

## THE RESULTS OF HUNGARIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN 1950

Investigations carried out in 1950 have brought about a significant change in the development of Hungarian archaeology. The five-year plan of archaeological research published in vol. 1 of the *Acta Archaeologica* was accepted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; in 1950, exploration throughout the country were based on this plan. This planned research has produced, in the course of a single year, results which practically throw into the shade the investigations of the past 25 years. Through the Academy of Sciences, support on a hitherto unknown scale was given to archaeological research by the Hungarian Government which supplied the financial basis of the work. Hungarian scholars working in study groups have tried to prove worthy of the confidence and material support generously granted by the people and the government for the furtherance of archaeological work; they have done their best to promote the cause of research. Work done during the past year is a palpable refutation of the belief that archaeological investigations cannot be made according to a previously conceived plan which may at any moment be upset by unexpected events. A comparison with the five-year plan of archaeological research shows that the tasks assigned to 1950 have all been dealt with; under circumstances, moreover, when the reconstruction and development of the country have assumed a scale hitherto unknown. These building activities have made the preservation of finds a most urgent and vital task for our archaeologists in such a number of cases as is unparalleled in the history of Hungarian archaeology. We have succeeded in coping both with these tremendous tasks and the timetable outlined in the original programme although the working days devoted to the preservation of finds were about twice as many as those devoted to carrying out the tasks which had been set out in the plan for 1950.

Let us sum up the results of Hungarian archaeological research in 1950, in the order of the problems set down in the five-year plan,

taking into account both the investigations prescribed in the plan and the attempts to rescue finds.

### I. *Palaeolithic Era.*

Of the problems connected with this age our aim was to start clearing up the Aurignac question in Hungary through explorations in the caves of the Bükk Mountains. A study group led by L. Vértess spent 40 days exploring the cave at Istállóskő (Bükk Mountains). In the Istállóskő excavations work was done very thoroughly: the debris filling up the cave was cut through in full depth, the superfluous earth was carted away, practically every half inch of the ground being minutely examined. Among the conclusions reached we have to point out briefly that »Late Middle Aurignac«, hitherto regarded as a uniform period, has now been divided into several cultural strata. The lowest stratum may be described as belonging to the classical Middle Aurignac period; at this level 71 implements, including 59 made of bone, have been found. Among the latter pride of place is taken by pointed implements with an incised base; so far only five specimens belonging to this type were known to exist in this country. Several of the newly-discovered specimens are thought by the leader of the group to have served as arrow-heads; these specimens will have a decisive influence on the debate concerning the use of arrows in the Aurignac period.

The upper stratum in which a hearth was discovered, is characterized by clumsy stone implements of the Mousterian type. This stratum from which 62 tools (including 23 implements of bone) were unearthed is regarded by the leader of the excavations as deriving from the Périgord period. The problem remains to be settled by later investigations.

The uppermost stratum of culture which has given us four stone implements and two made of bone dates from the Madeleine period. A molar milk-tooth belonging to primitive man has been discovered in the upper stratum. Among the



animal bones (18 boxes) 7 skulls of cave-bears have been found.

To sum up briefly: the excavations of 1950 have helped us in determining the characteristics of the Middle Aurignac period in Hungary. Examination of the micro-fauna enables us to draw conclusions as to the age of the stratum; as a result of further excavations we shall probably succeed in solving the problems connected with the origin of Aurignac culture. (When this account was being written the 1951 excavations in the cave of Istállóskő had already been completed).

Excavations in 1950 were badly handicapped through the devastation caused in the cave by earlier digging. There is urgent need of severe legislation to protect the few Hungarian caves that have so far remained undisturbed from ravages of this kind.

