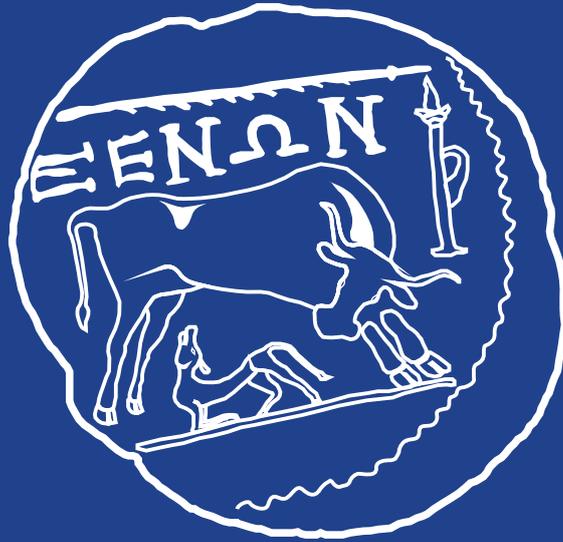


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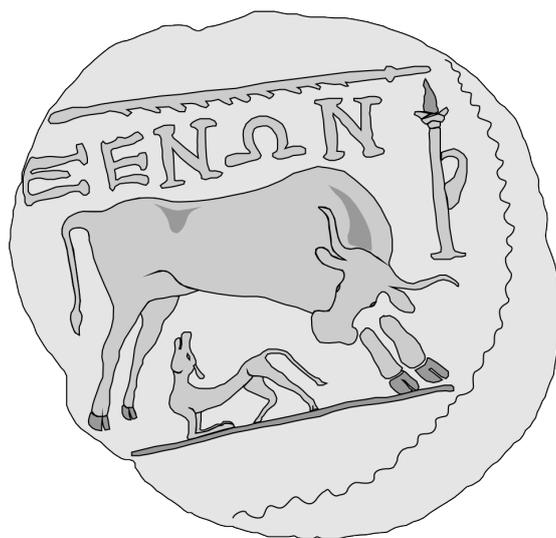
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### ZIRIDAVA STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

Any correspondence will be sent to the editor:

Museum Arad

Piata George Enescu 1, 310131 Arad, RO

e-mail: ziridava2012@gmail.com

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*This volume is dedicated to Florin Draşovean at 70 years*

*Acest volum este dedicat lui Florin Draşovean cu ocazia împlinirii a 70 de ani*





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# Árokos. The Success Story of Identifying an Archaeological Site in Mezőhegyes – Revisited

**György Kerekes, Zoltán Rózsa**

**Abstract:** The late medieval (15th–16th centuries) settlement network of present-day Békés County is now relatively well understood. In most cases, we know precisely where the villages were located, where their churches stood, and we have an approximate knowledge of their former boundaries. However, there are exceptions where the connection between place names known from written sources and archaeological sites is not straightforward. In fact, there are also cases where earlier misidentifications have since been proven incorrect. This study discusses one such case. We revise the earlier erroneous identification of a deserted village site with a church, located in the vicinity of present-day Mezőhegyes, by comparing historical sources, modern toponyms, and archaeological finds recovered through metal detecting.

**Keywords:** Late Middle Ages; metal detecting; settlement network.

## Introductory Thoughts

Human settlement in our region has been continuous for thousands of years. The people and communities who lived here inhabited this land and were an integral part of nature. One could say they were one with it: over time, humans and their environment formed an organic unity. In the most suitable locations, centers emerged that retained their significance even as those in power changed. And even if some areas became depopulated over the millennia, these hubs were often able to reactivate, or conversely, fall into the background and become marginal. A good example of the latter is presented in this current study, which offers a glimpse into the life of a medieval village with a church located in what is now the outskirts of Mezőhegyes, based on surface finds.

