

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS FOR PEOPLE SIGHTED THROUGH TOUCH? Continuation of a unique series

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A year ago, I had the opportunity to report on an online educational audiovisual mini-series on archaeology, which I was able to launch and run with the collaboration of many colleagues. In the first ‘act’ of the compilation entitled ‘Museum Treasures with Audio Description’, archaeologists presented their favourite finds dating from the Neolithic to the period of the Hungarian Conquest. The series was explicitly aimed at visually impaired audiences; accordingly, while photographs of the finds were displayed, each episode featured a clearly understandable spoken text. The presentation of the objects and the accompanying interesting stories was prepared jointly, with the extremely conscientious help and advice of the members of the Láss velünk! Audionarrátorok Társasága [See with Us! Audio Describers’ Society]. Their work was coordinated by Andrea Csilla Fekete, who also read out many of the texts herself, and to whom I am immensely grateful for her wholehearted support of our idea.

Feedback showed that the compilation also attracted the attention of sighted audiences, and it was covered by the media on several occasions. I am particularly proud that, in recognition of our work in introducing the archaeological heritage to the visually impaired community, I was awarded the Imre Henszlmann Prize by the Hungarian Archaeological and Art Historical Society.

After the completion of the series, I received many requests from both contributors and followers to continue. Therefore, I concluded my paper in the summer issue of last year’s *Hungarian Archaeology* by inviting colleagues who would be happy to present a Hungarian medieval find or heritage ensemble to contact me.

Following the publication of my report, I was approached by numerous archaeologists, as well as numismatists, art historians, and restorers. Most have already sent me their texts along with the accompanying images (Fig. 1–4). I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work; they include Károly Belényesy, Gergely Buzás, Juan Cabello, Judit Edőcs, Zsolt Frecska-Nagy, András Gulyás, Attila Katona-Kiss, Róbert Müller, Rebeka Nagy, Ildikó Katalin Pap, Szilárd Papp, Réka Semsey, Zsófia Simon, Erika

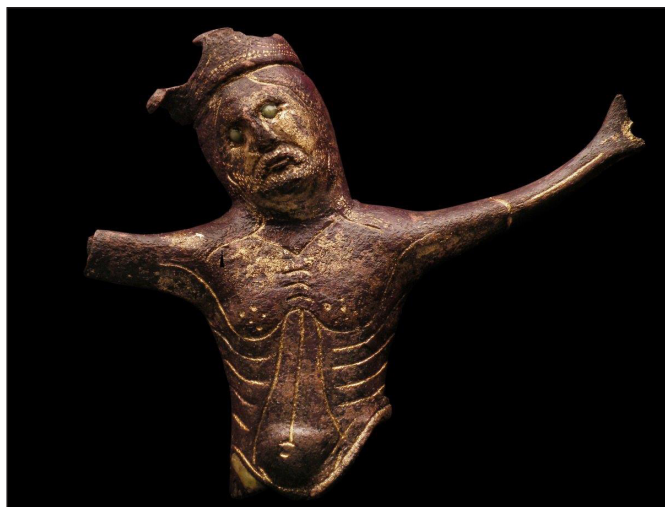


Fig. 1. Gilded processional cross, fragment of the figure of Christ from Balatonszárszó (photo by Krisztián Balla)



Fig. 2. Detail of a chasuble with the figure of Saint Gregory the Great from the church of Ják (photo by Attila Mudrák)

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Fig. 3. Painted Venetian glass beaker from Dísz Square in Buda (photo by Ákos Keppel)



Fig. 4. Ivory sundial from Pogányszentpéter (photo by Zoltán Hohl)

Simonyi, Géza Szabó, Renáta Szabó, György Terei, Anikó Tóth, Csaba Tóth, István Töröcsik, Máté Varga, Mária Vargha, and Mária Wolf. The finalisation of the texts and the production of their audio material are ongoing.

Last autumn, the new series began with the presentation of the first coin of King Stephen I. There are now over a dozen medieval-themed episodes available, covering a wide variety of object types from both secular and ecclesiastical heritage. The new episodes span the period from the Early Árpád Age to the late Middle Ages and include, for example, an aquamanile from Hernádszentandrás, a pilgrim badge from Kána, a hoard of iron viniculture tools from Gyöngyöspata, and a glazed stove tile from the castle of Vámosatya. Responding to the requests of many, these episodes are also now available in a Facebook group whose membership continues to grow.

After a short summer break, the compilation and its upload to the internet will continue in the autumn. As a result, the release of the 100th episode is now within sight.

Link to the series:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_kSAKbkQIA&list=PLe0_wgx3kGDdKliLjEIGDPm3Fv5czocn_

Link to the Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1455574225106326>