/Pécs-Baranyai Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara, 2005), 9–23, 16; Visy, Zsolt: *Sopianae településtörténete* (Settlement History of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I. Az őskortól a püspökség alapításáig* (History of Pécs I. From Prehistory to the Foundation of the Bishopric), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 131.

<sup>21</sup> Cf. Kraft, János: *A pécsi ókeresztény temető geológiája és felszínének fejlődése* (The Evolution of the Geology and the Surface of the Early Christian Cemetery in Pécs). *Örökségi Füzetek* (Heritage Booklets) 5. (Pécs: Pécs/Sopianae Örökség Kht., 2006), 71.

<sup>22</sup> Tóth, Zsolt: *Hány sírkamrát rejt a föld Sopianae északi temetőjében?* (How Many Burial Chambers Are Hidden in the Ground of Sopianae's Northern Cemetery?). *Pécsi Szemle* 15 (2012)/1, 15, footnote 29.

not possible to verify this.<sup>23</sup> Even in the Alsóhetény mausoleum there were only wall mosaics, which could instead be linked to a later cemetery basilica and not to the mausoleum number 1. The floor of mausoleum number 1 in Alsóhetény was perhaps paved with marble, with a connected entryway with twin apses, as was the case in the Kővágószőlős mausoleum as well.<sup>24</sup> A courtyard identified as an *atrium* by the excavator was also connected to the mausoleum in Alsóhetény, but Mihály Nagy already pointed out that this section is not organically linked architecturally to the mausoleum, and this part of the building could have been a part of a covered cemetery basilica with three apses that was erected during the reconstruction of the mausoleum.<sup>25</sup> Fragments of marble columns, marble slabs and a marble lattice (*subsellium*) were found from the mausoleum and the basilica in addition to fragments of green porphyry as well as gold and glass pieces from a wall mosaic.<sup>26</sup>

Despite all of this, I still find it probable that the mosaic found under 6 Káptalan Street was from one of the stately, above-ground sepulchral structures of the Late Roman period cemetery.<sup>27</sup> The question would be resolved if some other remains of the building were to be found, however there has been no research as of yet in this direction.

### BURIAL CHAMBER NUMBER X

Ferenc Fülep believed that the mosaic could be linked with the burial chamber that was discovered in front of 6 Káptalan Street in 1927 during sewer construction work, and that he designated with the number X when he renumbered the burial chambers of Pécs in his 1984 monograph.<sup>28</sup> The height of the vaulting was 2 m, but the northern section of the burial chamber was already completely destroyed before the remains were found.<sup>29</sup> Fülep determined the dimensions of this building, and in connection with this also – on the basis of Lajos Nagy's work – the dimensions of the mosaic, to be 2.8 x 2.1 + meters. He then prepared the reconstruction of the mosaic on the basis of this.<sup>30</sup> However, we have no information on the width of the burial chamber, we only know that the full length of the eastern wall of this barrel-vaulted structure oriented

<sup>23</sup> Sz. Burger, Alice: Roman Villa and Mausoleum at Kővágószőlős. *A Janus Pannonius Múzeum Évkönyve* 30–31 (1985–1986 [1987]), 168. Cf. Nagy, Tibor: Sopiana. Egy új városmonográfia margójára (Sopiana. To the Margins of a New Urban Monograph). *Antik Tanulmányok* 33 (1987–1988 [1988]), 225.

<sup>24</sup> Tóth, Endre: Az alsóhetényi 4. századi erőd és temető kutatása, 1981–1986. Eredmények és vitás kérdések (Research in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century Fort and Cemetery in Alsóhetény. 1981–1986. Results and Unsettled Questions). *Archaeológiai Értesítő* 114 (1987–1988 [1988]), 36–46; Sz. Burger, Alice: Roman Villa and Mausoleum at Kővágószőlős. *A Janus Pannonius Múzeum Évkönyve* 30–31 (1985–1986 [1987]), 174–175.