## What Shall I Call You!? A (Not-So) Old Site – From a New Perspective

Our site is located in the southwestern part of today's Békés County, approximately 5 kilometers southwest of the Száraz-ér, the dominant watercourse in the region. It lies within the gently undulating terrain<sup>1</sup> typical of the Mezőhegyes area. The site entered archaeological literature through an intriguing approach<sup>2</sup>. While studying pustomaps from the mid-18th century, György Kerekes noticed that some of them occasionally marked church sites that had been destroyed in the storms of history. Although these historical maps are not entirely accurate by modern standards, and administrative boundaries have changed considerably since then, they still serve as useful tools—certain distinctive points on them can be identified and matched with locations on modern maps. As a result, these early church sites can now be pinpointed with relatively high accuracy on today's cartographic representations.

The fortunately localized church was situated at the former tripoint of Kovácsháza, Mezőhegyes, and Kiszecske (Fig. 1. 1)<sup>3</sup>. György Kerekes and Imre Szatmári identified the surface-visible church with the historically documented village of Kiszecske. Their conclusion was understandable given the state of research at the time: the location of the church at Kovácsháza had been well known since the excavations by Alajos Bálint<sup>4</sup>, and the sites of medieval churches in the area of modern Mezőhegyes were also recorded in the scholarly literature. Furthermore, the approximate locations of

<sup>1</sup> In the records of the Gyula Nagy Regional Museum in Orosháza (NGyTM), the site is listed under Mezőhegyes No. 13, ID: 86049.

<sup>2</sup> Szatmári–Kerekes 2014.

<sup>3</sup> <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/hu/MOLTerkeptar/1470/?list=eyJxdWVyeSI6ICJwZXJlZyJ9> (date of download: 10.30.2024.).

<sup>4</sup> Bálint 1939.



Fig. 1. 1. Location of the church (*locus templi*) on a late 18th-century map; 2. Settlement boundaries at the end of the 18th century, with the medieval sites mentioned in the text: 1: Árokos, 2: Kiscfcskés.

these settlements had been preserved in folk memory through place names. During their preliminary archaeological field survey, they discovered not only pottery fragments from the Árpadian period but also pieces datable to the late Middle Ages. This seemed to align with the data from written sources<sup>5</sup>. However, as later became evident, this identification turned out to be incorrect.

In recent years, a large-scale effort has begun across the Körös–Maros Interfluvium to document the locations of medieval settlements and templar villages, as well as to map the boundaries of early modern estates accessible online. When comparing the early modern boundaries with the locations of templar villages that survived into the late Middle Ages, the following—almost inevitable—pattern emerges: within the early modern settlement boundaries, there is consistently only one late medieval

<sup>5</sup> For (Kis)Fecsckés, see Blazovich 1996, 102–103.

focal point, a templar site<sup>6</sup>. It appears that the late medieval boundaries persisted even after the devastation caused by the Fifteen Years' War. Following this logic, the church site found at the meeting point of the early modern settlement boundaries (including that of Kisfecskekés) cannot necessarily be identified with Kisfecskekés itself.

In resolving this question, we were assisted by a group of local volunteers organized around the Orosháza museum. Thanks to their intensive metal-detecting activities, a village and church with Árpáadian antecedents that also survived into the late Middle Ages were uncovered within the territory of the former Kisfecskekés estate—specifically inside its boundaries, not along the border<sup>7</sup>. It is therefore almost certain that this new site should be regarded as Kisfecskekés, and accordingly, a new name must be found for the previously known site (Fig. 1. 2).

Identifying settlements that were destroyed during the Árpáadian Age and did not survive into the late Middle Ages poses significant challenges. The number of former place names preserved in historical sources is considerably smaller than the number of templar sites recorded and continually increasing in the field, making their identification impossible in most cases. The situation is somewhat different for settlements that persisted into the late Middle Ages. On the one hand, their number is much smaller; on the other hand, thanks to written sources from the 16th century, we have almost complete settlement lists available<sup>8</sup>. Based on the field survey data of site No. 13 in Mezőhegyes, it was an Árpád-era settlement that continued to be inhabited throughout the late Middle Ages. This greatly facilitates the identification of the site.

