

## Ernő Andrassy's research in the Roman Age and Migration Period

**Eszter Istvánovits**  
Jósa András Museum  
istvanov@josamuzeum.hu

The picture of the Roman and Migration Period of the Ier / Ér Valley can be hardly drawn without taking into consideration the work by Dr. Ernő Andrassy. This region was certainly an important artery in the northeastern corner of the Carpathian Basin. This becomes evident if we take a look at the unusual richness of archaeological finds of the region. Inhabitants of the Great Hungarian Plain used this corridor to reach the entrance of the Ecsed Wetland. The territory lying north and east of it has a different nature characterized by a find material connected rather to Transylvania. Despite it, up to now, research of the Ier Valley has been in its infancy, which makes it especially important to re-explore and re-evaluate the data collected by Andrassy. Aside from some exceptions, most of the material has not been published. Our information is usually based on incompletely preserved notes, diaries, and data creamed off by other researchers from these.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, the dating of the finds is frequently uncertain. Despite all these, as the first step, we should collect all the known information. In the present study, I represent data on the Roman Age and Migration Period.

### Roman Age

One of the few published materials represents a Sarmatian cemetery part dated to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century:

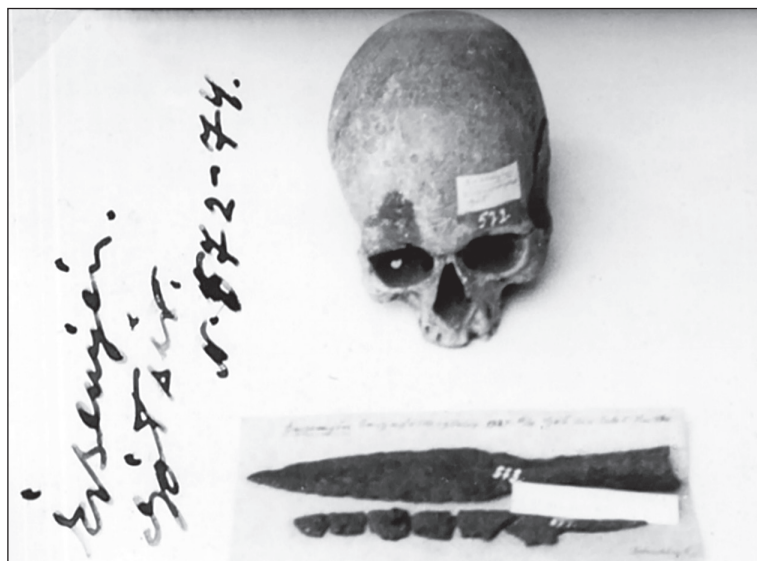
*Érsemjén / Şimian – Sárgaföldes gödör (Groapa cu lut):*<sup>2</sup> Site also occurs under the name Szunyogh-tanya / farm. Starting from the 1930s, at the western edge of the settlement, on the bank of stream Móra, during clay extraction finds came to light continuously. Beside Bronze Age shards, Roman Age pottery fragments also figure in the inventory of the Museum of Székelyhíd / Săcueni (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 12, LELTÁR 592–600, 617–631, 1391, 1832–1833, 2264).

In 1927, Andrassy reported on an NW-SE oriented skeleton (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 12, GHEMIŞ 2016. 235), delved (160 cm) into an earlier dwelling: “On the tempolar bone of the skull, there are two small round indentations (trace of a mace?). The bone is coloured around it, organised haematoma. So, the person lived for at least two weeks after the injury”. (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 12, ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 110, GHEMIŞ 2016. 241–242). At the right shoulder a spear, at the left hand an iron knife was found (LELTÁR 572–574) (**Fig. 1**). The burial was identified as Gothic or Gepidic. A complete gray bowl (inv. no. 602) and a small plain gray bowl with an indentation around its rim (LELTÁR 637) (**Fig. 2**) may pertain to a further grave.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> I am grateful to Péter Szőcs and Attila Nándor Hágó for the archive materials and photographs of the data I collected. For description and evaluation of the documents used, see Péter Szőcs's article in this volume, and GHEMIŞ 2016.

<sup>2</sup> When naming the sites, we put Hungarian toponyms first according to the way Andrassy used them in his publications and records.

<sup>3</sup> The latter figures also as the find of the burial with the spear – NÁNÁSI 2003. 52. (he writes about several NNW-oriented Gothic graves), NÉMETHI 2013. 18.



• Fig. 1. • Érsemjén / Şimian – Sárgaföldes gödör (Groapa cu lut)

bank of the Ier suggest a larger settlement. In 1955, on Andrásy's request Zoltán Székely, archaeologist of the Szekler National Museum (Muzeul Național Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe) determined the denars. According to him, these were mints of Augustus, Faustina senior, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus and Valens (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 68, NÁNÁSI 2003. 33–34).<sup>6</sup>

Here I should note, that when in 1956 the Ministry of Finances made the inventory of the silver coins of the numismatic collection, they inventoried 42 Greek-Roman pieces (NÁNÁSI 2003. 37). However, the provenience of most of them were unknown. We know the findspot of one more coin:



• Fig. 2. • Érsemjén / Şimian – Sárgaföldes gödör (Groapa cu lut)

In 2006, Sorin Bulzan and Alexandru Ciorba authenticated the site. They found the detail of an Early Iron Age settlement and two S-N oriented graves. They published the latter correcting the earlier dating (BULZAN – CIORBA 2007B.).<sup>4</sup>

*Gálospetri / Galošpetreu – Fráter erdő (Pădurea Frater):* Pottery sherds (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 7, LETÁR 978–993, 999–1005: sherds and 994–996: stone and clay beads<sup>5</sup>), and five Roman silver coins found by shepherd Sándor Vida on the

<sup>4</sup> REPERTORIUL 1974. 73. Cat. Nr. 385. refers to it as Gepidic, and also STANCIU 1997. 185. Nr. 13B., where the author determined the finds as Gepidic dated them to the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century. BULZAN 2007B. dated the site to the 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century; according to BULZAN – CIORBA 2007A. 358. Nr. 184. it can be dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. After the publication of BULZAN – CIORBA 2007B.; STANCIU 2008. 435. Kat. Nr. 27B. still evaluated the site as Gepidic and kept the late dating: STANCIU 2011. 362–363. Kat. Nr. 35.