## II. Neolithic Age.

To further the solution of the problems connected with the Mesolithic Age the five-year plan prescribed for 1950 the examination of the peat settlements in Western Hungary; it was in this area that we have tried to discover remnants of the Mesolithic Age. J. Csalog (Keszthely Museum) explored the whole territory of the Little Balaton (he had been prevented from working in the territory originally assigned to him owing to technical difficulties). From the point of view of Mesolithic studies his quest has proved fruitless since it has been found out that the peat strata there are more recent than the Mesolithic Age. (Otherwise, his explorations have considerably enriched our knowledge of the archaeology of the Little Balaton district). — We were all the more delighted to hear that in the present period of investigations (Spring, 1951) Mesolithic pile-dwellings have been discovered in the territory of the former Hanság swamp (Western Hungary).

To elucidate the problems of the Neolithic Age in Hungary, J. Korek (Hungarian Historical Museum) and his study group carried out excavations for five weeks on Lebő Hill, in the environs of the village Tápé. This district has been the centre of explorations since the beginning of the present century. The chief aim of this excavation was to find out how the linear pottery found earlier in this area fits into the picture of the Neolithic Age on the Great Hungarian Plain; in the view of the study group, conditions of settlement prevailing among the Aeneolithic cultures of the Tisza

district have also been elucidated. In the course of the excavations the foundations of three houses, 9 hearths, and 25 graves were unearthed. An important result is that the continuity of the Tisza Culture with the Aeneolithic Age has been established, on the basis of material discovered in the settlement. In the pottery, part of the forms and ornamental elements (knobs) peculiar to the Tisza Culture continues to live on in the Aeneolithic Ages; but the meander lines so characteristic of the art of this district disappear from ornamentation. This form of ornament seems to be limited to the »collared« vessels peculiar to this site.

Light has been thrown also on the manner of life of the people who used to inhabit this settlement: the many fishbones, scales, and fishing instruments (harpoons of bone with one or two barbs, fish-hooks, net-weights) as well as bones of the wild boar, red-deer, and the aurochs (*bos primigenius*) all combine to indicate that the settlement was inhabited by a race of fishermen and hunters. — A great many stone blades have come to light (with possible traces of retouching at their edges); but the quantity of half-finished goods, of core and flake is small; this seems to prove that the people inhabiting the settlement were probably bartering these necessities in return for food.

With regard to the date of the linear pottery it has been established that, in the case of this settlement, it coincides with the date of the settlement itself (end of the Tisza culture).

## III. Copper and Bronze Ages.

To clarify problems connected with the Aeneolithic Age, I. Kutzián (Hungarian Historical Museum) and her team carried out last year excavations near Polgár, in the environs of the hamlet Basatanya nearby. Interest is centred here in a fairly extensive Aeneolithic cemetery, the excavations of which had started in 1929. The graves were found to contain a great quantity of grave goods: pottery, stone axes, blades, implements of bone, jewels made of copper and marble; also a number of so-called »fishing arrowheads« which have so far been regarded by Hungarian archaeologists as dating from the Bronze Age. (The fact that the latter were found in an Aeneolithic grave is of great interest and raises a number of new problems). In one of the graves double interment occurred; this grave was lifted *in situ*



and transferred to the Déri Museum, Debrecen. One of the corpses may have been buried beside the other as a human sacrifice; this question can be elucidated, however, only after a careful anthropological examination. The conclusions drawn from the study of this cemetery's rich material are expected to throw new light on the economic and social conditions of human society in the Aeneolithic Age. It is most interesting to note that while the first site of digging in the cemetery has disclosed Aeneolithic remains, those found at the second site date from the Copper Age. The full exploration of the cemetery which will take place in 1952 is expected to shed light on the question of transitions, too.

In order to elucidate conditions of settlement during the Copper Age some excavations were carried out in 1950 in the Nyírség, a district in the Upper Tisza region; these investigations were however, on a minor scale and bore an exploratory character. P. Patay (Balassagyarmat Museum) carried out excavations at Fényeslitke; these have confirmed our previously conceived conviction that the Copper Age culture of Pécel (perhaps that of Bodrogheresztur, too) lasted longer in the Upper regions of the Tisza than in the western districts of the country; in the former place copper implements were found in very large numbers while remains from the first and second periods of the Bronze Age are entirely missing. A fully satisfactory solution of this problem will be the task of future investigations.