We reviewed the reliable data at our disposal and concluded that this site was most likely the settlement called Árokos mentioned in historical sources. Árokos first appears in records in 1465, under the name *Arokws*, when “King Matthias granted the wasteland belonging to Kaszapereg to the Kállai family. From them, it passed into the possession of the Jaksics family. In 1517, Márk Jaksics resettled seven serfs from Donátorony to this place [and to Nagylak – insertion by the authors]<sup>9</sup>. The name does not appear in later sources.”<sup>10</sup>. Based on the available information, we cannot determine whether the new owners conducted a “greenfield” or “brownfield” development here – that is, whether the invited serfs arrived to a vacant or already inhabited area. However, it is very likely that the settlement at Árokos only lasted for a few decades during the late Middle Ages. A telling fact is that in the summer of 1529, King John, returning to Hungary, made Lippa his headquarters and systematically began to occupy the nearby castles loyal to Ferdinand. The sieges of these castles were supported by Turkish auxiliary troops. One of these auxiliary commanders was Báli Bey, the commander of Belgrade fortress, who also participated in the siege of Világos. The siege ended with a neutrality agreement. As Báli withdrew with his roughly 600-strong force, he devastated the Maros valley, especially plundering the villages owned by the Jaksics family<sup>11</sup>. From the biography of Vitus János Balsaráti—a doctor of philosophy and medicine, and a Reformed teacher and pastor from Sárospatak—we know that the Turks not only looted but also captured part of the population as slaves<sup>12</sup>. It is highly probable that at this time, the inhabitants abandoned the recently settled village and were either taken into captivity or moved to another nearby village owned by the Jaksics family. The settlement likely disappeared quickly. Even the earliest censuses from the 1540s no longer mention its name, not even as a wasteland. Its name does not reappear later either, neither in the Ottoman tax registers (*defters*) nor among the names of wastelands after the Turks were expelled.

<sup>6</sup> Rózsa 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Dated April 21, 2016; Zoltán Rózsa's report is filed in the Archaeological Archive of the NGyTM under reference number 736/2016. Site Mezőhegyes 12, central identification number: 90589.

<sup>8</sup> Káldy-Nagy 1982; Káldy-Nagy 2000.

<sup>9</sup> *Iobbagiones dictarum monialium in possessione earundem Donath praefata commorantes qui ... praeter omnem viam iuris causa morandi ad Naglak et Arokos possessiones dicti Marci Jaxit de praefata possessione Donat transtulissent* (DL–DF 22884). „The tenants of the aforementioned nuns, dwelling in the possession of the same Donath as mentioned above, who ... beyond all legal means of delay had transferred from the aforementioned possession of Donat to the possessions at Naglak and Arokos of the said Marcus Jaxit. (DL–DF 22884).”

<sup>10</sup> Blazovich 1996, 43–44.

<sup>11</sup> Borovszky 1896, 168–169.

<sup>12</sup> Magyar-Kossa 1940, 236.

Árokos therefore existed in the first half of the 16th century and was most likely inhabited only during the period between 1517 and 1529. To support our hypothesis, we incorporated the findings from our field observations.

**Ceramics**

During a total of three days of field survey in the autumn of 2018 and the spring of 2019, we systematically traversed the site in strips and recorded the coordinates of every pottery shard found

