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FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University



PRIMUS

- Conference Programme -

Gravestone built in the wall of the Roman
Catholic church of Tarnaszentmária, Hungary



POWER IN NUMBERS THE ROLE OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN CHRISTIANISATION AND STATE FORMATION

Prague
11th - 13th October 2021

The conference is supported by the European Regional Development Fund-Project “Creativity and Adaptability as Conditions of the Success of Europe in an Interrelated World” (No. CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_019/0000734) and affiliated with the programme of Charles University Progress Q07 ‘Centre for the Study of the Middle Ages’.

Monday 11 October

16.00 **Registration and welcome**

16.30–18.30 **Panel 1**

MARTIN JANOVSký, Charles University, Prague
Exploratory data analysis of romanesque churches in Bohemia

ALEXANDER WATZINGER, Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften
BERNHARD KOSCHICEK, Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften
OpenAtlas - A web based tool to acquire and manage historical and archeological data

STEFAN EICHERT, Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien
THANADOS - The Anthropological and Archaeological Database of Sepultures

18.30 –19.00 **Discussion**

Tuesday 12 October

09.00–10.30 **Panel 2**

DAVID KALHOUS, Masaryk University, Brno
Introducing the church in Bohemia and Moravia: structures and processes

MAXIM MORDOVIN, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
Connection between the Early Royal Castles and Churches in the Kingdom of Hungary (11th Century)

IVO ŠTEFAN, Charles University, Prague
Community of the living - community of the dead in 10th - 12th centuries Bohemia

10.30 –11.00 **Discussion**

11.00–11.15 **Tea/Coffee Break**

11.15–12.15 **Panel 3**

ROLAND FILZWIESER, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute
Prospecting early medieval religious landscapes at Pliska, Bulgaria

NINA BRUNDKE, Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften
„Oh, Come, Little Children“ – Burial Customs on the 11th Century Burial Ground of Oberleiserberg (Austria)

12.15–12.45 **Discussion**

12.45–14.30 **Lunch break**

14.30–15.30 **Panel 4**

MÁRIA VARGHA, Charles University, Prague

Itinerant kingship, royal curias and the early church network in Hungary

ZSOLT CSÓK, National Museum of Transylvania's History, Cluj

Dynamics of an early medieval county center: the satellite parishes in 11th-12th c. Transylvania. A case study.

15.30–16.00 **Discussion**

16.00–16.15 **Tea/Coffee Break**

16.15–17.45 **Panel 5**

KATALIN SZENDE, Central European University, Vienna

The other side of the coin: the Christianization of the (proto)-urban landscape

JÓZSEF LASZLOVSZKY, Central European University, Vienna

Liturgical Objects of the Rural Churches from the Period of Christianization: An Archaeological Horizon Connected to the Mongol Invasion of Hungary in 1241-42.

LÁSZLÓ FERENCZI, Charles University, Prague

Digital topographic databases as sources for the retrogressive reconstruction of the early medieval settlement network and church topography in Hungary

17.45–18.30 **Discussion**

19.00 - **Dinner**

Wednesday 13 October

10.00–12.00 LADISLAV VARADZIN, Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

Vyšehrad Castle in the Early Medieval Period

12.00–13.30 **Lunch break**

13.30–18.00 **Strategic planning meeting**

VENUE:

Library of the Department of Archaeology, Charles University
Celetná 20
Praha 1

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ABSTRACTS

MARTIN JANOVSÝ

(Charles University, Prague)

Exploratory data analysis of romanesque churches in Bohemia

Christianization is more than a process of early medieval Central Europe. It is an event whose study still allows us to grasp the transformations of society from new angles. For example, the study of the lower ecclesiastical network can be such a new perspective. The paper will present the creation of the part of the Sacricee project's database which is the Romanesque churches in Bohemia. Churches, as points in space, can be analysed using spatial point analysis. The analysis is based on both the density of points within the Bohemia region and the patterns of the clusters they form. At the same time, the effect of covariates can be analysed. For example, one can ask the question how the intensity of points depends on the value of altitude. Finally, all outputs within the project should be implemented so that they can be easily presented to the public on the platforms of various other projects.

