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VÝVOJ OSÍDLENIA NA STREDNOM POHRONÍ OD DOBY LATÉNSKEJ DO VČASNÉHO STREDOVEKU

Ján Beljak – Kristína Kučeráková

Development of Settlement in the Middle Hron River Basin from La Tène Period to Early Middle Ages

The study focused on the settlement of the middle Hron River Basin deals with the archaeological finds from the La Tène Period up to the early Middle Ages. Already in the early historical periods this area was closely related to significant trade routes, and, moreover, it provided sources of raw material. While so far the pre-Púchov horizon has not been clearly confirmed in the valleys and basins, bearers of the Púchov Culture made use not only of the more difficult to access hill-top sites, but settled along the banks of the brooks in the Pliešovská, Zvolenská and Žiarska basins. The Púchov Culture settlements founded in La Tène Period on river terraces were being continually settled also in the early Roman Period. However, many hill-top sites, especially the ones settled already in the middle La Tène Period, were not already used by the Cotini in the early Roman Period. With the arrival of the Germanic peoples (the Quadi) in the last decades of the 2nd cent. AD the places of residence, compared to the early Roman Period and, partially, the La Tène Period as well, do not undergo a significant change. In the later Roman Period the Púchov Culture's hill-top sites are not settled by the Quadi. In the late Roman Period the Quadi settle in unfavourable zones as well, and they also expand to hill-top sites on the tops of hills and to caves situated in the difficult to access terrains. In this period there was a gradual continuation of the settlement into several locations on river terraces. The situation changes during the Migration Period (stages D2–D3). There are almost no relevant documents from this time regarding the settlement in lowland sites. The first Slavonic settlements come from the turn of the 6th and 7th cent. Unlike the Celts and Germanic peoples, the Slavs did not occupy elevated places in mountainous regions in the first settlement wave. As early as in the 8th century several Slavonic settlements were situated above river terraces, and in the 9th century their number even increased.

ARCHEOLOGICKÁ PROSPEKCIA KATASTRA OBCE JAROK

Noémi Beljak Pažinová – Matúš Melo

Archaeological Prospection in the Cadastre of the Village Jarok

The article is a report on the procedure and results of the archaeological prospection in the cadastral territory of the village Jarok, the district of Nitra. During the research seasons of 2010–2012, past settlement in the village was systematically mapped and analysed, in order to clarify and complement its oldest as well as younger history. As part of the preparation for the prospection, all currently registered sites were mapped, and known data on the cadastre settlement were evaluated. Collection activities, with positive results, were carried out in six sites, in one case the collection was combined with geophysical prospection of a selected quadrant of the settled area. At the same time, aerial images covering the village area were analysed as well, and into account were also taken the vegetation and soil symptoms identified during the remote screening through GoogleEarth service. During the three seasons we managed to collect 4100 pieces of pottery fragments, small features and stone flakes, which increased our knowledge on an almost continual settlement of the Jarok land area since prehistoric times (the Neolithic, Eneolithic, Bronze Age, Hallstatt Period), through protohistorical (La Tène Period, Roman Period) and medieval periods (8th–9th century, 12th–13th century, 14th century), up to the Postmedieval Period. The results obtained within the archaeological prospection of Jarok contributed to a higher and more complex understanding of the picture of the distant history not only of the village and its close vicinity, but of a wider area of the middle Danube River Basin.

ARCHEOLOGICKÁ PROSPEKCIA JUHOVÝCHODNEJ ČASTI PODUNAJSKEJ NÍŽINY NEDEŠTRUKTÍVNÝMI ARCHEOLOGICKÝMI METÓDAMI

Mário Bielich – Martin Bartík

The Archaeological Prospection of southeast part of the Danube Lowland with Non-destructive Archaeological Methods

The article analyzes 5 archaeological sites (Bátorove Kosihy, Hronský Beňadik, Kamenný Most, Rybník and Štúrovo). During the field surveys we utilized aerial photography, geodetic targeting and geophysical measuring. The methodology progress was different on individual sites. Sometimes we only conducted the geodetic targeting, in other cases only the geophysical measuring. The geophysical measuring with applying the flux-gate magnetometer with 5 trenches was conducted on three sites. Individual locations were attempted to be dated according to the written sources and surface collection. Surveys contributed with the new knowledge, which in the future will undergo more detailed analysis and archaeological excavation.

VÝSLEDKY Z POVRCHOVÉHO PRIESKUMU NA HORNOM TOKU ŠIROČINY

Monika Gabulová – Klaudia Daňová

The Results of the First Surface Exploration on the Upper Stream of the Širočina

The surface exploration on the upper stream of the Širočina was carried out as part of the project entitled *Centre for the Research into the Oldest History of the Middle Danube River Basin*. Its first aim was to verify, or to refine the localisation of the registered discovery sites, and to try to search for other ones in the cadastral territories of individual villages. A complex survey of settlements in the area of the watercourse of the Širočina and its tributaries will serve as a basis for the topography of this territory. New sites were surveyed through GPS directly in the terrain, projected to a map and included into overall database of archaeological sources. With regard to the fact that the project as well as the surface prospection itself were limited by time, we explored just the Širočina's upper stream.

A detailed exploration, carried out as part of the project, contributed to the identification of settlement agglomeration in the area of the confluence of the Širočina and the Suchý potok. At the same time, new and so far unregistered sites were discovered (no. 29–42), which, together with known discovery sites, complement an overall picture of settlement in the upper stream of the Širočina from prehistory up to the Middle Ages. The explored area belongs to the whole of the Požitavská pahorkatina and thus represents a small part of the territory included in the project. The detailed surface explorations of these smaller units significantly contribute to the composition of an overall mosaic and gradual complementation of an overall picture of the settlement of Slovak highlands during prehistory and Middle Ages.