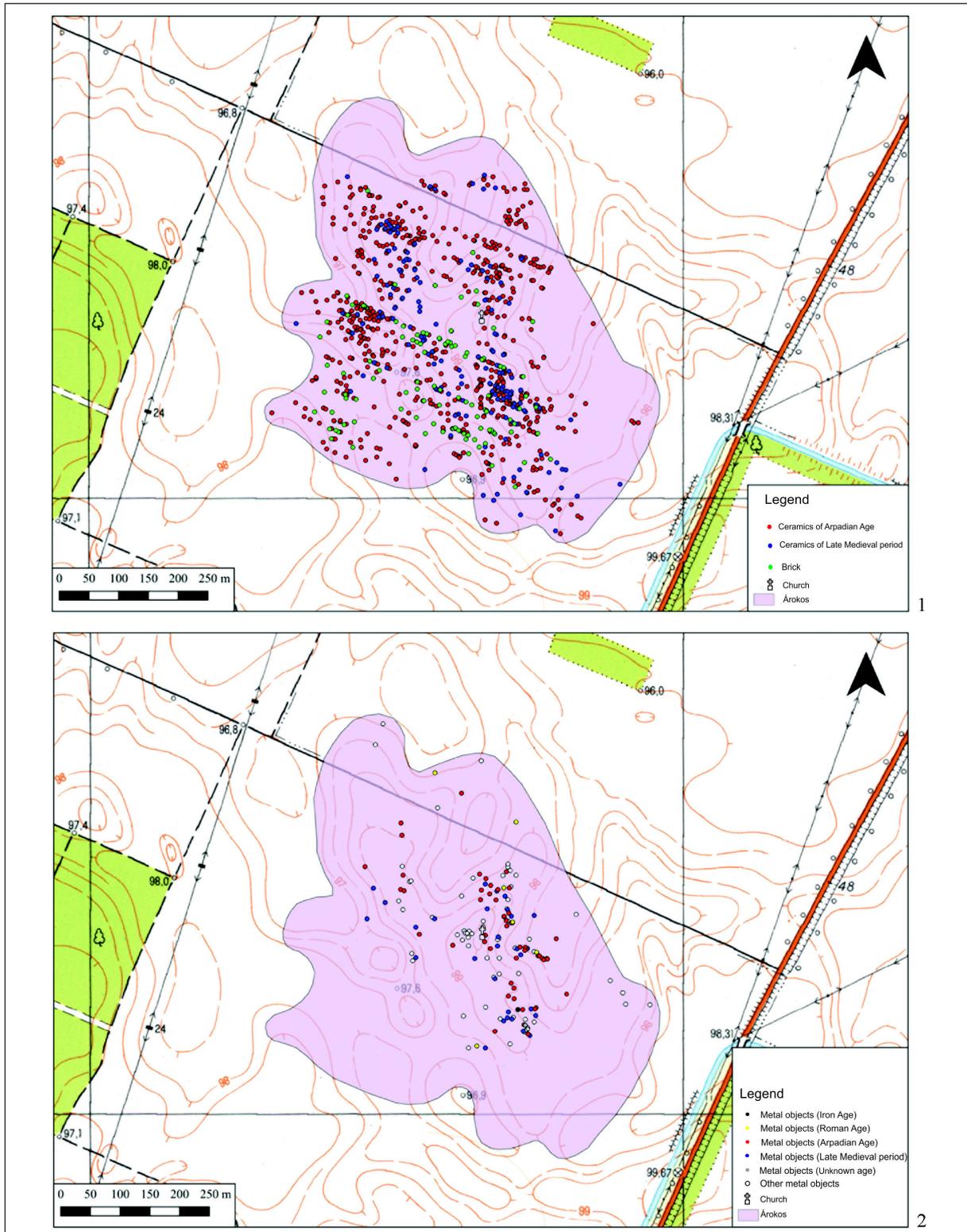


Fig. 2. Árokos. Location of the surveyed area.

on the surface. Around the church, we found an exceptionally large number of straw-tempered brick fragments, but brick pieces were also recorded in areas farther away from the church, even several hundred meters distant. Based on the mapped distribution of the finds, the following pattern emerges (Fig. 2, 1). Árpádian Age pottery fragments are found in large quantities across the entire site, especially



Fig. 3. 1. Concreted coins; 2. Brick fragment; 3. Medieval clasp; 4. Drone photograph of the modern settlement boundary ditches and the church site visible also on the map (photo by Krisztián Melega).

along the two NW–SE oriented ridges dominating the area, although smaller numbers occur in the depression between these ridges as well. The number of Late Medieval fragments is significantly lower, and these were almost exclusively recovered from the ridge areas<sup>13</sup>.

