

Tivadar Vida

# LATE ANTIQUE METAL VESSELS IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

Luxury and Power in the Early Middle Ages



Budapest 2016

The publication of this volume was funded by generous grants from the National Cultural Fund of Hungary, the Book and Journal Publishing Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences



Cover photo:

Mounted archer on the Budakalász hunting jug, Ferenczy Museum, Szentendre (photo: Attila Mudrák)

English translation: Magdaléna Seleanu

Desktop editing and layout: Zsanett Kállai

Series and cover design: Móni Kaszta

ISBN 978-963-9911-81-9

HU ISSN 2498-5600

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2016

ARCHAEOLOGUA ALAPÍTVÁNY

H-1014 Budapest, Úri u. 49

[www.archaeolingua.hu](http://www.archaeolingua.hu)

Managing Director: Erzsébet Jerem

Printed in Hungary by AduPrint Kft.

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## EDITORS' FOREWORD

This book is the first in a new series designed to shed fresh light on various aspects of the archaeological heritage of Hungary to both a scholarly audience and the broader public interested in Hungarian archaeology. The series' title is a reference to the shared cultural legacy of the one-time Roman Empire and a reminder of how much we all owe to the Latin language. This cultural legacy and heritage (*hereditas*) incorporates not only the relics of the distant Hungarian past, but of all the peoples who had once passed through and settled in this region as well as the many objects and commodities brought from faraway lands that enriched the daily life or special ceremonial occasions of the peoples living here.

By launching this series, our intention was to promote an appreciation and awareness of this cultural heritage and to brush away at least some of the cobwebs that so often obscure our view of the past, by presenting the outstandingly important archaeological finds, discovered either through strokes of good luck, or recovered during time-consuming, meticulous fieldwork, that are one of the major sources of Hungary's history and art history. We felt that there would be a definite interest in a new series of relatively short books that would focus on one particular archaeological problem, period, or group of finds written for both the academic community and the interested broader public in a clear, lucid style with persuasive argumentation and copious notes, complete with a detailed bibliography for further reading. The illustrations accompanying the text were chosen with a view to adding a special extra to the text. Another important consideration was to publish the books in English too, in order to offer a guide to the many new exciting discoveries made in Hungarian archaeological scholarship and to make them more readily accessible to the international scholarly community.

Our choice of the series title, *Hereditas Archaeologica Hungariae* (HAH), is, at the same time, a tribute to three of the perhaps most influential and widely read archaeological series whose publication was discontinued: the *Archaeologia Hungarica* and the *Fontes Archaeologici Hungariae* series as well as the one-time *Hereditas* series published by Corvina Publishing House, whose volumes appearing in the 1970s and 1980s were written by the perhaps greatest minds of Hungarian archaeology at the time, and which presented the archaeological heritage of the Neolithic, the Bronze Age, the Celts, the Romans, the ancient Hungarians and the Cumanians in a most enjoyable style. Twenty-five years later, two institutions, Archaeolingua Foundation and the Institute of Archaeology of the Research Center for the Humanities of the Hungarians Academy of Sciences, both deeply committed to bringing together Hungarian and international archaeological research

and to presenting the new finds and advances in this discipline in a lively, legible style and in an attractive format, joined forces to launch this new series.

If this new series will inspire further research and the future curation of the immense volume of archaeological finds housed in various Hungarian public collections, much of which was brought to light and lovingly conserved during the past decades, our work was not in vain: we have made our small contribution to ensuring the preservation of this rich heritage for future generations and to making these finds speak not only to the specialists of our discipline, but also to the broader interested public.

ELEK BENKÓ, ERZSÉBET JEREM, GYÖNGYI KOVÁCS, JÓZSEF LASZLOVSZKY