In order to clarify the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, excavations on a large scale were carried out, in consonance with the five-year plan, by Professor J. Banner (University of Budapest) at Békés-Városerdő. The surface examination previous to the excavations had shown that attention must be centred on the fortified site of settlement enclosed by the winding course of the Fekete-Körös. Here, too, work was badly handicapped by earlier »treasure-hunters« who had destroyed part of the settlement. — The foundations of several houses were exposed here, following the indication of the holes made for piles. The majority of these holes belonged, however, not to houses but to hearths: they formed part of a contrivance holding off wind from the hearth. From the examination of these holes it has also become clear that not only round piles but boards, too, were employed: actually, impressions of some of the boards are still extant,

a circumstance that proves conclusively that the technique of board-making was already known at that time. There is an enormous number of finds to illustrate the manner of life of the people: a profusion of vessels, fire-dogs, spoons, lids, lamps, polishers, awls, needles, jewels, grind-stones, sling-stones, stone axes, hoes made of antlers, etc. On the basis of the finds the settlement is thought by J. Banner to have originated in the second half of the Bronze Age but there are indications of its survival in the Early Iron Age. The fauna of the settlement is characterized by several kinds of cattle, as well as fallow deer and red deer, boar, goat, sheep, dog, etc. — Among the different kinds of corn grains of wheat were found.

A study group led by A. Mozsolics (Hungarian Historical Museum) has begun tracing the history of mining and metallurgy in the Bronze and Iron Ages. There were no excavations connected with this problem. The group is at present working on the basis of the material in the Hungarian Historical Museum.

#### IV. *Iron Age.*

The problem of the Cimmerians has been investigated by M. Párducz (Hungarian Historical Museum) and his study group. In the environs of Szentes he has discovered the first authentic cemetery of the Cimmerian people (?). A scientific study of the material seems to point to one of two alternatives: we have to do with the archaeological material either of the latest Cimmerian period or (there are many indications in this direction, too) the earliest period of the Scythians. The question has not been finally decided but the fact that the problem has been put in this way is very important for either period. Future excavations at Szentes-Vekerzug may perhaps supply a satisfactory solution to this problem, too.

It was M. Párducz, again, who, in the course of his research into the immigration of the Scythians, has dug up the Scythian cemetery at Tápiószéle. This work was done in two instalments, each lasting 30 days. In the territory 25 inhumation graves and 16 cremation-graves were unearthed, while in the case of 5 graves the manner of interment could not be ascertained. The inhumation and cremation graves are not separated in the territory. Grave goods consist of the usual Scythian objects: ear-rings (the most prominent of these is a golden type with cone-shaped ends, a type that has been found also in the »golden stag« grave at Tápió-



szentmárton), also some pottery and iron objects. M. Párducz has tried to locate the settlement belonging to the cemetery, but his exploratory excavations on three sites near the cemetery have so far borne no results.

#### *Late Iron Age.*

Among the excavations carried out in the environs of Budapest, the chief aim of which is to clarify the history of the capital, we have to lay special stress on the work done at Albertfalva by T. Nagy (Municipal Archaeological Institute) and his study group during last year. Investigation has been going on there for several years; in the report of the leader of this group we hear of very important results. In Roman times there was a settlement of Eravisci at Albertfalva; the section of the main road of the Danubian *limes* leading through this settlement has now been discovered. The huts dug into the earth, representing the first period of the settlement, were situated along the two sides of this road; these huts are assigned by two Nagy, on the basis of the Late La Tène material and early specimens of *terra sigillata* found in some of them, to the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Since the earliest pottery and jewellery found at Albertfalva is identical in type with the material of the latest period unearthed on the Gellért Hill, the leader of the excavations has come to the conclusion that the Roman government had transferred the Eravisci living in their fortified settlement on Gellért Hill to the flat territory at Albertfalva; in his view the transfer must have taken place after the rising of the Pannonians and Dalmatians. The second period of the settlement is represented by the stone houses built at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The main road which had been built by this time runs above the decayed huts dug into the earth. This period lasted, in the opinion of the leader of the excavations, until the great wars against the Sarmatians and the Germanic tribes at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century; the final, third period of the settlement stretched from the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century till the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Among the objects unearthed we must draw attention to a simple sanctuary with an oblong ground-plan; here several altar-stones were discovered, without inscriptions. There are several dwelling-houses, one of them with a cellar separated by an iron sheet; finally, there is a well lined with hooped staves. The significant material of these excavations is now being interpreted and the