<sup>25</sup> Nagy, Mihály: Geometric Analysis of the Early Christian Mausoleum at Alsóhetény. In: *Pannonica. Provincialia et archaeologia. Studia sollemnium auctorum Hungarorum Eugenio Fitz octogenario dedicata*, Hrsg. Szabó, Ádám – Tóth, Endre (Budapest: Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, 2003), 505–506.

<sup>26</sup> Tóth, Endre: Az alsóhetényi 4. századi erőd és temető kutatása, 1981–1986. Eredmények és vitás kérdések (Research in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century Fort and Cemetery in Alsóhetény. 1981–1986. Results and Unsettled Questions). *Archaeológiai Értesítő* 114 (1987–1988 [1988]), 41. Mosaics from a cemetery basilica were also discovered in Salona, see: Dyggve, Ejnar – Egger, Rudolf: *Der alt-christliche Friedhof Marusinac*. Forschungen in Salona 3. (Wien: Rohrer, 1939) 53; *Salona IV. Inscriptions de Salone chrétienne IV<sup>e</sup>-VII<sup>e</sup> siècles I.*, eds. Gauthier, Nancy – Marin, Emilio – Prévot, Françoise. Collection de l'École française de Rome 194/4 (Rome – Split: École française de Rome/Musée archéologique de Split, 2010), 375–386.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. Tóth, Zsolt: Hány sírkamrát rejt a föld Sopiana északi temetőjében? (How Many Burial Chambers Are Hidden in the Ground of Sopiana's Northern Cemetery?). *Pécsi Szemle* 15 (2012)/1, footnote 29.

<sup>28</sup> Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopiana. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 62.

<sup>29</sup> Fejes, György: Római kori emlékek Pécs csatornázásánál (Roman Period Remains During Sewer Construction in Pécs). *Dunántúl* 17 (1927)/87, 9–10; Nagy, Lajos: Pannonia Sacra. In: *Szent István Emlékkönyv* (Festschrift for Saint Stephen of Hungary), ed. Serédi Jusztinián (Budapest: Szent István Társulat, 1938), 40.

<sup>30</sup> Nagy, Lajos: Pannonia Sacra. In: *Szent István Emlékkönyv* (Festschrift for Saint Stephen of Hungary), ed. Serédi Jusztinián (Budapest: Szent István Társulat, 1938), 40. Cf. Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopiana. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 62–63, the reconstruction was prepared by Andor Semsey on the basis of Ferenc Fülep's instructions.

in a north-south direction was 2.8 m, and its western wall survived to a length of 2.1 m.<sup>31</sup> Nor did Fülep take into account that according to the contemporary reports every side of the mosaic was equal in length, in fact at a length of 2 Vienna fathoms. In contrast with Fülep's stance, this would have been 3.79 meters as opposed to 2.8 meters.<sup>32</sup> Thus, this reconstruction cannot be accepted, since he did not take into account the actual dimensions of the mosaic when he attempted to fit it into that burial chamber.

Also in 1927, to the east of the burial chamber, in front of 6 Káptalan Street a sarcophagus with *acroteria* was uncovered, about which György Fejes, the museum director who found the structure wrote, "On March 28<sup>th</sup> [1927], in front of 6 Káptalan Street at a depth of 270 cm I found an enormous coffin, a sarcophagus, carved of Pécs limestone with 12 cm thick walls. On its top there was a semicircular carved piece of sandstone, which had long ago been damaged, and now the jackhammer had broken it into even more pieces. On the four corners of the lid of the sarcophagus there were *acroteria*, two of which were still in good condition. The grave goods found in the sarcophagus and around it were interesting finds. I found a man's skull, shinbone and arm bone as well as a Diocletian coin in the coffin, while next to the sarcophagus I found a lamb's head carved from Roman period brick and fragments of grey ceramics with linear decorations. To the west of this sarcophagus I found a wall ending in a semicircle that had visible traces of yellow paint, the eastern and western walls of a closed room, and as an entryway to this, columns made of roman period brick for an entry door that was 95 cm wide. Unfortunately, I was not able to deviate from the appointed direction of the sewer; and so I could not confirm my hypothesis that there was a burial chamber at this location."<sup>33</sup>