<sup>5</sup> Their belonging to the age in question is uncertain.

<sup>6</sup> In footnote 3 Nánási refers to the report of the Székelyhíd / Săcueni Museum about the liquidation of the Dr. Andrásy Museum (30 May 1959), to the acceptance minutes (1 November 1958), and to the legacy kept in custody at him under inv. no. 38/1968. – non vidi. Mistakenly figures as site Érkeserű / Cheşereu – Fráter-erdő: NÉMETI 2013. 17.

• **Fig. 3.** • Archaeological excavation in Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Forrás-kút

*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Forrás-kút:* On 2 April 1957, in Rétalj Street 8, at László Somogyi's lot, in the middle of the garden, a skeleton was found 70 cm deep (**Fig. 3**). Dr. Andrásy made a 4×4 m large trench where “Gothic?” sherds and a small bronze coin of Aurelius (270–275) became known. The E-W oriented female skeleton was incomplete, without any grave goods. The age of the burial is uncertain (ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 122, GHEMIŞ 2016. 240). At the same time, János Némethi mentioned an Avar grave and a brooch dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century found later at the site of Rétalja (Râtul) (NÉMETHI 1983. 144–145. Fig. 6-8, NÉMETHI 1999. 40. no. 29n1).

While coin finds make the accuracy of chronology high, dating of further finds to the Roman Age is less certain:

*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Deréki szőlő:* According to the inventory book, an iron spearhead dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century came to light in 1933 from Lajos Szili's wineryard (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LETÁR 322).



*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai:* Andrásy mentions finds dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century coming either from the end of the Forrás-kút Street, or from the Sárgaföldes gödrök / pits: sherds (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LETÁR 2017–2024), sherds with line decorations (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LETÁR 507, 690–693), tooth of a ruminant (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LETÁR 512), and a clay bead (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LETÁR 2323).



• **Fig. 4.** • Vasád / Vășad

*Értarcsa / Tarcea – Fráter Béla-féle szőlő (Fosta vie a lui Fráter Béla):* Among finds recorded as of different age (Celtic urn, Copper Age vessel's pedestal) high clay beaker from the Migration Age (2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century) (LETÁR 641, MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 6), and further gray sherds (LETÁR 1720–1722, 1742., MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 6), a polished stone weight are mentioned (LETÁR 1752., MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 6).

*Penészlek:* Most of Ernő Andrásy's collection comes from the Ier Valley. Find from Penészlek is an exception. The settlement is situated in the Szatmár region of the present-day Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County.

Fragments of a “large crucible” dated to the Roman Age (2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century), and gray sherds were found here (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 19, LETÁR 1275, 1276–1278).

*Vasad / Vășad*: By the adobe pit situated near the Gipsy village, beside mostly prehistoric and Árpád Age pottery sherds, Sarmatian (according to Andrásy “Daco-Sarmatian”) pottery fragments were found including a gray rim fragment (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 8, LETÁR 866,<sup>7</sup> 1528–1529, 1531) (Fig. 4).

Museum founder determined the site of *Érkeseű / Cheșereu - Paksy Dezső udvara (Teren al lui Paksy Dezső)* as belonging to the Roman Age (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 4), but, in my opinion, it comes from a later period (I will refer to the question below).

### 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century

While the number of Roman Age finds is relatively low, the collection of the early Migration Period is strikingly rich. One of the most prominent finds of the age came to light in *Érmihályfalva*:

*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Stanc-kert (Grădina Stanc)*: in 1924, during construction works of a house, in the vegetable garden of shoemaker Sándor Stanc, at the end of Kis Street, four graves were found together with burials dated to an earlier period. Due to dr. Ernő Andrásy, the graves were rescued. We know the data concerning grave 1 from his records. Workers demolished the finds. Márton Roska, who arrived at the site following Andrásy’s report could make an authenticating excavation only at a narrow stripe. He excavated three further graves disturbed during the building of the house. Roska purchased the finds for the Transylvanian National Museum (Muzeul Național a Transilvaniei).

Grave 1 described by Andrásy is one of the keystones in the chronology of the period. In the mouth of the warrior buried here, a Barbarian golden replica of emperor Theodosius II’s (408–450) Constantinaples *solidus* was found. Other finds: a sword with silver mountings and amber pommel, dagger, gilded buckle with granade setting, smaller silver buckle, and helmet.<sup>8</sup> The prototype of the coin comes from 442 or 444, the replica cannot be much later (ALFÖLDI 1932. 28, SEY 1968. 102, SĂȘIANU 1980. 84, 180. XXIX: 8). Roska published the finds soon (ROSKA 1928/32., ROSKA 1930.), and since that time it figures in almost all publications dealing with the period.<sup>9</sup>

*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Krizsán-kertész (Grădina lui Crișan)*: The deservedly famous site of Stanc-kert / garden is not the only Migration Period burial place in Valea lui Mihai. In the Krizsán-garden, during clay extraction, workers disturbed graves. In contrast to the previous site, these burials were very poor. Ernő Andrásy tried to keep his eye on the bank of Móra stream, and when something turned up, they regularly reported to him. However, despite all his efforts, it sometimes happened that graves were demolished in his absence. If he was informed and had any possibility, he tried to visit the site. That is how, between 1935 and 1941, he rescued 8-10 W-E oriented graves dug into a prehistoric settlement. The find – earring with a polyhedric knob, beads, iron buckles, dagger, strike-a-light, flint,

---

<sup>7</sup> Judging from the very poor quality photo made of the vessel under inv. no. 866, the piece belongs to the late Middle or Modern Age.

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Ernő Andrásy wrote: “I took it myself from the mouth of the Germanic warrior” (ANDRÁSSY 1944. 94).