results will shortly be published in a monograph by T. Nagy.

One of the main roads of the ancient Illyrian-Celtic population of Transdanubia was the Kapos valley; the Roman conquest also followed this line. This territory is, however, practically unexplored, in spite of the fact that quite a time ago some archaeological material of great significance had been discovered in the district, at Szalacska and Regöly. This material did not, however, derive from authentic excavations; a considerable portion of the finds, moreover, was destroyed in the war. To verify the sites we have planned surface examination and experimental digging in both districts last year; but these investigations have not yielded the expected results. The Szalacska district is covered entirely with vineyards and is thus inaccessible. At Regöly, on the other hand, the place where two military diplomas were found was incorrectly described at the time by the man who made the discovery; L. Barkóczy (Hungarian Historical Museum) was instructed to inspect the site personally, but he failed to discover any trace of the remains of buildings mentioned in the original report. Nor were the investigations made in the Regöly earthworks any more successful: the whole territory has been planted with vines, with the result that the settlement of the Celtic and Early Iron Age lying some 40 centimetres below surface level has been entirely destroyed. The surface examination will be continued this year.

#### *V. Classical archaeology.*

Work on the material of the Department of Antiquities in the Museum of Fine Art is going on according to plan.

#### *VI. Roman Period.*

One of the tasks prescribed by the plan was to clear up the subsequent fate of the original inhabitants of Pre-Roman times. We wanted to begin studying the problem at Pátka; here very valuable remains of the local ancient population were discovered in the cemetery (since transferred to the Székesfehérvár Museum). This investigation had to be postponed, however, owing to the urgent task of rescuing finds unearthed in the course of the large-scale constructional work at Dunapentele.

The second object prescribed in the plan was the investigation of our capital's history. A decisive step in this direction was made by the study group of the Aquincum Museum led by J. Szilágyi. After



decades of fruitless search the military camp of Aquincum, capital of the Roman province of Pannonia Inferior, has at last been found in the summer of 1950 by means of carefully planned excavations. Traces of the western wall of the camp, as well as its *vallum*, came to light in Budapest, in the court-yards of three houses (no 9 Ék Street, nos. 18 and 33 Kerék Street). The first period of this legionary camp goes back to the times of Domitian.

The study group of the Aquincum Museum has made important observations at another site, too (no. 31 Laktanya Street). Here, it seems, remains of the praetorium built in the second period of the Aquincum camp have come to light: huge foundation-walls, bathing-ovens, sewers, with a hypocaust on a grand scale. In the western part of the structure a tunnel-like heating corridor, some 10 metres long, has been unearthed, 185 centimetres in height. The floor of the corridor was covered with a layer of soot some 50 centimetres deep. The praetorium bears the marks of two building periods: the palace must have been destroyed and rebuilt on a higher level. At one point, below the lower foundation, a cremation-grave has come to light, a proof that at the beginning of the Roman rule the praetorium had not been built here. This conjecture has been verified by the excavations carried out in 1951 at the site of the Óbuda Ship-Yards: here the governor's palace belonging to the first period of the camp has been found. The palace found in Laktanya Street was built after the first building had to be given up, owing to a sharp rise in the Danube's level.