It is not clear exactly where the semicircular wall mentioned by György Fejes was. According to Gyula Gosztanyi, Fejes may have found one of the northern apses of the not yet known Cella Septichora. This is made likely because the sewer main actually does cut through the central northern apse of the Cella Septichora, so when the main was constructed this apse must have been discovered (Figs. 3–4).<sup>34</sup> However,

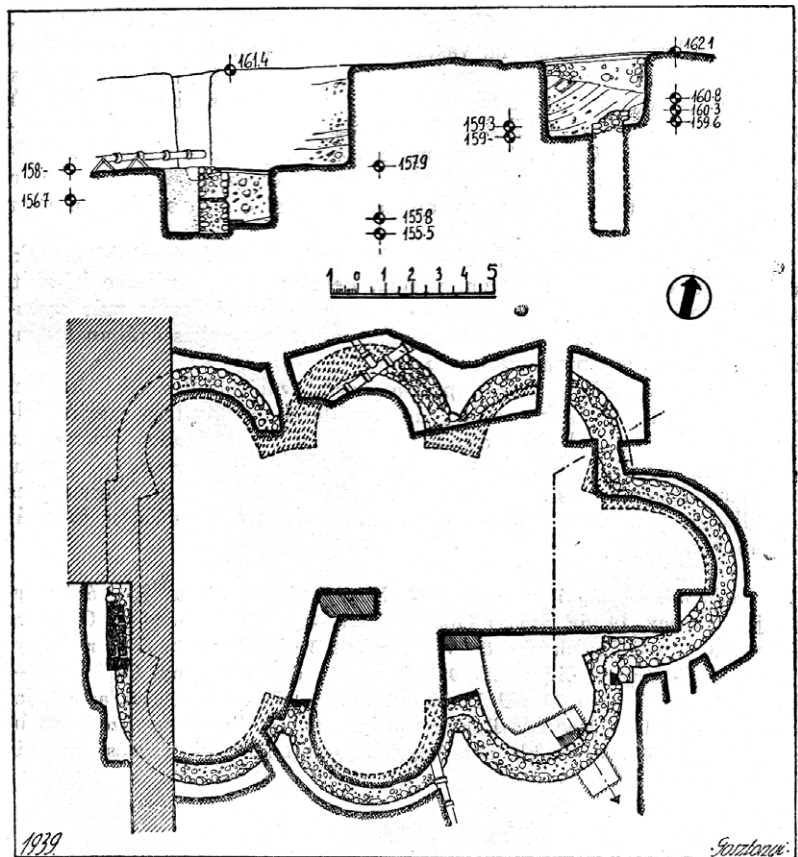


Fig. 3: Section of the sewer drain, built in 1927 and found by Gyula Gosztanyi, on the plan of the 1939 excavation of the Cella Septichora. Source: Gosztanyi, Gyula: *A pécsi Szt. Péter székesegyház eredete* (The Origins of the St. Peter Cathedral in Pécs) (Pécs: Dunántúl, 1939), 103.

<sup>31</sup> Nagy, Lajos: *Pannonia Sacra*. In: *Szent István Emlékkönyv* (Memorial Volume for Saint Stephen of Hungary), ed. Serédi Jusztinián (Budapest: Szent István Társulat, 1938), 40. Cf. Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopianae. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 63.

<sup>32</sup> It is probable that later Ferenc Fülep himself realized the mistake, since in 1981 he was also of this opinion, cf. Fülep, Ferenc – Burger, Alice: *Pécs város régészeti topográfiája I. Római kor* (Archaeological Inventory of the City of Pécs I. The Roman Period) (Pécs, 1981) (manuscript in the Central Library of the Hungarian National Museum), 9. Fülep's 1984 monograph lied waiting at the publisher for several years, and the manuscript was completed in the 1970s.

<sup>33</sup> Fejes, György: *Római kori emlékek Pécs csatornázásánál* (Roman Period Remains During Sewer Construction in Pécs). *Dunántúl* 17 (1927)/87, 9–10, 9.