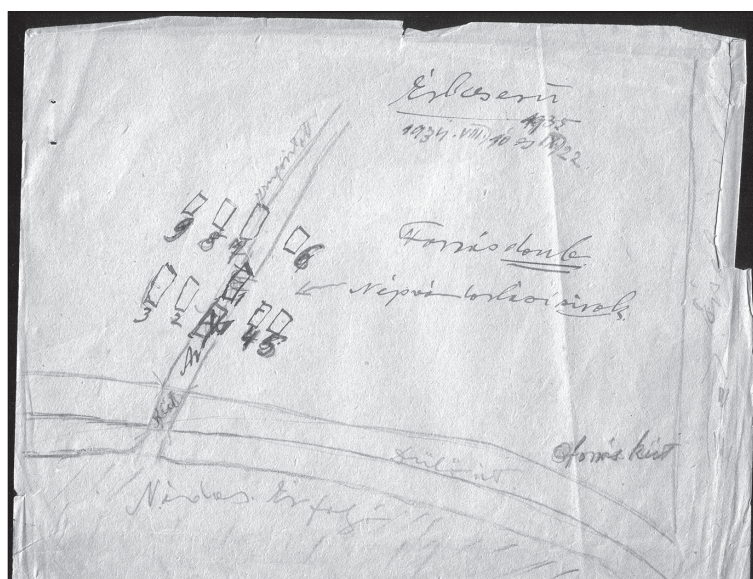
<sup>9</sup> Recently Ioan STANCIU (2019. 156. Fig. 11.) dealt with the assemblage, presenting it with good quality colour photos.

knives, vessels, characteristic crescent-shaped hair ring, combs – got to his collection (LELTÁR 363–391). The doctor himself published the cemetery part and dated it to the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, because “its knife with a spherical pommel reminds me of the sword pommel found in the Stanc-garden” (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 12, ANDRÁSSY 1944., REPERTORIUL 1974. 84. no. 439, NÉMETI 1999. 40. no. 2912, NÁNÁSI 2003. 53, NÉMETI 2013. 18, GHEMIŞ 2016. 233).<sup>10</sup> Specialists of the period somewhat modified this dating.<sup>11</sup>

### Avar Age

Finds of the Avar Age of the Ier Valley are even less known than the ones coming from the Roman and Migration Period even though this territory cannot be neglected by Hungarian research from the point of research concerning the Hungarian Conquest Period. Besides a little settlement material, and a single grave from Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai dated to the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century, another one from Érkávás / Căuaş dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> century, and from Dengeleg / Dindeşti dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> – first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (NÉMETI 1983. 137, 145–148, Fig. 3, 6–8, NÉMETI 1999. 18. no. 6a2, NÉMETI 1999. 25. no. 12d), the only published material I know of, comes from the site of Szalacs / Sălacea – Veresdomb (Dâmbul Vereş) dated to the 8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> century (NÁNÁSI–WILHELM 1996.). The mentioned finds were found not by Andrásy, but at the same time when these came to light, his collection was extended by new finds dated to the same period.

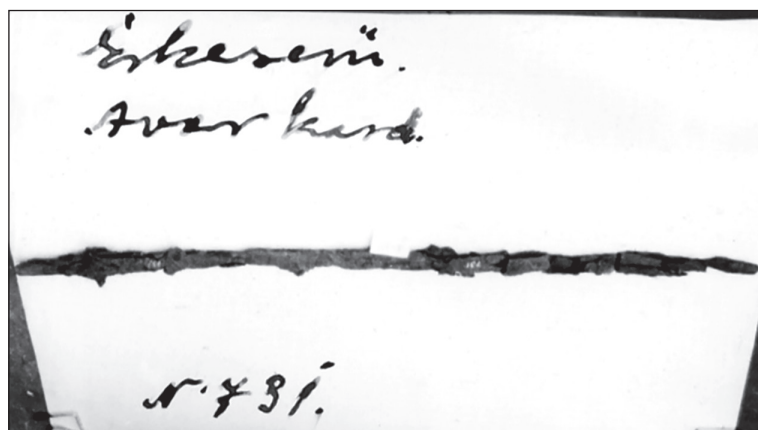
*Éradony / Adoni – Vársziget (Cetate de pe insulă):* At the edge of the village a branch of the Ier forms an island. On the lots around the island, graves came to light, among them one oriented E-W. The man buried in the grave had the following goods: a spherical vessel at the head, a drinking beaker at the left and a sickle, iron nails, and pieces of slag at the right hand. Andrásy considered the finds Daco-Sarmatian. (LELTÁR 704–709., RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 48, MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 5). The “lower part of a Gothic vessel” also appears in the inventory book (LELTÁR 710, MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 5). At the same time, according



• Fig. 6. • Plan of the excavation at Érkésereu / Cheşereu – Forrás-domb (Dealul Izvorului)

<sup>10</sup> Actually, the grave found in Stanc-garden is also later: the replica of the *solidus* minted in the 440s gives only the *post quem* date of the assemblage that could get into the burial most likely after the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, at the end of the Hun – beginning of the Gepidic Age. Otherwise, Andrásy originally suggested that it was Slavic. (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13).

<sup>11</sup> REPERTORIUL 1974. 84. Cat. Nr. 439. mentions it as a small Gepidic *populus* cemetery dating after the Hun Period; BÓNA 1986B. 141. considers it Gepidic; recently STANCIU 2011. 367–369, Pl. 16., and STANCIU 2019. 157–178. Pl. Fig. 12 dated the site to the last third of the 5<sup>th</sup> – first two thirds of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.



• Fig. 7. • Érkeseű / Cheşereu – Forrás-domb (Dealul Izvorului)

ZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 3). Judging from the photos of poor quality found among his records and from his sketch showing the situation of the graves, this was definitely an Avarian cemetery, that is to say, Andrásy determined their age correctly. This is probably the first cemetery of this age found in the Ier Valley, which is, despite this fact, is still unpublished to date. (REPERTORIUL 1974. 24. Cat. Nr. 90, NÉMETI 1999. 36. no. 25e, NÁNÁSI 2003. 54).