Among the minor excavations carried out by the Aquincum Museum those at the site of nos. 10—12 Kiscelli-út are particularly interesting. When clearing the ground for the foundations of a house, the remains of a large Roman building have come to light here: foundation-walls, heatable floors, basins, water-pipes embedded in walls, fragments of fine wall-paintings. This urban culture had, however, come to end by the 4<sup>th</sup> century when a poor grave was cut into the ruins.

The excavations made in 1949 at Dunapentele cleared up the whole history of the Roman camp at Intercisa. A monograph discussing this question will be published this year.

Investigations of a similar significance were made practically at the same time at Adony (Vetus Salina); these excavations stretched over into 1951. As a result of these excavations the earliest camp known

in Pannonia so far has been exposed. The work was done by a study group led by L. Barkóczi. There are five periods distinguishable in the Adony camp. Each period was marked by an independent camp, the camps following each other in temporal sequence.

The first period was that of a camp surrounded by a continuous wall of wooden stakes; this structure dates from the first decade. Two round towers forming part of this camp have also been found. — The second camp was similarly constructed; its wall consisted of beams fixed between posts and supported from behind by slanting shafts. — The wall of the third wooden camp was built into the *vallum* of the second. This period was also characterized by round towers but the foundations were already of stone. — The fourth camp, with a thin stone wall, preserved the *vallum* of the third. Its upper structure was probably of wood. — The fifth camp, also built of stone, was badly damaged in the last century. The cemetery attached to the camp shows well the mixed character of the 4<sup>th</sup> century population. — A monographic account of this camp is being prepared by L. Barkóczi (Hungarian Historical Museum).

At this section of the Danubian *limes* some minor excavations were carried out by the author of this article at Nagytétény (Campona) last year. We have succeeded in clearing up the double *vallum*-system of the Nagytétény camp and in discovering the sites of the *porta principalis dextra* and *sinistra*; we have brought to light, moreover, a fairly large section of the inner buildings. In the uppermost stratum which had been destroyed by fire we have found pottery dating from the time of the migration period, a proof that the peoples of the migration period had found shelter in the decaying camp.

Of the Roman cities of Western Hungary it was in Sopron that last year excavations were carried out. As a result of the war many houses had been destroyed in the Inner City, thus clearing the ground for the spade. The map of the Sopron finds shows that the *capitolium*, the centre of the Roman city, must have been at the site of the present Town Hall, while the earliest cemetery stretched to the railway station and Csengery Street. The excavations were led by A. Radnóti (Centre of Hungarian Museums). The Roman level, with numerous remains of buildings, has been found at an unusual depth (5—6 metres). Traces of the pre-Roman population, beneath the Roman stratum, are extremely scanty, since the district used to be very marshy and the ancient population was settled on the hills surround-



ding the city. When laying the foundations of the medieval fortress, the existing Roman walls were often utilized. In the uppermost Roman stratum a fairly large hearth has been exposed, with a number of rough pottery, decorated with wavelines, dating from the migration period. This excavation has raised some very serious problems, including that of the early Roman settlement which lies below the Roman stratum unearthed so far; there is also the problem of the Hungarian settlement dating from the time of the Árpád-dynasty; the Late Medieval strata are lying immediately above the layers dating from the Roman or migration periods. The scientific investigation of results is now in progress. We trust that Radnóti and his team will continue the excavations, thus supplying valuable data for the history of the city of Sopron.