<sup>34</sup> Cf. Gosztanyi, Gyula: *A pécsi Szt. Péter székesegyház eredete* (The Origins of the St. Peter Cathedral in Pécs) (Pécs: Dunántúl, 1939), 103. I owe a debt of gratitude to Zsolt Visy for the use of the plan of the Cella Septichora and to Tibor Siptár, project

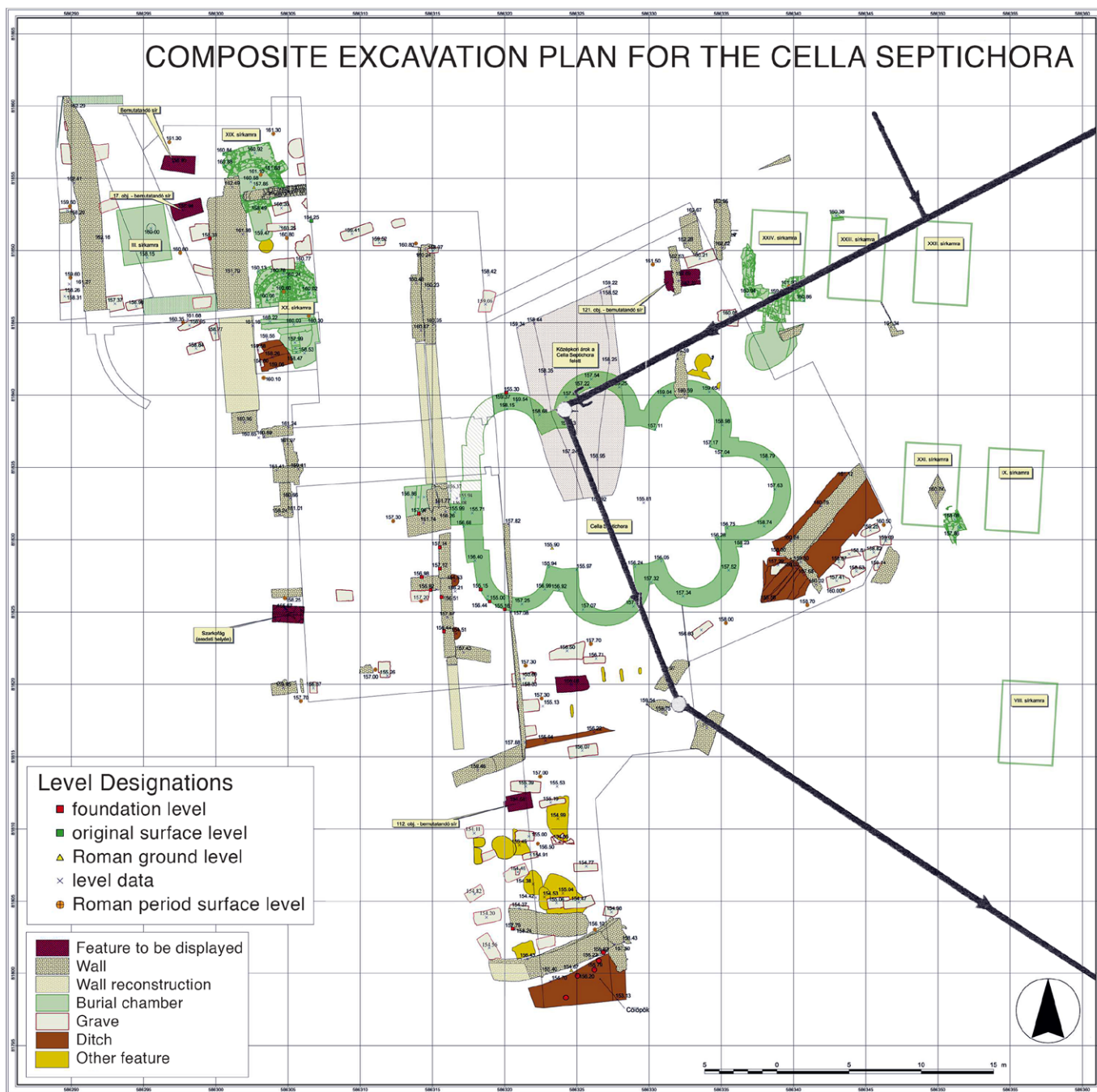


Fig. 4: The path of the sewer drain, built in 1927, projected on the plan of the 2006 excavation of the Cella Septichora (excavation plan: Zsolt Visy; plan of the sewer: Pécs-Tettye Forrásház Zrt., Pécs, plan No. 85170519)