In grave 1, at the left side of the buried warrior there was an 81 or 82 cm long iron sword (including a 10 cm long grip, the crossguard is 8 cm – Fig. 7), and a bronze belt-end fitting. In grave 2, a decorative bronze buckle was found beside a woman. In grave 3, there was a man with a bronze buckle and belt-end fitting, an iron knife at the left hand, a red vessel at the head, a dog skeleton at the feet. A bronze belt-end fitting was situated by the dog's neck. At the right hand of the skeleton in grave 4, an iron knife, at the waist an iron buckle came to light. Considering grave 5, Andrásy wrote that there was a very old woman in a contracted position without any goods similarly to grave 6 and 7. In grave 8, an iron



• Fig. 8. • Érkeseű / Cheşereu – Forrás-domb (Dealul Izvorului)

to NÁNÁSI 2003. 54 the grave and further burials found here belong to the Avar Age.

*Érkeseű / Cheşereu–Forrás-domb (Dealul Izvorului):* In the 1930s, the locals found graves during digging a ditch. A row cemetery consisting of N-S oriented burials was recorded as Gepidic or Avarian (REPERTORIUL 1974. 24. Cat. Nr. 90) (Fig. 6). Under this site name Ernő Andrásy documented the investigation of 10 Avarian graves (MÚ-

ZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 3). Judging from the photos of poor quality found among his records and from his sketch showing the situation of the graves, this was definitely an Avarian cemetery, that is to say, Andrásy determined their age correctly. This is probably the first cemetery of this age found in the Ier Valley, which is, despite this fact, is still unpublished to date. (REPERTORIUL 1974. 24. Cat. Nr. 90, NÉMETI 1999. 36. no. 25e, NÁNÁSI 2003. 54). In grave 1, at the left side of the buried warrior there was an 81 or 82 cm long iron sword (including a 10 cm long grip, the crossguard is 8 cm – Fig. 7), and a bronze belt-end fitting. In grave 2, a decorative bronze buckle was found beside a woman. In grave 3, there was a man with a bronze buckle and belt-end fitting, an iron knife at the left hand, a red vessel at the head, a dog skeleton at the feet. A bronze belt-end fitting was situated by the dog's neck. At the right hand of the skeleton in grave 4, an iron knife, at the waist an iron buckle came to light. Considering grave 5, Andrásy wrote that there was a very old woman in a contracted position without any goods similarly to grave 6 and 7. In grave 8, an iron knife and a buckle, in grave 9 an iron knife was found (LELTÁR 731–747, RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 52, ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 106–107, MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 3, REPERTORIUL 1974. 24. no. 90, NÉMETI 1999. 36. no. 25e, ADAM II. 91, NÁNÁSI 2003. 54–55 published it as Avarian, NÉMETI 2013. 18–19, GHEMIŞ 2016. 235, 240–241) (Fig. 8).

*Érkeseű / Cheşereu – Paksy Dezső udvara (Teren al lui Paksy Dezső):*<sup>12</sup> In 1931, during construction works at the Márton-lot, in the yard of Dezső

<sup>12</sup> I publish the name of the site based on REPERTORIUL 1974. 24. Cat. Nr. 90.

Paksy, two graves from the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century determined as Sarmatian were found (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 4).<sup>13</sup> In the 180 cm deep male grave excavated by Andrásy, at the left hand<sup>14</sup> a 34 cm long iron dagger, at the waist a corroded iron buckle was found. I quote finds from the neighbouring female grave from János Némethi's work because it seems more accurate: "At the depth of 1.10 m, an E-W oriented female skeleton lying on its back was found with decayed remains of thick boards among which four iron clamps came to light, probably, they held together pieces of the coffin. At the neck of the dead, there were 13 greenish-white beads and three conical pendants. At the backside of the skull a larger bead was found, on the breastbone a small iron ring and a 5 cm long iron plate; on both arms there were bronze bracelets with widening, trumpet-shaped endings. On the left ankle, a bronze wire bracelet came to light. According to Andrásy, these graves can be dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century and belong to Sarmatian culture. A small handmade pot was also found in one of the graves."<sup>15</sup>

The find material (LELTÁR 716–729) is still unpublished, we try to correct the dating on the basis of the description (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 3, RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 52, ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 107, GHEMIŞ 2016. 235, 240) and a picture of very poor quality survived in Ernő Andrásy's legacy (Fig. 5). Andrásy arrived at the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century Sarmatian definition based on an analogy from Csongrád, a publication in *Dolgozatok XVIII*. 1942. he referred to in his records (ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 107, GHEMIŞ 2016. 240). However, on the site in question, no objects were mentioned, only a coffin with iron fittings. The E-W orientation (actually rather W-E, that is to say, with the head towards the west), and the hollow bracelets with trumpet-shaped ending point to a later period.<sup>16</sup>

Besides the dating, in the case of the bracelets, their function is also questionable. Probably, they could be parts of horse bits, in this case, the graves can be dated to the Avar Age (LŐRINCZY–STRAUB 2005. 142.).<sup>17</sup>

From the vicinity, the inventory book mentions sherds of "similar age" (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 3, LELTÁR 758–759, 769, 779–783), that could mean Sarmatian but also later, perhaps, Gepidic Age.



• Fig. 5. • Érkeserű / Cheşereu – Paksy Dezső udvara (Teren al lui Paksy Dezső)