ALEXANDER WATZINGER

(Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften)

BERNHARD KOSCHICEK

(Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften)

OpenAtlas - A web based tool to acquire and manage historical and archeological data

OpenAtlas (<https://openatlas.eu>) is an open source database software developed especially to acquire, edit and manage research data from various fields of humanities like history, archaeology and prosopography as well as related scientific data (e.g. radiocarbon dating, stable isotopes and anthropological information). It provides a user interface that can be accessed via any common web-browser and allows the respective researchers to work with their data via customized forms and categories to record complex relations as simple as possible.

The software automatically maps the information to the international standard of the CIDOC CRM and takes care of today's requirements regarding data standards, data management and aims for FAIR principles against the background of current standards in Digital Humanities. Using a sophisticated standardized model has many advantages, e.g. it's much easier to archive or share and merge data from other projects, especially if they are using a similar model.

Alexander Watzinger will introduce OpenAtlas, the cooperations using OpenAtlas as well the team in general. Bernhard Koschiček-Krombholz will introduce features, use cases and the API (application programming interface). The standardized API,

which serves as an interface to other software systems, can be used by other software like tools for visualizations, GIS applications, network analyses and presentation sites

STEFAN EICHERT

(Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien)

THANADOS - The Anthropological and Archaeological Database of Sepultures

In the project "THANADOS: The Anthropological and Archaeological Database of Sepultures", funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (GoDigital! Next Generation Program) and carried out at the Natural History Museum Vienna and the Austrian Archaeological Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, a team of archaeologists, anthropologists, historians and computer scientists is working on the creation of an open data repository of all early medieval (6th to 11th century) grave finds of Austria:

Around 500 cemeteries and burial grounds with thousands of graves and grave goods are being collected, translated into English and digitized. OpenAtlas, an open source software, was (further) developed for the data acquisition in order to record all relevant information as detailed and at the same time as standardized as possible.

With <https://thanados.net> the project has created a web application for the public presentation and visualization of the data, through which the cemeteries, graves and finds can be explored interactively. Thus, for the first time, the information collected over some 170 years of research history is freely available in digital form and can also be integrated into the "semantic web" as "linked open data" through the use of "controlled vocabularies".

This not only enables a contemporary and digital dissemination of the data, but also a view of the "big picture".

For researchers, this facilitates and accelerates research and enables them to carry out further analyses via export interfaces.

In addition, the interested public has access to a web portal through which they can gain a detailed insight into the archaeological and anthropological legacies of cemetery archaeology in Austria without access restrictions.

DAVID KALHOUS

(Masaryk University, Brno)

Introducing the church in Bohemia and Moravia: structures and processes

In this paper, I intend to provide the audience with basic information about the establishment and development of the ecclesiastical organization in Přemyslid principality and its structural patterns between tenth and thirteenth century. Therefore, I will split my paper into three parts. First, the beginnings of the Prague and Olomouc bishopric will be characterized. The foundation of these bishoprics also enables to demonstrate the importance of princely power, contacts with the

papacy and, last but not least, the influence of the head of the Holy Roman Empire. Second, I will make a short overview of the written evidence for the local churches in Bohemia and Moravia. Third, I will focus on the analysis of the existing written evidence. This will be confronted with other sources of information to find out, to what extent is this evidence representative. Additionally, I will shortly discuss the relationship between the patrons and their churches, the beginnings of territorialization of the local churches and possible impact of the local churches on rural communities.

MAXIM MORDOVIN

(Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

Connection between the Early Royal Castles and Churches in the Kingdom of Hungary (11th Century)

According to both archaeological and sporadic written sources, the 11th-12th-century fortified royal centres had at least two types of ecclesiastical structures. Unfortunately, the functional interpretation of the excavated buildings, more precisely their original function is not clear. There are at least two interpretations present in contemporary scholarly literature in Hungary. The first says that one of the churches had *baptismal*, while the other *parish* function, where the *baptismal* was at the same time deanery church (Péter Németh, Mária Wolf). The second hypothesis distinguishes (royal) chapels and parishes in the early castles (István Feld, Gergely Buzás and myself). According to the second version, the chapels belonged to the royal or 'castellanian' residences and were used as private chapels of the local rulers without any usual parish rights. The lack of the 11th-century burials in many cases or any burials at all confirms this interpretation. Only the second building was used as a common parish church with all associated benefits. These churches were crucial centres of the developing parish organisation in the first half a century in the Kingdom of Hungary. Any association with deaneries would be a mistake since the very title and the organisation itself were introduced in this part of Europe not later than the late 11th or rather early 12th century.