#### *VII. The period of the Great Migration of Peoples.*

One of the tasks in this period is the study of the Hun question. In order to clarify this problem the plan prescribed excavations in the villages of Rábaszentmiklós and Dőr. Unfortunately, digging at both places has proved fruitless from the point of view of the Hun period. A study group led by Gy. László (Centre of Hungarian Museums) has started instead excavating an extensive Avar cemetery, threatened by work in the nearby sand-pit, in the village of Bágyog. In the course of the excavations 80 graves were exposed and valuable observations were made. The graves of the poor people were generally more highly situated than those of the rich. In the former only bones of poultry were found while the latter contained also bones of cattle, horses, and sheep. Anthropologically and topographically, too, the dead in the poor graves are sharply distinguished from those in the rich ones. In some sections only poor people, probably servants, were found, while in other places rich and poor were buried together; here we have to do probably with masters and their personal servants. The group buried separately may have consisted of servants employed in production. On the basis of the animal bones and the above observations the study group has come to the conclusion that a race of conquerors breeding larger animals superimposed itself upon the original settlers probably engaged in agriculture.

Among the excavations undertaken for rescuing finds we must mention those carried out on the grounds of the tinned food factory at Csongrád.

Here, in a Sarmation cemetery dating from the Hun period we have unearthed 118 graves; some of the extremely interesting burial rites take us to the district of the Lower Volga. In two graves equipment belonging to a smithy (anvil, pincers) has been found. The excavations were made by a team led by M. Párducz.

The material discovered in this cemetery is expected to throw light on a number of problems connected with the Hun period.

In the course of excavations made for rescuing finds the study group led by G. Fehér (Hungarian Historical Museum) has disclosed an Avar cemetery consisting of 64 graves at Váchartyán.

The scientific evaluation of the Avar finds is in progress. The first two volumes, the work of Gy. László, will be published this year; the third volume, now in preparation, will appear in 1952.

Investigations concerning the contacts between Avars, Slavs, and Hungarians have been deferred from last year to 1951. Extensive excavations in the district of Keszthely and Zalavár are destined to broaden the scope of A. Radnóti's earlier investigations at Zalavár and to bring this problem nearer to solution, by employing an apparatus of suitable size.

#### *VIII. Period of the Hungarian Conquest and the Middle Ages.*

Last year has brought significant in the investigation of Hungarioan villages dating from the time of the Árpáds but since destroyed. Excavations carried out by I. Méri (Hungarian Historical Museum) at Tiszalök have unearthed some houses of an early medieval village called Raazon at the time. In 1265 the village was referred to as 'Raazon's land', belonging to the district of 'Luk' (Lök); the hamlet of Rázom in the environs of Tiszalök, near which the medieval village was discovered, has to this day preserved the medieval place-name. — The houses were simple in structure: huts with a square ground-plan, dug into the earth. Roofs were supported by two beams, traces of which have been discovered in every case in the floor. Each house had an oven, either hollowed out from the side of the hut or built in the interior. The bottom of the ovens was plastered. In the corner opposite the oven there was a small hollow found in every house. The bulk of material finds consists of sherds of pottery and animal bones. Pottery is decorated in a manner characteristic of the Árpád period, with nails, wavy or spiral



lines. The poor equipment of the huts is completed by a few iron knives, some fragments of iron nails, spindle-whorls and whet-stones. Practically no implements used in agriculture have come to light. Among the animal bones many are the remains of horses, cattle, pigs, poultry, perhaps of sheep and goats. There is a great quantity of fish-bones.

The village must have been considerable in extent, yet the houses are often crowded together. I. Méri has come to the conclusion that the site of the village may have been divided among the village chiefs, none of whom could extend his territory to the detriment of the other. This conjecture is supported by the fact that some of the huts are built in groups; in one place e. g. five houses are linked together. Among the problems unsolved as yet we may mention the date when the houses were destroyed, the problem of successive settlements, and the occupation of the people. The absence of agricultural implements points to a population engaged in cattle-raising rather than in agriculture; but the question has not been finally solved. The date of the destruction of the village, too, has to be clarified. The single documentary evidence and the pottery found point to the Tatar invasion as the time when the village was destroyed. The age of cemetery disclosed in the vicinity of the village stretches, on the other hand (according to the testimony of the coins in the graves) from the times of Stephen I to those of Ladislas I. The dead must have been buried in some other place afterwards but this cemetery has not been found so far. — All Hungarian archaeologists are eagerly awaiting the conclusions drawn from the valuable material of this medieval settlement.