The Árpád Era pottery fragments (Fig. 4) fit into the 11th–12th centuries horizon of the region, consistent with the coin assemblage described below. The surface-collected material consists of

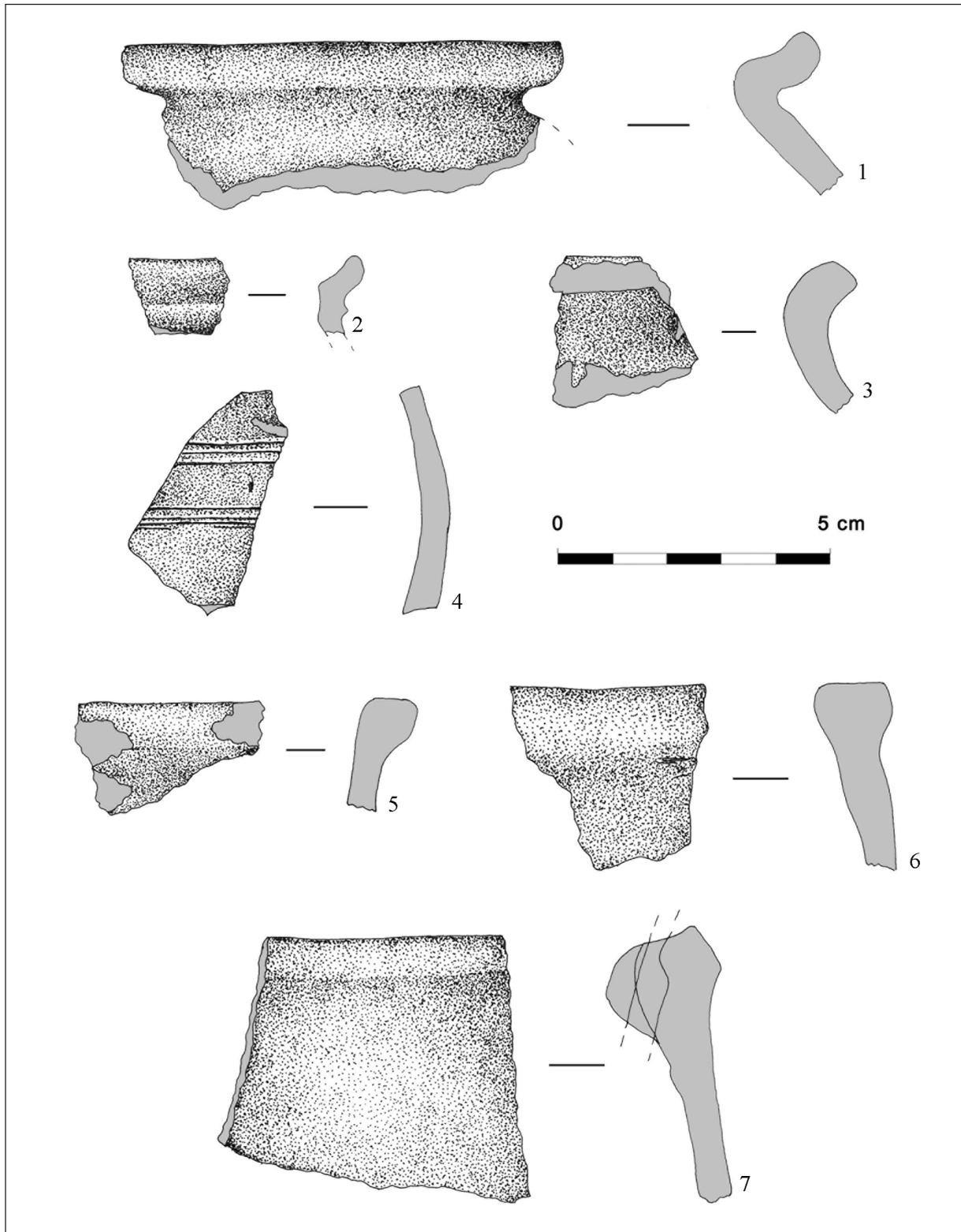


Fig. 4. Selection of Árpádian Age pottery from the site.

<sup>13</sup> The climate during the Árpádian Age may have been drier than in the Late Middle Ages, which climate researchers refer to

fragments of pots and cauldrons, whose fabric and forming techniques (hand-thrown on a slow wheel, and for the pots additionally re-thrown on the wheel) are quite uniform. Their colors range from brown to orange, and through heat exposure during use, they have turned gray or black-spotted. One of the pots, with its vivid orange color, fits well into the 12th-century ceramic assemblages of the Great Hungarian Plain, as observed during the processing of the Pereg site mentioned above<sup>14</sup>. However, one body shard shows a linear bundle decoration typical of the 11th century, which disappears from pottery-making by the 12th century (Fig. 4, 4). The cauldrons display a consistent rim form, shaped either inward or outward in a P-shape. In the outward-rimmed pieces, the inner surface is wheel-thrown vertically straight, and these cauldrons have very thin walls. All cauldrons are hand-thrown, but unlike the pots, no traces of re-throwing are visible. One cauldron features a T-shaped rim, which is not typical of the ceramics from the Great Plain. This shard also differs in fabric from the others, showing a finer, smoothed surface on a small section of the rim edge. None of the cauldrons bear traces of painting.