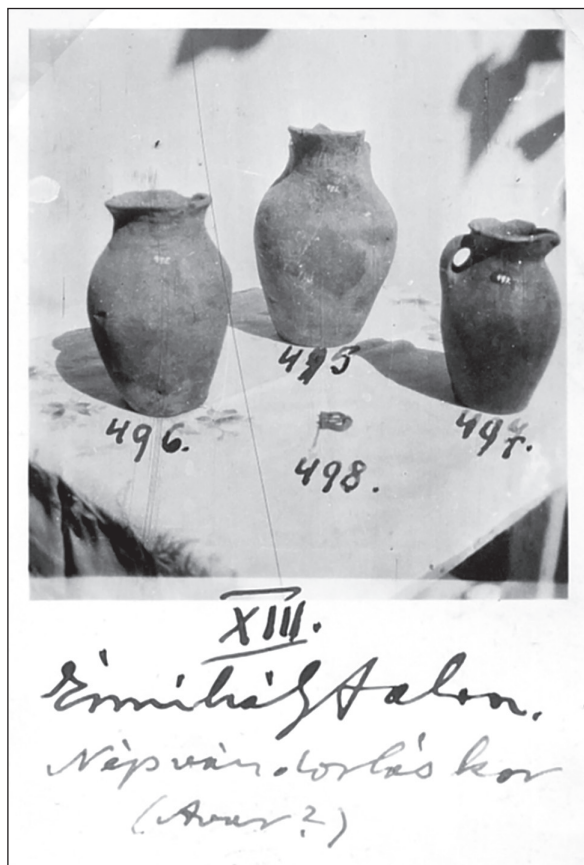
<sup>13</sup> Andrásy's biographer Zoltán Nánási determined a "row cemetery belonging to a populous Sarmatian settlement", only two graves of which came to light (NÁNÁSI 2003. 51–52).

<sup>14</sup> NÁNÁSI 2003. 52 indicated the right arm.

<sup>15</sup> NÉMETHI 2013. 17–18. I should note that NÁNÁSI 2003. 52 writes also about a third grave: "in the third grave beside a male skeleton, at the shoulder there was a yellowish jar, and a bronze ring on the dead's finger."

<sup>16</sup> István Bóna mentions it already as a cemetery of a Gepidic manor (BÓNA 1986A. 153).

<sup>17</sup> I thank Gábor Lőrinczy for determining the object.

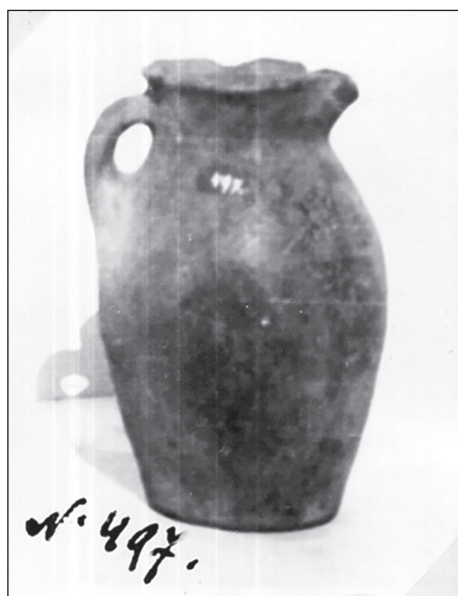


• **Fig. 9.** • Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Bujanovics-szőlő (Via Bujanovics)

Between *Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – a Bujanovics-szőlő (Via Bujanovics)* and the railway gate, on the bank of the stream, Andrásy excavated further Avarian graves (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 12, NÉMETI 1999. 40. no. 29m, NÉMETI 2013. 18). According to the inventory book, a buckle and three vessels, one of them handled, got in the collection (LELTÁR 495–498) (Figs. 9–10). They may be the same as those three E-W oriented burials mentioned by Andrásy, about which he wrote that they came to light from a depth around 90 cm. Skeletons were in a rather good state. At the feet of a female skeleton, there was “a high, milk-jug-shaped vessel”, at the waist of a male skeleton a bronze buckle, at its left limb a “small black handled jar”. He mentioned that another jar was found “separately” at the site (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LELTÁR 1247, GHEMIŞ 2016. 234).

*Szalacs / Sălacea – Várbóc (Dealul Cetății / Varboț)*: a bracelet from an Avar grave got to the

collection from here (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 2, LELTÁR 1220) At the same time, Andrásy mentioned graves from the Hungarian Conquest Period found at the site (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 74, NÉMETI 2013. 18, GHEMIŞ 2016). It is not clear whether he formed this opinion based on the bracelet.



• **Fig. 10.** • Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Bujanovics-szőlő (Via Bujanovics)

*Szalacs / Sălacea – Vida-hegy (Dealul Vida)*: In the case of two graves found near a small cemetery dated to the 10<sup>th</sup> century, it was suggested that they belong to the Avar Age (LAKATOS-BALLA 2008. 29) – see below.

### Period of Hungarian Conquest

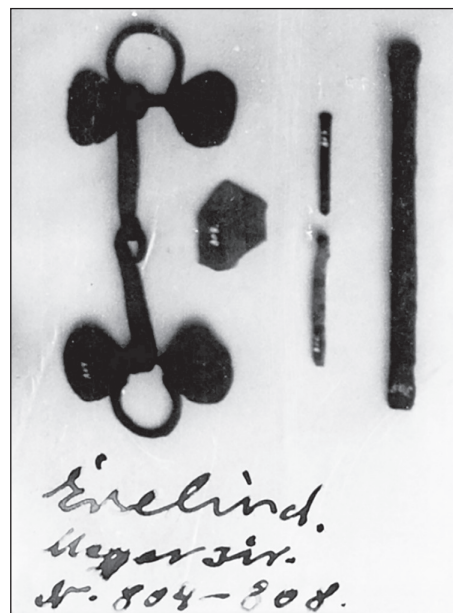
Undoubtedly, one of the most important Migration Period sites discovered by Dr. Andrásy is Gálospetri / Galoşpetreu, where he found traces of ancient Hungarians. It happened already in the 1950s. In his letter written to the director of the Hungarian National Museum Ferenc Fülep, he highlighted the importance of research at this site, however, because of his heart disease he could not at this time “undertake field trips to the countryside”. This assemblage dated to the second third of the 10<sup>th</sup> century is the earliest known cemetery of southeast Nyírség (GÁLL 2013. 113).



