

The Prehistoric Settlement at Balatonőszöd–Temetői-dűlő

The Middle Copper Age, Late Copper Age and Early Bronze Age Occupation

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TÜNDE HORVÁTH

**THE PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT
AT BALATONŐSZÖD–TEMETŐI-DÜLŐ**

The Middle Copper Age,
Late Copper Age and Early Bronze Age Occupation

with contributions by

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FOREWORD

Tünde Horváth

Described and discussed in the present volume is the prehistoric settlement investigated on the outskirts of Balatonőszöd between 2001 and 2002. Located in an area known as Temetői-dűlő, the site's excavation was part of the salvage excavation preceding the construction of the M7 Motorway at Site M7/S-10, performed by a team of experts from the Archaeological Institute of the Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA BTK RI) and the Directorate of Somogy County Museums (SMMI). The description of the prehistoric settlement, the excavated archaeological features and their finds follows the chronological sequence of the archaeological periods, from the Middle Copper Age (Balaton–Lasinja/Furchenstich cultures) and the Late Copper Age (Boleráz/Baden/Kostolac cultures) to the Early Bronze Age (Somogyvár–Vinkovci/proto-Kisapostag culture), with a short section on the finds from Late Iron Age (La Tène D, Celtic period).

The main findings for each archaeological period are discussed according to the disciplines used in the assessment of the site. The field documentation, the bulk of the illustrations and the tables can be found in electronic format on the two **DVDs** accompanying the book (Szabolcs Honti and Tünde Horváth 2013). The Hungarian version of this monograph is accessible online in the Repository of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.real.mtak.hu/2959>).

The chapters of the monograph conform to the sequence of the major archaeological periods investigated at the site. The introduction is followed by separate chapters on the Middle Copper Age, the Late Copper Age and the region's settlement patterns in the Copper Age and the Early Bronze Age. The illustrations and tables to each chapter are numbered separately.

DVD 1 contains the field documentation, the summary tables, the description of the finds and features of each archaeological period accompanied by drawings, photographs, maps and the lists of finds. **DVD 2** contains the “extras”: the reconstructions aiding a better understanding of the site's finds and features, the presentations and published studies on the site, and the necessary software for the 3D and the AutoCad maps.

Our main goal with the two **DVDs** was to provide an example of the modern, interdisciplinary assessment of a large archaeological site and its finds. The principal function of the two **DVDs** accompanying the volume is to present the relevant documentation and, also, to ease the handling of this documentation for our readers and of searches for particular features, finds or periods.

Our other purpose with the creation of the **DVDs** was to make good use of the technological advances available in the 21st century and thus promote a better understanding of the finds from various prehistoric periods and of the life of prehistoric communities, as well as to preserve the immense volume of the good quality field documentation and the records created during the site's assessment. Converting the documentation and the illustrations into an electronic format meant that the entire range of records could be presented, without any constraints on size and scope, or without the difficult choice of selecting what should be published and what should be omitted. Another advantage of an electronic format is that the text and image files can be linked and presented simultaneously, and that their quality will not deteriorate with time as in the case of paper publications.

The site discussed in the present volume is the first extensively investigated and fully published open settlement where we could document the joint, simultaneous occupation of a site by at least two cultural groups of the Late Copper Age (Boleráz and Baden) and, possibly, by a third (Kostolac). A joint occupation of this type has until now only been documented on stratified hillfort-type sites such as the tell settlements at Vučedol–Gradac and Gomolava in the distribution of these cultural groups.

The Balatonőszöd site also offered an exciting opportunity to examine the relation between Boleráz, Baden and Kostolac, as well their relation to the cultures of the preceding Middle Copper Age and the ensuing Early Bronze Age, and to study the possible continuity between these periods, as well as the nature of this continuity.

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We are particularly grateful to Károly Belényesy, the co-director of the Balatonőszöd excavation, for his help in the preparation of the post-excavation documentation after the conclusion of the fieldwork. Special thanks are due to Szilvia Honti, who co-ordinated the archaeological research on the M7 Motorway conducted jointly by the Archaeological Institute and the Directorate of County Somogy Museums, and her colleagues for providing vital help in finding storage space for the tons of excavated finds, for managing all issues pertaining to County Somogy and for patiently answering all our questions. We owe a debt of gratitude to the many people who worked with us in preparing the documentation and in the assessment of the finds: Balázs Zanati for assistance in handling the finds, Zsuzsanna Ba, Lúcia Glattfelder, László Gucsi and Ágnes Zamadits for the conservation and restoration, Andrea Szebeni for the preparation of the section drawings, Fanni Dénes, Sándor Ósi, László Schilling and Gábor Varga for many of the illustrations to the volume. The spectacular reconstructions are a testimony to the skills and ingenuity of Csaba Peterdi and Zsolt Réti.

Finally, we wish to thank our reviewers for reading through and commenting on various chapters in the draught version of the manuscript: Attila Gyucha (Middle Copper Age), Zsuzsanna Siklósi (Late Copper Age), László Reményi (topography) and János Dani (Early Bronze Age). The chapters covering the interdisciplinary assessment of various finds were reviewed by Ildikó Pap (physical anthropology of the human remains: Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.2), László Bartosiewicz (animal bone samples: Sections 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.5), Pál Sümegi (malacological samples: Sections 3.3.6 and 3.3.7), Katalin T. Biró (lithics: Sections 3.3.8 and 3.3.9), and Attila Kreiter (ceramic analyses: Sections 3.3.10, 3.3.11, 3.3.12 and 3.3.13). The final Hungarian manuscript was reviewed by Gabriel Nevizánsky, the English version by Christian Jeunesse. We are grateful to them all for their valuable and insightful comments, which we have incorporated into the present work.