

SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITION ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMRE HOLL'S BIRTH

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Hungarian Archaeology Vol 13 (2024) Issue 4, pp. 57–58.

On 19 November 2024, the Institute of Archaeology of the HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities commemorated the centenary of the birth of Imre Holl, honouring one of the most important figures of Hungarian medieval archaeology.⁴

The event featured lectures by researchers from the Budapest History Museum, the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of the Eötvös Loránd University, and the HUN-REN Institute of Archaeology. These presentations highlighted various aspects of Imre Holl's diverse oeuvre and discussed topics broadly related to his research interests.

In the opening lecture, Elek Benkő presented an overview of the life and prolific career of Imre Holl (*Fig. 1*). István Feld reflected on Holl's publications on castles, contextualising them with advancements in recent decades, while Orsolya Mészáros explored potential future directions in medieval urban research beyond his areas of focus. Judit Benda summarised the archaeological and historical research carried out in the territory of Budapest since 1990.

Participants (*Fig. 2*) also toured the exhibition '*Holl 100 – From the Files of a Researcher*', guided by Elek Benkő. Organised by the staff of the HUN-REN Institute of Archaeology, the exhibit features personal items lent by the Holl family and research material deposited in the Archaeological Institute's Data Archive.⁵ The display was structured around the main themes of Imre Holl's professional career (pottery, stove tiles, castles, towns, and villages), highlighting the exemplary methodologies he employed, which were considered very innovative for his time (*Figs. 3–4*). The exhibition is open in the gallery of the Research Centre for the Humanities (HTK Building) until 7 February 2025.

The afternoon session began with a lecture by



*Fig. 1. Presentation by Elek Benkő
(photo by Róbert Szederkényi)*



*Fig. 2. The audience of the conference
(photo by Róbert Szederkényi)*

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4 About the career and publications of Imre Holl, see BENKŐ, KOVÁCS & OROSZ 2017, 15–46 and LASZLOVSZKY 2018.

5 The exhibition was organised by Adrián Berta, Magda Füredi, Friderika Horváth, Ágnes Kolláth, Bianka Gina Kovács, Gyöngyi Kovács, Vilmos Sternád, and Csilla Zatykó.



Fig. 3. Viewing the exhibition 'Holl 100 – From the files of a researcher' in the Research Centre for the Humanities (photo by Róbert Szederkényi)

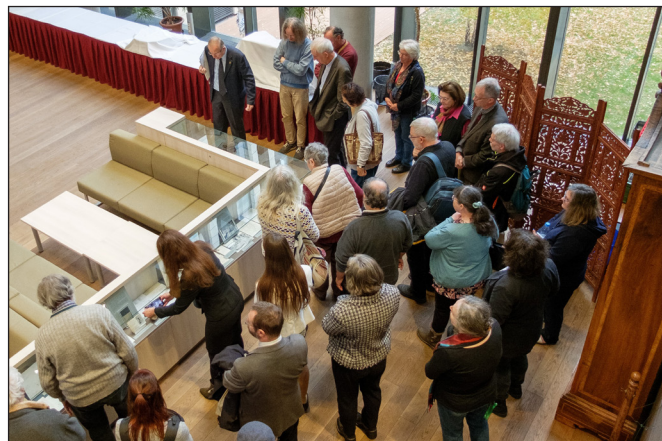


Fig. 4. Tour guided by Elek Benkő in the exhibition (photo by Róbert Szederkényi)

Elek Benkő on the latest findings on the earliest brick floor tiles of the Cistercian Abbey of Pilis, dating from the 12th and 13th centuries. Using the archival material of the Budapest History Museum, György Terei discussed the excavation and documentation techniques developed by Imre Holl during his work on the Royal Palace of Buda. Rita Rakonczay presented a remarkable stove tile assemblage with an ill-fated background story from Hegyhátszentmárton in Vas County. Bianka Gina Kovács, emphasising Holl's foundational contributions to medieval pottery research, presented new possibilities for advancing the field. Adrienn Papp showed an array of unique Ottoman Era pottery vessels from the Budapest History Museum, while Ágnes Kolláth summarised the general characteristics of the Early Modern pottery of Székesfehérvár. Finally, Csilla Zatykó and Adrián Berta outlined Imre Holl's rural archaeology projects and presented examples of new methods and their outcomes in the field.

The event not only paid tribute to the work of the esteemed researcher but also offered insight into his modest yet dedicated personality and his profound humility toward science, as reflected through the exhibition and the anecdotes shared by the speakers.

REFERENCES

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