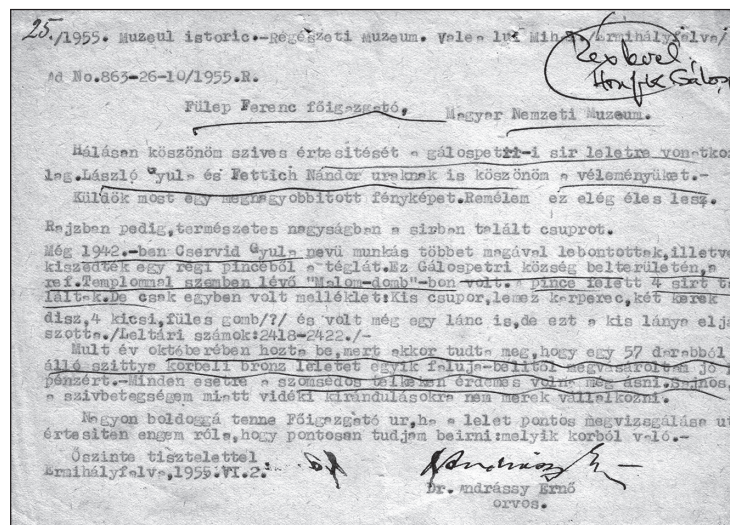
*Gálospetri / Galošpetreu – Malomdomb (Dâmbul Morii)*: In 1942, Gyula Cservid and his neighbours disassembled an old cellar opposite of the Calvinist church. There were four graves in the intact soil above it, only in one of them grave goods were found. Only 12 years later locals brought the finds – a vessel, a plate bracelet, four shank buttons and a pair of cast hairdiscs (ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 112, LELTÁR 2418–2422)<sup>18</sup> – to Andrassy to get money for them (CHIDIOŞAN 1965., NÁNÁSI 2003. 55–56, NÉMETI 1999. 33, NÉMETI 2013. 19, GÁLL 2013. 112–113, 35. tábla).

*Szalacs / Sălacea – (Burga, Burga-tető / Dealul Vida, Burga)*: Discovery of the Szalacs cemetery situated 6-7 km from Gálospetri / Galošpetreu can be connected to Ernő Andrassy only indirectly. At this site he recorded a Bronze Age hillfort finding here also medieval objects (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 74).<sup>19</sup>

In 1966, specialists of the Nagyvárad / Oradea Museum excavated here a small cemetery of a relatively poor community of the 10<sup>th</sup> century (CHIDIOŞAN 1965., NÉMETI 1999. 34. no. 21b3, LAKATOS-BALLA 2008., GÁLL 2013. 459–463). Besides the burials of the period two graves (nos. 6 and 9) – according to their publisher – differed from the Conquest Period ones in three characteristics: orientation (N-S and NW-SE, while the



• Fig. 13. • Érselind / Şilindru – Állomás előtti tér (Piaţa Gării) / Square in front of the railway station



• Fig. 11. • Ernő Andrassy's letter to Ferenc Fülep, director of the Hungarian National Museum about the Hungarian Conquest finds from Gálospetri / Galošpetreu

rest: W-E), depth (deeper than the rest) and truncation of the dead (probably, looting). They were conditionally dated to the Avar Age (LAKATOS-BALLA 2008. 29).

*Érselind / Şilindru – Állomás előtti tér (Piaţa Gării)*: The dating of the assemblage is not clear. On the meadow between the railway and the row of hills, close to the Püspökhalom a burial with a horse was found. Records mention a sword and tools among the finds. We learn that “most of the finds were lost”. The inventory book under the date of 12 September 1930 (LELTÁR 804–808) displays a bridle, an iron chisel, an iron nail, a small bronze chisel, and a fragment of a yellow grave vessel (Fig. 13). Andrassy

<sup>18</sup> Ernő Andrassy in his letter on 2 June 1955 to Ferenc Fülep, director of the Hungarian National Museum mentions a necklace lost by the little daughter of the finder (Fig. 11).

<sup>19</sup> See Péter Söcs's study in the same volume.

first interpreted the grave as Iazygian (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 60., GHEMIŞ 2016. 236), later it was described as a “Hungarian grave” (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 11). In the case of the burial with a horse, dating it to the Hungarian Conquest Period (NÁNÁSI 2003. 55, NÉMETI 2013. 19) is more probable, at the same time it is not clear whether further objects belonged to the assemblage. The artifacts listed here would be rather unusual in a 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>-century cemetery.

*Szalacs / Sălacea – Szállás-domb (Dealul Sălaş):* “Opposite of the Vida Hill, between the two churches”, “on the Szállás Mound from a 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>-century Hungarian grave (it was looted) came a bronze plaque (Byzantine product) depicting St. George: No.: 1193 and a prong of a bronze buckle: No.: 1194 (Közlemények-Kolozsvár. 1942. II-page 247).” (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 2, RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 74, LELTÁR 1193–1194, REPERTORIUL 1974. 64. no. 334, NÁNÁSI 2003. 55, NÉMETI 2013. 19). For the dating (11<sup>th</sup> century) of St. George depiction, see BÍRÓ 1942.

### Sites of uncertain age

Finally, I should touch on the sites that can belong (also) to the age under study, however, it is impossible to determine them more accurately because of the demolition and scattering of the collection and records, and their chaotic state. We learn these data from the inventory records made in Andrassy’s diary:

*Bere / Berea – Szőlős-domb (Dealul viilor):* In 1953, in the Nagykároly / Carei district, that is to say, relatively far from the Ier Valley, in the vicinity of Bere, at the northern side of the Szőlődomb (Grape Hill) gray sherds dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> century were found (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 17, LELTÁR 2109–2121).

*Dengeleg / Dindeşti – Ref. parókia kertje (Grădina parohiei reformate):* In the garden of the Calvinist vicarage and on the hill behind the Calvinist church, on the surface and 1-2 spitdeep pastor Kovács collected sherds. Besides prehistoric and medieval ones, the Migration Period and 6<sup>th</sup> century pieces were also inventoried (LELTÁR 1601–1602, 1632–1633).

*Dengeleg / Dindeşti) – Várdomb (Cetate):* Migration Period (5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century) sherds were collected from the Castle Hill, including pottery fragments with “decoration imitating fingers” and ones with wavy lines and circular decoration (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 10, LELTÁR 1599, 1562, 1600, 1604). By the stream, on the surface, a piece of plaster came to light alongside further sherds (MŰZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 10, LELTÁR 631, 1632–633).

*Dengeleg / Dindeşti:* In 1928, a record was made in the inventory book about a Migration Period lid (LELTÁR 1314.).