Ferenc Fülep placed the sarcophagus in burial chamber X. The slightly muddled report by György Fejes does not rule out this hypothesis, nor does it definitively support it.<sup>35</sup> Olivér Gábor understood György Fejes’s report to mean two sarcophagi were found: one made from limestone in the burial chamber and one made from sandstone to the east of the burial chamber.<sup>36</sup> However, György Fejes clearly only talks about one sarcophagus, which was carved from Mecsek Hills limestone and its lid was made of sandstone. The

director for Pécs-Tettye Forrás Zrt. for the plan of the sewer main.

<sup>35</sup> Fülep, Ferenc: *Sopianae. The History of Pécs During the Roman Era and the Problem of Continuity of the Late Roman Population* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984), 63.

<sup>36</sup> Gábor, Olivér: *Sopianae ókeresztény temetőjének épületei (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopianae)*. In: *Pécs története I (History of Pécs I)*, ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207.





Fig. 5: Burial chamber No. XXIV. during excavation (photo by the author)

person who found the sarcophagus only mentions that it was uncovered at a depth of 270 cm. Whether this also might have been the floor level of the burial chamber is merely speculation.<sup>37</sup>

The Cella Septichora was re-excavated in 2005–2006, and together with this so was part of the sewer line dug in 1927 in front of 6-10 Káptalan Street. The three burial chambers through which the ditch of the sewer main ran were also found, and during excavation were given the numbers XXII, XXIII and XXIV.<sup>38</sup> Of these three, number XXIV fits the description of György Fejes; its northern section did not survive, but its entryway did and the opening for the entry door is 94 cm.<sup>39</sup> The “columns constructed from brick” next to the entryway described by György Fejes may correspond to the projecting entrance section of the burial chamber. It could also be observed during the excavation

that the sewer main destroyed a section of the wall (Fig. 5).<sup>40</sup> As a result of the above, we have well-founded reasons to hypothesize that burial chamber number X uncovered in 1927 is the same as burial chamber number XXIV uncovered in 2005.

<sup>37</sup> On a map published in 1939 Gyula Gosztonyi indicates the discovery site he hypothesized for the sarcophagus, which falls along the line of the sewer main, so it may be accurate: Gosztonyi Gyula: *A pécsi Szt. Péter székesegyház eredete* (The Origins of the St. Peter Cathedral in Pécs) (Pécs: Dunántúl, 1939), 103.

<sup>38</sup> Visy, Zsolt: Cella Septichora. Előzetes beszámoló a Szent István téren az ókeresztény temető területén folytatott régészeti kutatásokról (Cella Septichora. Preliminary Report on the Archaeological Research Undertaken on the Area of the Early Christian Cemetery in Szent István Square). *Pécsi Szemle* 9 (2006)/2, 5; Visy, Zsolt: Előzetes kutatási beszámoló a Pécs, Szent István téren, az ókeresztény temető területén folytatott régészeti kutatásokról (Preliminary Research Report on the Archaeological Research Performed on the Area of the Early Christian Cemetery in Szent István Square, Pécs). *Sopianae Krónika* 1–2 (2007), 8; Pozsárkó, Csaba – Tóth, István Zsolt – Visy, Zsolt: Sopianae. A cella septichora és környéke. Beszámoló a 2005-2006. évi régészeti feltárásról (Sopianae. The Cella Septichora and Its Surroundings. Report on the Archaeological Excavation of the Years 2005-2006). *Ókor* 6 (2007)/3, 87.