The Late Medieval ceramic assemblage (Fig. 5) represents only a fraction of the Árpáadian Age quantity and can be considered very sparse, which may be explained by the short lifespan of the Late Medieval settlement. These fragments alone do not provide firm dating evidence; however, if our assumption is correct—that the short-lived Late Medieval settlement of Árokos was located here—then these pieces could serve as a basis for developing a more refined chronology<sup>15</sup>. The collected material consists of wheel-thrown fragments, generally very small in size. This fragmentation may be due to the proximity of surface features, as well as the different fabric structure and significantly thinner walls compared to the Árpád Era pottery. The rims show a consistent form, their color mostly yellowish-white, with similar fabric composition. We highlight a single jug body shard, which is completely distinct from the others in both fabric and form. The assemblage also includes white ceramics with red painting.

A large quantity of straw-tempered brick fragments was found on the surface (Fig. 3, 2). As mentioned, these were recovered not only around the church mound but also from locations farther away. Their distribution does not exactly correspond to that of either the Árpáadian Age or the Late Medieval pottery fragments, although it more closely matches the scatter of the Late Medieval ceramics. The brick fragments were most likely secondary reuse of Árpáadian Age bricks, probably quarried from the crumbling church during the later centuries of the Middle Ages.

### **Metal finds**

In addition to the ceramic finds, a much more informative assemblage of metal artifacts is available, as metal detecting activities have been ongoing at the site for several years (Fig. 2, 2)<sup>16</sup>. Alongside Iron Age and Roman metal finds, the majority of the objects date to the centuries of the Hungarian Middle Ages. A relatively large number of Árpáadian Age coins were identified here: 19 denars of Béla II (15 pieces stuck together, CNH-I.81; 1 piece CNH-I.74; 1 piece CNH-I.83; 1 piece CNH-I.69), 4 denars of Géza II (4 pieces stuck together, CNH-I.149), and 35 coins of Béla III (2 pieces CNH-I.167; 24 pieces CNH-I.98; 12 pieces CNH-I.101). Contemporary foreign currency was also found at the site, including two aspron of Manuel I (Sear 1962) and a counterfeit Friesach denar (CNA I. Ca9). Based on this evidence, it can be inferred that the Árpád Era population living here abandoned their settlement by the late 12th or early 13th century. It is possible that the Mongol invasion brought an end to the village's Árpáadian Age occupation, but it cannot be ruled out that the process of abandonment began several decades before this tragic event. Of particular interest are the 15 denars attributed to Béla II found stuck together (Fig. 3, 1). The reason why they were buried is unknown; however, it is

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as the Little Ice Age. This may explain the occurrence of Árpáadian Age pottery fragments in lower-lying areas.

<sup>14</sup> Lichtenstein *et al.* 2020, 303; Lichtenstein *et al.* 2021, 229.

<sup>15</sup> It should be noted that some of the finds may date to a later period. However, the majority of the collected material can be dated to the time when the village was inhabited – possibly between 1517 and 1529. A future excavation of the site would be highly recommended in order to clarify this issue.

<sup>16</sup> The documentation of the finds recovered from the site between 2015 and 2019 – thanks to the work of András Bene, György Kerekes, Róbert Kvak, and Gábor Tóth – can be found in the Archaeological Archive of the Gyula Nagy Regional Museum under the reference numbers 705/2015, 737/2016, 755/2016, 787/2016, 813/2017, 832/2017, and 970/2019. This paper does not address the material recovered after December 2019.