*Éradony / Adoni – Pocsáros-dűlő (Hotarul Pocsáros):* In 1940, the lower part of a vessel recorded as Gothic got in the collection (LELTÁR 710).

*Éradony / Adoni:* Andrassy recorded in his diary (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 48, GHEMIŞ 2016. 235) that in the old times, in the yard of the Greek Catholic vicarage a burial with horse was found.

*Érkeserű / Cheşereu – Püspök-halom (Dealul Episcopului)*: besides the prehistoric hillfort, where the stone building from the age of Louis I of Hungary is situated, beyond the rampart, on the southeastern side of the hill, the diary mentions a cemetery from the Migration Period (RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM 52, GHEMIŞ 2016. 236).<sup>20</sup>

*Érendréd / Andrid – Bika-domb (Dealul Taurului)*:<sup>21</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery fragments were found accompanied by Bronze Age sherds (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 9, LELTÁR 1514–1516), and half of a “Hungarian-type” bridle (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 9, LELTÁR 1740).

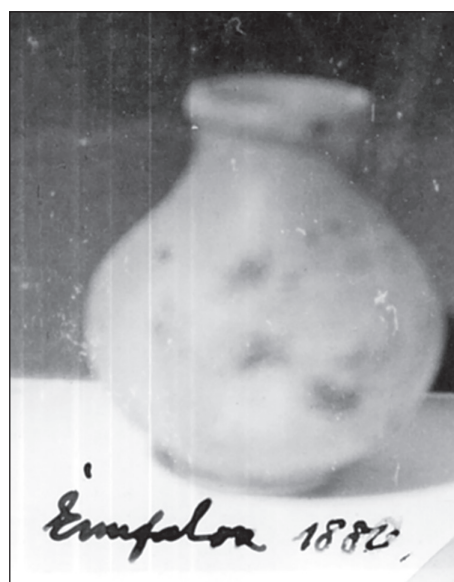
*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Gencsi utca (Strada Gencsi)*: Among 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century finds, burned soil of a 4<sup>th</sup> century fireplace from a “pithouse” found 150 cm deep, and a Gothic(?) sherd came to light (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LELTÁR 501–502, 517). A W-E oriented skeleton was found at one meter depth, its upper part was disturbed. No finds were observed. Andrassy conditionally determined it as belonging to the Migration Period (ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 102, GHEMIŞ 2016. 237).

*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai – Sárgaföldes gödrök (Groapa cu lut)*: Migration Period and Slavic sherds (LELTÁR 1658–1662), and a 4<sup>th</sup> century clay bead (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13, LELTÁR 2323.).

*Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai*: this is the site of “a small red (terracotta?) mug from the 9<sup>th</sup> century” (LELTÁR 1880) (Fig. 12) and an iron knife (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 13).

*Ottomány / Otomani – Kútfő domb (Dîmbul Kútfő)*: Andrassy excavated at this site. He mentions as stray find a copper ring with stone inset from the Migration Period (MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ, no. 1).

*Szilágypér / Pir – Várdomb (Cetate)*: on the territory surrounded by rampart, on the surface Migration Period sherds were collected (ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM 114, LELTÁR 1510–1512).



• Fig. 12. • Érmihályfalva / Valea lui Mihai

#### Sources<sup>22</sup>

ÁSATÁSI FELJEGYZÉSEIM = My field records

Andrassy Ernő ásatási feljegyzései. (Field records of Ernő Andrassy)

LELTÁR = Inventory book

Andrassy Ernő leltárkönyve. (Inventory book of Ernő Andrassy)

<sup>20</sup> About the site, see NÉMETI 1999. 36. no. 25b1.

<sup>21</sup> About the site, see NÉMETI 1999. 27. no. 13a1.

<sup>22</sup> For the data of the sources, see Péter Szöcs's study in the same volume, in footnotes 2-5.

MÚZEUM-ISMERTETŐ = Museum guide

Andrássy Ernő: Az Érmihályfalvai “Dr. Andrássy” Régészeti Múzeum ismertetése (Presentation of the “Dr. Andrássy” Archaeological Museum of Valea lui Mihai)

MÚZEUMOM = My museum

Andrássy Ernő: Múzeumom, 1967. (My museum, 1967)

RÉGISÉG-GYŰJTEMÉNYEM = My collection of antiquities

## References

ADAM

Szentpéteri József (ed.): *Archäologische Denkmäler der Awarenzeit in Mitteleuropa. Varia Archaeologica Hungarica* XIII: 1–2. 2002.

ALFÖLDI 1932

Alföldi András: Leletek a hun korszakból és ethnikai szétválasztásuk. / Funde aus der Hunnenzeit und ihre ethnische Sonderung. *AH* IX. 1932.

ANDRÁSSY 1944

Andrássy Ernő: Népvándorlaskori temető Érmihályfalván (Bihar vm.). [Völkerwanderungszeitlicher Friedhof in Érmihályfalva (Valea-lui-Mihai, Kom. Bihar).] *Közlemények ENM* IV: 1–2. 1944. 91–96.

BÍRÓ 1942

Bíró Béla: Egy bizánci bronz-amulett. [Ein byzantinisches Bronzeamulett.] *Közlemények az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* II: 2. 1942. 246–257.

BÓNA 1986A

Bóna István: Daciatól Erdőelvéig. A népvándorlás kora Erdélyben. In: Köpeczi Béla (lead ed.): *Erdély története* I. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest 1986. 271–896.

BÓNA 1986B

Bóna István: Szabolcs-Szatmár megye régészeti emlékei. In: Entz Géza (ed.): *Szabolcs-Szatmár megye műemlékei* 1. *Magyarország műemléki topográfiája* 10. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest 1986. 15–91.

BULZAN – CIORBA 2007A

Sorin Bulzan – Alexandru Ciorba: Şimian, com. Şimian, jud. Bihor. Punct: Groapa cu lut/Sárgaföldes gödör. In: *Cronica Cerc. Arh. din România*. Campania 2006. Bucureşti 2007. 538.