GEOFYZIKÁLNA PROSPEKCIA NA SLOVENSKU V ROKOCH 2010 AŽ 2014

Michal Cheben

Geophysical Prospection in Slovakia in the Years 2010 to 2014

Non-destructive archaeological methods play a significant role in acquiring the information about archaeological sites. The most often used are geophysical methods, especially the magnetic and geoelectric ones. As part of the project CEVNAD, several geophysical measurements were carried out in the years 2010 to 2014, in the river basins of the Hron, Ipeľ and Žitava, as well as in the Košická kotlina and in the territory of Spiš. The excavation was done in such archaeological sites as settlements, fortified settlements, fortresses, temporary Roman camps, burial grounds, churches, fortified areas, etc. The main aim of the measurements was to acquire information, as precise as possible, on the nature of the explored settlement (its structure – extent, orientation, density of settlement features, size, depth and form of the features) or the deserted architecture (its extent, form, orientation, size of the deserted walls). During five years, magnetic method was used to measure 46 archaeological sites, including such features as ground plans of long houses,

channels, stoves, half sunken-floored houses, storage pits, clay pits, fortification systems – ditches, etc. Using GPR survey, 34 archaeological sites were measured during this period. Measurement was focused especially on deserted churches, interiors in churches and monasteries, as well as spaces in fortified areas. In several sites geophysical survey was followed by archaeological survey. The results obtained from the geophysical measuring and archaeological excavation could then be compared and confronted. In most cases, the results were the same.

PRÍSPEVOK K NOVÝM PRAVEKÝM NÁLEZOM ZO SPIŠA

Marián Soják

On the New Prehistoric Finds from Spiš

The analysis of remarkable finds from the selected sites of Spiš, monitored within the framework of the EU Structural Funds, operational programme Research and Development. From Poprad-Matejovce (Zadné rovne) comes Mousterian point made of the original Levallois radiolarite point. Typologically, it belongs to the Middle Paleolithic. The Štrba (Za Kolombiarkom) site is known for 12 pieces of chipped stone industry from the beginning of the Upper Paleolithic (Aurignacian) and Mesolithic. A unique value can be attributed to the quartz porphyry of Hungarian origin (Bükk Mountains). Three artefacts from the assumed Epipaleolithic were found in Lučivná (Roveň). In the Spišské Vlchy (Plantal) site it is especially a penknife left backed point made of obsidian, belonging to the Epipaleolithic – the Federmesser or Witów group. Other artefacts are Mesolithic, the obsidian arrow head comes from the Eneolithic. In the Doľany site (Pod Brusníkom) a clay anthropomorphic plastic art from the Middle Neolithic was found. An Eneolithic stone hammer-axe from the Spišský Hrušov – Vítkovce (Medza) site is a rare find. The torso of a clay anthropomorphic idol from Veľká Lomnica (Burchbrich) is related to the Ottoman-Füzesabony Culture, documented in a hill-top site. An incomplete decorated bronze diadem of the Istebné type was obtained from the Kežmarok (Jeruzalemský vrch) site. In addition to Istebné in Orava, analogical diadems are spread in other Slovak regions (Turiec, Gemer), where they are related to the late Hallstatt Orava group of Lausitz Culture. The dating of the diadems of this type is different for individual authors, fluctuating between the HB to HD stages.

TOPOGRAFIA PALEOLITICKÝCH A MEZOLITICKÝCH LOKALÍT NA SLOVENSKU

Ondrej Žaár

Topography of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Sites in Slovakia

The study deals with the topography of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites in Slovakia. In recent years, several projects were used to verify positions of the sites in the terrain and, at the same time, to survey them through GPS. A georeferenced base of sites (especially from the Považie and Ponitrie) was created. The initial input data regarding the numbers, approximate positions, dating of sites, numbers of finds from the sites, and so on, were taken from available literature as well as from the IA SAS's documentation of texts and images. The positions of several sites were subsequently specified according to the maps from the publications and documentation of the IA SAS. This resulted into detailed topographical, geomorphological and technologically-typological documentation of several areas of Slovakia. A similar method was used to add to the database the information from all over Slovakia which has not been verified through surface exploration yet. By the end of 2014, the database contained 960 sites, of which 126 have so far been measured in the terrain. Additional 146 sites have been preliminary identified according to the maps. The remaining 688 sites have not been verified yet. For the purposes of further processing, the territory has been divided into 11 regions according to the main Slovak watercourses which make up partial river basins of the Danube, the Tisa and the Vistula. A general problem facing the creation of a topography is a large number of sites with imprecise determination of the position (mainly from older data), which may fluctuate from several metres up to several hundred metres. The richest and best processed regions in Slovakia are some microregions in the watersheds of the rivers Váh, Nitra, Hornád, Bodrog and Poprad. At present, the most detailed verifications include the watersheds of the rivers Váh and Nitra. In the paper I am not concerned with a more detailed chronology of the sites, but only provide wider circumstances as regards the topography and the selection of the most important sites in given areas. A summarising mapping of the sites also gives us a view of the concentration of scholars' interest in some areas and, at the same time, of the areas from which we do not have any information on their settlement in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic. This can serve as an aid for further orientation of research in Slovakia.