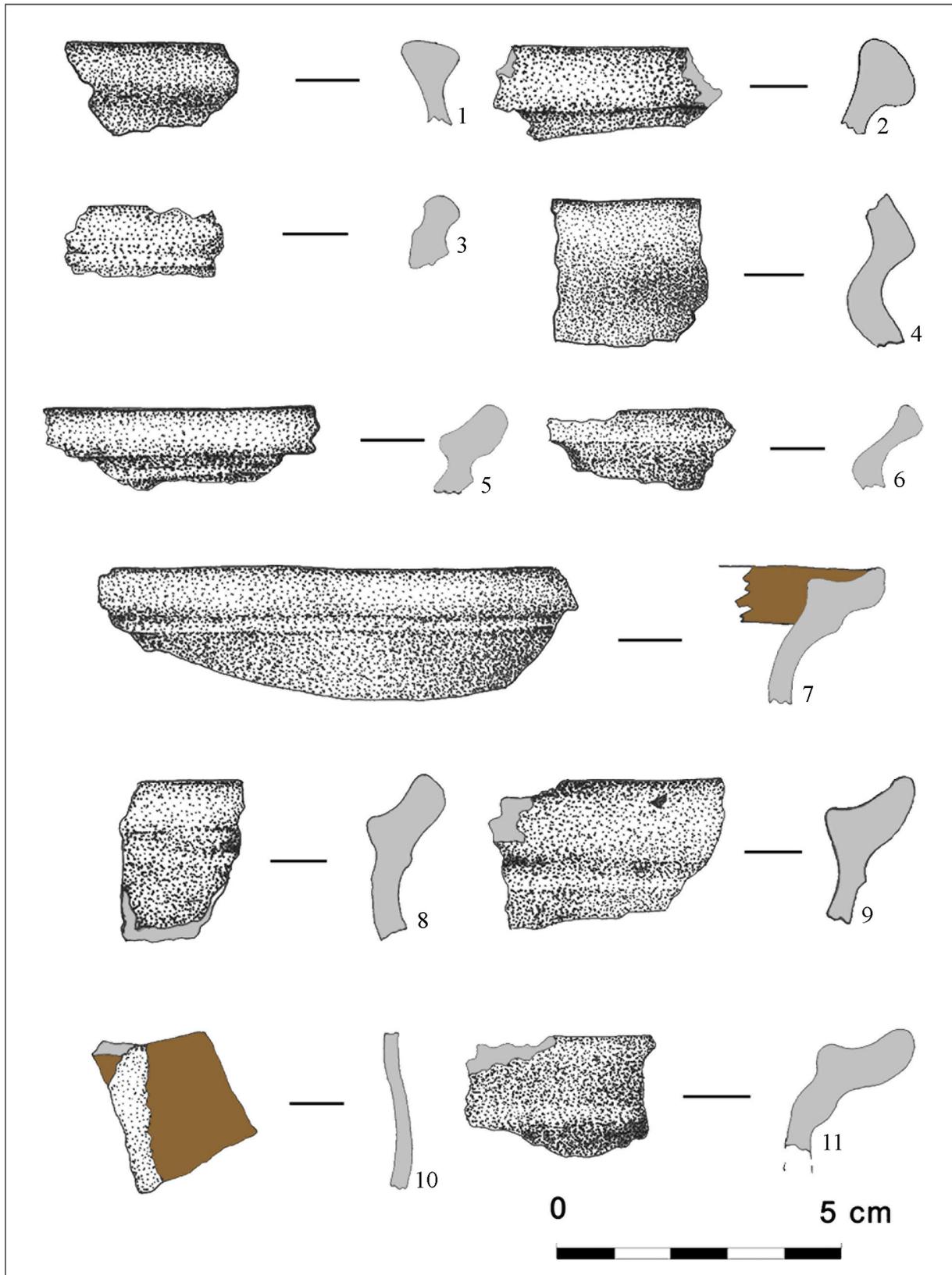


Fig. 5. Selection of Late Medieval pottery from the site.

suspected that the coins were likely not buried very deep and were subsequently ploughed up during later centuries.<sup>17</sup> The small coin clusters that surfaced over the years presumably became fused due to stubble burning, according to our hypothesis.