BULZAN – CIORBA 2007B

Sorin Bulzan – Alexandru Ciorba: Date preliminare privind necropola din epoca romană de la Şimian, “Groapa cu lut” (Sárgaföldes gödör) jud. Bihor. [Sarmatian cemetery from Şimian “Groapa cu lut – Sárgaföldes gödör”.] *Crisia* XXXVII. 2007. 77–87.

CHIDIOŞAN 1965

Nicolae Chidioşan: Mormântul din perioada feudalismului de la Galoşpetreu (Raion Marghita). [Das Grab von Galoşpetreu (Raion Marghita) aus der frühfeudalen Zeit.] *Studii şi Comunicări. Arheologie – Istorie* (Sibiu) 12. 1965. 237–243.

GÁLL 2013

Gáll Erwin: Az Erdélyi-medence, a Partium és a Bánság 10-11. századi temetői I–II. kötet. [10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century burial sites, stray finds and treasures in the Transylvanian Basin, the Partium and the Banat.] *Magyarország honfoglalás kori és kora Árpád-kori sírleletei* 6. Szeged 2013.

GHEMIŞ 2016

Călin Ghemiş: From the History of Archaeological Researches in Crişana: Dr. Ernest Andrassy (I). *Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica* 30. 2016. 229–247.

LAKATOS-BALLA 2008

Lakatos-Balla Attila: Cimitirul medieval timpuriu de la Sălacea-Dealul Vida. [Early Medieval Cemetery from Sălacea – Vida Hill.] *Crisia XXXVIII*. 2008. 23–44.

LŐRINCZY – STRAUB 2005

Lőrinczy Gábor – Straub Péter: Alpi típusú övgarnitúra a szegvár-oromdűlői 81. sírból. [Alpine-type belt set from Szegvár-Oromdűlő, grave 81.] *ZM* 14. 2005. 137–167.

NÁNÁSI 2003

Nánási Zoltán: *Dr. Andrassy Ernő az Érmellék utolsó polihisztora*. Partiumi és Bánsági Műkedvelő és Emlékhey Bizottság – RMDSZ Bihar Megyei Szervezete – Királyhágómelléki Refomátus Egyházkerület – Nagyváradi Római Katolikus Püspökség, h.n. 2003.

NÁNÁSI – WILHELM 1996

Zoltán Nánási – Julia Wilhelm: Un mormânt din epoca târzie a migraţilor la Săcueni. [Un tombeau de l'époque de la migration de Săcueni.] *ActaMPorolissensis* XX. 1996. 125–131.

NÉMETI 1983

Ioan Németi: Noi descoperiri din epoca migraţiilor din zona Careiului (jud. Satu Mare). [Neue Entdeckungen aus der Völkerswanderungszeit aus der Carei-Gegend.] *SCIVA* 34: 2. 1983. 134–150.

NÉMETI 1999

János Németi: Repertoriul arheologic al zonei Careiului. [The Archaeological Survey of Carei Region. Nagykaroly vidékének régészeti repertóriuma.] *Bibliotheca Thracologica* XXVIII. Institutul Român de Tracologie, Bucureşti 1999.

NÉMETI 2013

Németi János: Az Érmellék ősrégészeti, császár- és árpádkori kutatásának története dr. Roska Márton és dr. Andrassy Ernő barátságának tükrében. [Archaeological investigations of the Érmellék in the mirror of the friendship of Dr. Roska Márton and Dr. Andrassy Ernő and their collective activity.] *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából*, új sorozat VI–VII. (XVI–XVII) 2011–2012. Kolozsvár 2013. 7–25.

REPERTORIUL 1974

Sever Dumitraşcu et al. (eds.): *Repertoriul. Monumentelor naturii, arheologice, istorice, etnografice, de arhitectură şi artă din judeţul Bihor*. Comitetul de Cultură şi Educaţie Socialistă al Judeţul Bihor, Muzeul Ţării Crişurilor, Oradea 1974.

ROSKA 1928/32

Roska Márton: Mormânt german dela Valea lui Mihai. *Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice* 1928–1932. 69–72.

ROSKA 1930

Roska Márton: Az érmihályfalvi germán sír. [Ein germanisches Grab aus Érmihályfalva.] *ArchÉrt* XLIV. 1930. 229–232., 305.

SĂŞIANU 1980

Alexandru Săşianu: *Moneda antică în vestul şi nord-vestul României*. [Ancient coinage in Western and North-Western Romania.] Muzeului Ţării Crişurilor, Oradea 1980.

SEY 1968

Bíroné Sey Katalin: II. Theodosius solidusának egykorú hamisítványa. [A Contemporary Counterfeit Coin of a Solidus of Theodosius II.] *FA XIX*. 1968. 99–103.

STANCIU 2008

Ioan Stanciu: Gepiden, Frühawaren und -Slawen im Westen und Nordwesten Rumäniens. *Antaeus* 29–30. 2008. 415–448.

STANCIU 2011

Ioan Stanciu: Locuirea teritoriului nord-vestic al României între antichitatea târzie și perioada de început a epocii medievale timpurii (mijlocul sec. V – sec. VII timpuriu.) [The habitation of the north-western territory of Romania between the Late Antiquity and the beginning period of the Early Middle Ages (the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century – early 7<sup>th</sup> century)]. *Patrimonium Arch. Transylvanicum* 4. Cluj-Napoca 2011.

STANCIU 2019

Ioan Stanciu: Northwestern territory of Romania (Upper Tisza Basin) in the last third of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. In: Tivadar Vida – Dieter Quast – Zsófia Rácz – István Koncz (eds.): *Kollaps – Neuordnung – Kontinuität. Gepiden nach dem Untergang des Hunnenreiches. Tagungsakten der Internationalen Konferenz an der Eötvös Loránd Universität, Budapest, 14.–15. Dezember 2015. / Collapse – Reorganization – Continuity. Gepids after the fall of the Hun Empire. Proceedings of the International Conference at Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> December 2015*. Institut für Archäologiewissenschaften, Eötvös Loránd Universität – Institut für Archäologie des Forschungszentrums für Humanwissenschaften der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften – Leibniz-Forschungsinstitut für Archäologie, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Budapest 2019. 143–181.