IVO ŠTEFAN

(Charles University, Prague)

Community of the living - community of the dead in 10th - 12th centuries Bohemia

The paper will present the basic outlines of the process of territorialisation of church organisation in early medieval Bohemia. Several archaeologically investigated case sites will be presented that offer different explanatory models of the penetration of church organization into the rural environment.

ROLAND FILZWIESER

(Ludwig Boltzmann Institute)

Prospecting early medieval religious landscapes at Pliska, Bulgaria

From 2016 to 2018, large-scale geophysical surveys were conducted at the first early medieval Bulgarian capital of Pliska (7th – 11th century AD). Aiming for the documentation of yet unknown archaeological structures, not only the central Inner City was surveyed, to gain more knowledge of the urban layout, but also vast areas of the in total 22 km² large Outer City of Pliska. The magnetic surveys, conducted with a motorised Fluxgate magnetometer system, yielded little over 1 km² of data, while also 35 ha were surveyed with ground penetrating radar (GPR), using mainly a motorised four-channel 250 MHz GPR array. During the integrated archaeological interpretation of the prospection data countless structures in and around the town were discovered, including several semi-urban settlements in the Outer City of Pliska. Especially north of the Great Basilica, with the archbishop's court and the first Bulgarian monastery (late 9th century AD), at least one basilica of the so-called Pliska-type was discovered. These churches often were integrated into pre-existing settlement-agglomerations and thus hold valuable information, not only on the religious but also the rural organisation of the wider landscape around Pliska. The results from the Outer City thus substantially improve the knowledge of the complex landscape, extending over many square kilometres, and show the clear value of a future large-scale geophysical prospection of the entire Outer City for an exhaustive study and an even deeper understanding of Pliska and its rural population.

NINA BRUNDKE

(Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften)

„Oh, Come, Little Children“ – Burial Customs on the 11th Century Burial Ground of Oberleiserberg (Austria)

Oberleiserberg, a limestone cliff overlooking the surrounding countryside in northern Lower Austria, was repeatedly used as a site for settlements during the history of mankind. In the contact region between the Hungarian Kingdom, the territory of the Přemyslid dynasty and the expanding Babenberg *marvia*, a burial community used the plateau as burial site in the first half of the 11th century. Where the corresponding settlement(s) were situated is unknown.

The grave goods of the necropolis as well as the scattered stray finds of the mountain plateau indicate contacts of the burying community to different spheres of power in and beyond the region. The supra-regional importance of the site is also supported by evidence that the plateau was used as a market place until the 12th century and later as a pilgrimage site. Furthermore, the reuse of a late antique stone building, located south of the cemetery, is attested for the 11th century.

Due to the interdisciplinary treatment of the site, statements beyond the archaeological interpretation of the finds and features are possible. Therefore the cemetery on the Oberleiserberg is a case study of the THANADOS project and

shows how interdisciplinary data can be presented online in a modern way. We were able to show that the cemetery is characterized by a particularly high proportion of child burials - also in comparison with contemporaneous cemeteries in the region. A deficit of children, as it can still be observed in other cemeteries in the late Early Middle Ages, is not to be observed at Oberleiserberg. Whether this is related to a change of beliefs, as it is postulated for other regions of Europe, will be discussed.

MÁRIA VARGHA

(Charles University, Prague)

Itinerant kingship, royal curias and the early church network in Hungary

Based on the comparison of the archaeological and historical data on the subject, the present paper concludes on the process of Christianisation of the rural population, thus, the development of the rural local church network. In the present paper I propose to use catchment-area reconstructions, in order to examine of how the itinerant kingship, and the secular and ecclesiastical properties connected to it, thus royal curias and *exempt* churches relate to the network of early churches. Furthermore, this paper also raising the question of how to reconstruct borders in a historical period and area lacking sufficient data, and, more importantly, stable borderlines – thus a calculation and visualisation of uncertainty in territorial units. In that framework, I study the dynamics between the central, secular and ecclesiastical power and the local church network, and the idea of the centrally administered Christianisation. Even though the archaeological material, especially in such a large scale investigation, is unsuitable to make notable chronological differentiation within one century, some reference points are made in connection to historical and archaeological theories, and the chronology of the church network.