<sup>39</sup> The burial chamber number XXII was not excavated at this same time, but according to the report by Olivér Gábor we know that its northwestern corner was discovered: Gábor Olivér: *Sopianae késő antik (északi) temetőjének épületei és festményei* (The Buildings and Paintings of Sopianae's Late Antique [Northern] Cemetery). PhD dissertation (Pécs: University of Pécs BTK, 2008), 84. They also observed the northern wall of burial chamber XXIII: Visy, Zsolt: Előzetes kutatási beszámoló a Pécs, Szent István téren, az ókeresztény temető területén folytatott régészeti kutatásokról (Preliminary Research Report on the Archaeological Research Performed on the Area of the Early Christian Cemetery in Szent István Square, Pécs). *Sopianae Krónika* 1–2 (2007), 8, so they do not fit the description of György Fejes, according to which the northern side of the burial chamber in question had already been destroyed prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>40</sup> I owe thanks to Zsolt Visy for permission to publish the excavation photograph.

## CONCLUSION

The major problem surrounding burial chamber number X was caused by Ferenc Fülepe's error in identifying the structure found in 1927 with the site of the mosaic discovered in 1841. This position cannot be supported, since Fülepe pieced together the mosaic improperly and did not take into account the dimensions recorded when the mosaic was uncovered, as is shown by the reconstruction published in 1973 (Fig. 6). Andrea Vaday's new reconstruction takes into account the full extent of the mosaic, which corresponds to precisely 13 x 13 Roman feet (3.79 m), and is in agreement with the original report by Mihály Haas (2 Vienna fathoms = 3.79 m).<sup>41</sup> In terms of the relationship between the burial chamber and the mosaic, on the basis of the foregoing it can be seen that they were found not far from one another, but not in the same place. It is clear therefore that burial chamber number X does not have a connection with the mosaic found under 6 Káptalan Street, which may have covered the floor of a different, above-ground sepulchral structure.

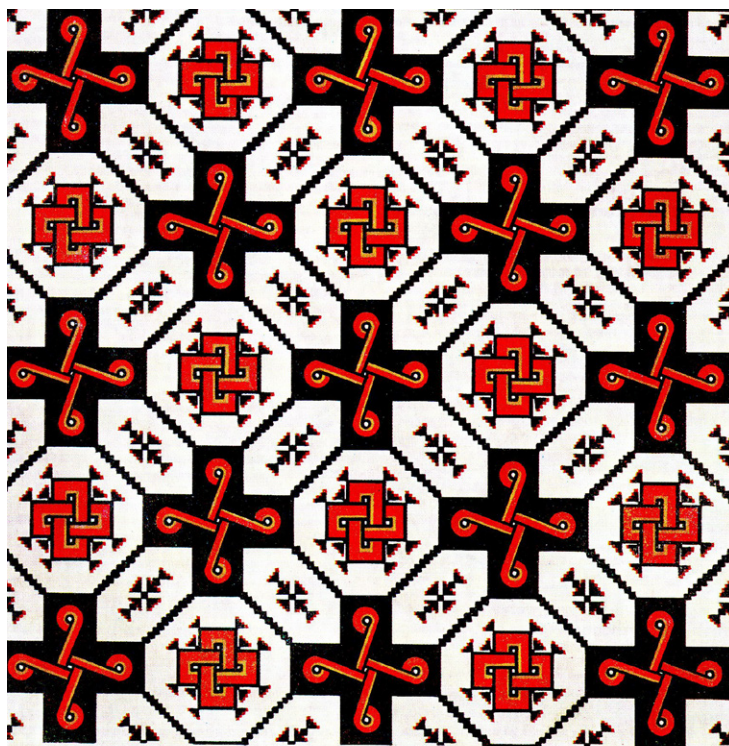


Fig. 6: The reconstruction of the mosaic found at 6 Káptalan Street published in 1973. Source: Kiss, Ákos: *Roman Mosaics in Hungary. Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae* (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1973), fig. 21.

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<sup>41</sup> Gábor, Olivér: Sopianae ókeresztény temetőjének épületei (Buildings of the Early Christian Cemetery of Sopianae). In: *Pécs története I* (History of Pécs I), ed. Visy, Zsolt (Pécs: Foundation for the History of Pécs/Kronosz Kiadó, 2013), 207, fig. 13.