Among our medieval castles pride of place is taken by the excavations carried out in the centre of the country, the Castle of Buda. This work has been going on for a considerable time; in 1950 the study group led by L. Gerevich (Municipal Historical Museum) has achieved some really significant results. The first object of the investigations was to clarify the construction of the southern wing of the palace. Here one of the halls of the Gothic palace has been disclosed; this hall was the closing section of the blocks of buildings towards the south. The style of the building and the finds discovered point to the times of King Sigismund. During Sigismund's reign the southern wing of the palace was thoroughly reconstructed and a new way opened through the *rondella*. North of

this, beside the eastern wall, the chapel of King Matthias has been discovered. Except for the arched roof that had collapsed, this chapel is practically undamaged. It had been rebuilt, however, probably after the reoccupation of Buda from the Turks, in a rather careless and primitive style.

Still farther towards the north Sigismund's so-called »New Palace« has come to light.

On the south-western wing of the palace three levels may be distinguished. Below the level of the Turkish period a Late Gothic level has come to light; beneath this, at a very great depth, a front wall consisting of huge stone slabs, probably the remains of the first palace which dates from the times of Béla IV. It will be the task of future investigations to unearth the gate-towers, to clarify the ground-plan of the »New Palace« and to establish the chronology of the earliest castle.

In the course of the excavations several thousand carved stone monuments have come to light, supplying eloquent proof of the tremendous building activity in the times of Sigismund and Matthias and the high level of medieval Hungarian stone-carving.

Among the other finds there is a striking number of pottery and iron objects, chiefly tools. The abundance of Persian and Chinese porcelain, of Venetian and German glassware, of painted and gilt Italian wineglasses points to a highly developed state of commercial relations. Besides imported goods, Hungarian applied art is also represented by a great wealth of valuable material of a high level of artistry, a proof of the development of Hungarian arts and crafts.

Excavations carried out in the Castle of Buda go beyond purely local interests; their results supply us with invaluable data concerning the life of medieval Hungary.

To solve the problems connected with the times of King Matthias excavations on a large scale have been carried out at Visegrád. Here the king's gorgeous palace was situated at the foot of the hill. Investigations have been going on since 1949; in 1950 they received a powerful new impetus, owing to increased material resources. The main object of last year's excavations was to clear up the topography of the palace, a task that has been successfully achieved. A study group led by D. Dercsényi (Hungarian Centre of Museums) has established that Matthias' palace at Visegrád included three blocks of buildings. Block I which formed the northern wing of the palace has been already



partially disclosed. The centre of this block is a courtyard surrounded with a Late Gothic arched walk, with a wonderful Renaissance fountain, made of red marble, in the middle. Block 2 is the southern palace, hitherto unexplored, with a flight of ornamental stairs in front. Block 3 consisted of a chapel connecting the two parts of the palace. During 1950 excavations were going on mainly in block 1; the excavation of the courtyard and the row of new rooms belonging to the palace was continued. As to block 2, work was centred on digging up the stairs, the width of which — 24 metres — gives some idea of the monumental scale of the building. The various parts of the palace will be reconstructed this year.

A great quantity of carved stones, pottery, iron implements, tools, stove-tiles, etc. complete the picture of life in the Castle of Visegrád.

These great excavations were accompanied by digging at a number of places on a larger or lesser scale, with the object of rescuing finds; these latter were made necessary by the huge constructional work going on in the country. — A comparison of the present report with the proposal published in vol. 1 of the *Acta Archaeologica*, since accepted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as the five-year plan of Hungarian archaeology, shows that the tasks proposed in the plan have been fully accomplished. In carrying out this plan Hungarian archaeology was given an impetus never experienced so far; valuable results have been reached in the study of the country and her people. The Hungarian government and people are giving generous support to archaeological research; our archaeologists reciprocate with their planned, successful work outlined above.

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