ZSOLT CSÓK

(National Museum of Transylvania's History, Cluj)

Dynamics of an early medieval county center: the satellite parishes in 11th-12th c. Transylvania. A case study.

The past three years, in the historical region of Transylvania, several monument restoration funds provided opportunity for archaeological excavations of churches and their graveyards. Although these researches occurred due to structural interventions on the ecclesiastical edifices, a certain amount of information was brought to light concerning the early medieval parish system dynamics during the 12th century. Through our case study -the medieval church of Bágyon-, presenting also the larger spatial context, we would like to raise a few questions on the parish church system raised around the early Transylvanian administrative centers.

KATALIN SZENDE

(Central European University, Vienna)

The other side of the coin: the Christianization of the (proto)-urban landscape

This talk aims at connecting the so far mainstream line of research on state formation and its early centres with the new emphasis on following the processes of Christianization around the first Millennium “on the ground”. It offers an overview on the siting and early settlement structures of the bishops’ seats in the main polities of East Central Europe, comparing the situation in the Kingdom of Hungary to that in the Polish and Bohemian realms. It examines how the stories of their establishment set in words or inscribed in the landscape follow certain patterns, and what these tell about the symbiosis of ecclesiastical and secular power. The survey of the siting features and motifs behind site selection reveal a strong overweight of ducal or royal authority in choosing the locations of early cathedral cities. The ideal location was in strongholds of strategic importance, where the ruling dynasty had already settled, recently conquered, or was just about to seize in the process of centralization. Yet, the sovereigns’ scope of action was not unlimited as they had to share their power with that of the Church and follow at least some of the rules and conventions created centuries earlier by its central authority. My research on this topic is part of the project “Cathedral Cities in Context. Bishops’ Seats in Medieval East Central Europe as Urban and Religious Centres” within the Kollegforschungsgruppe “Religion and Urbanity: Reciprocal Formations” (DFG – FOR 2779).

JÓZSEF LASZLOVSZKY

(Central European University, Vienna)

Liturgical Objects of the Rural Churches from the Period of Christianization: An Archaeological Horizon Connected to the Mongol Invasion of Hungary in 1241-42.

The Christianization of a region shows a number of changes in different spheres of everyday-life and material culture. Therefore, archaeological investigations can shed light on various aspects of mission, church buildings and the related material evidence. New churches built in the process of Christianization can be seen as indicators of the whole transformation process, and the liturgical objects connected to these churches represent an important source material for the contacts of the early church organization. The survival of these objects during a long historical period is connected to many different aspects and circumstances, and churches at different levels of the ecclesiastical hierarchy show different patterns for the survival of these objects. Churches at the highest level of this hierarchy often keep and conserve precious objects connected to the first phase of Christianization with the help of their treasuries and with the promotion of local cults connected to important missionary figures. At the same time, liturgical objects of rural churches usually did not survive in this way. However, some catastrophic events, such as wars and

invasions can lead to the destruction of these churches, often combined with the looting and dispersion of these objects.

The Mongol Invasion of Hungary in 1241-42 was such a catastrophic event and liturgical objects of the rural churches found as archaeological finds contribute to our understanding of the Christianization process, as well as, the destruction of this early church system. In the framework of an ongoing interdisciplinary research project the spatial distribution patterns of the liturgical objects as archaeological finds are studied together with other indicators (deserted sites, hoards, places with historical sources on the destruction, etc.) of the invasion. This paper presents, how community archaeology and the large-scale metal detecting surveys contribute to this research and how historical, art historical and archaeological concepts related to the Christianization process of the rural countryside can be changed as the result of this new investigation.

LÁSZLÓ FERENCZI

(Charles University, Prague)

Digital topographic databases as sources for the retrogressive reconstruction of the early medieval settlement network and church topography in Hungary

The paper will introduce briefly the usability of the now digitally available map of medieval settlements, covering the area of the whole Kingdom of Hungary (compiled by P. Engel). Although the database is mostly based on 15th and 16th century records, it has also earlier data layers (i.e. data from the early 14th c. tithe registers), which are relevant for the reconstruction of church topography (monasteries, parishes). Interpretive problems implied by the compilation of different types of records and by this retrogressive approach will be highlighted, focusing on certain regions, where previous data collection produced more detailed databases.



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