<sup>17</sup> The reign of King Béla II marks a turning point in our region for several reasons. By the mid-12th century, the so-called row

Among the medieval coins is a denar struck in the name of Sigismund of Luxembourg (CNH-II.124A), which is pierced—most likely worn as a pendant around the neck, explaining its presence at the settlement—and a denar of Matthias Corvinus (CNH-II.232). Due to its high silver content, the latter may have remained in circulation during later periods, as similar coins appear in coin hoards buried during the Fifteen Years' War<sup>18</sup>. An uncertain counterfeit coin tentatively identified as a denar of Vladislaus II was also found. The majority of the coins, five pieces in total, date from the reign of Louis II (1516–1526), corresponding to the period when, based on indirect data from written sources, Árokos village likely existed. Only one later coin was found—a counterfeit groschen, a forgery of the 1581 Riga mint issue of Stephen Báthory, King of Poland. Although found somewhat distant from the main concentration, its scattered nature may explain its random occurrence<sup>19</sup>.

Among other Late Medieval metal finds recovered through metal detecting, none—according to current knowledge—can be dated exclusively to the second half of the 16th century or later. All were in use during the settlement's presumed period. These objects are catalogued accordingly.

### Closing Remarks

In our region, church construction began slowly in the 11th century and accelerated from the 12th century onward. In some areas, the distance between churches was less than 2 kilometers, resulting in a very dense settlement network. In the 13th century, due to the shift toward large-scale livestock farming and the devastation caused by the Mongol invasion, the number of templar villages significantly decreased. Concurrently, by the late Middle Ages, the outer boundaries of villages expanded, and at the same time, the size and capacity of their churches increased. We have recorded a relatively large number of Árpáadian Age church sites that, having lost their central role, ended up on the boundaries of newly formed larger villages, serving as landmarks and border points.

The traces of these large-boundary medieval villages were preserved in the 18th-century wasteland maps. This process is clearly visible on maps depicting the inner areas of the Körös-Maros Interfluve. The situation is somewhat different for the late medieval to early modern market towns that developed along the river valleys; by this time, they had successively absorbed earlier estates and incorporated them into their boundaries<sup>20</sup>. A similar situation arose with the Mezőhegyes stud farm estate established in the 18th century, which was created by merging the territories of four late medieval settlements. This is how the church of Árokos, which survived into the late Middle Ages, came to lie at the boundary point of three wastelands and later two settlements (Fig. 3, 4)<sup>21</sup>.

Our site was previously identified as Kisfecskekés. By comparing the results of recent field surveys and metal-detecting finds with the characteristics of the settlement system in the Körös-Maros Interfluve, we have credibly demonstrated that the settlement located at the former tripoint of Kisfecskekés, Kovácsháza, and Mezőhegyes was the medieval village of Árokos. Based primarily on the metal artifacts, especially the coins found here, it can be clearly stated that the settlement – previously a wasteland belonging to Pereg – was likely reestablished in the early 16th century, but the traces of life ceased again before the 16th-century census records.

As a final note, it is worth taking a look at the 1799 map<sup>22</sup> that preserved the location of Árokos's church under the name *Locus Templi*. West of the church ruins marking the tripoint, the map – unlike

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cemeteries had virtually disappeared, and the dead were buried exclusively in churchyard cemeteries (Kovács 2013, p. 227). This transition may be reflected in the metal-detector finds from a site near the settlement under study (Mezőhegyes 57), where an early coin of King Géza II may represent the latest datable artifact. I. László (CNH-I.33: 1 db); Kálmán (CNH-I.43: 1 db, CNH-I.45: 4 db, CNH-I.42: 1 db, CNH-I.40: 3 db, CNH-I.49: 3 db); II. István (CNH-I.71: 4 db, CNH-I.76: 1 db, CNH-I.65: 1 db); II. Béla (CNH-I.59: 2 db, CNH-I.74: 1 db, CNH-I.83: 2 db, CNH-I.69: 2 db, CNH-I.87: 1 db, CNH-I.88: 12 db, CNH-I.90: 4 db); II. Géza (CNH-I.63: 1 db). Summa: 43 pieces (10.31.2024.).

<sup>18</sup> Two such pieces were also found in the Tápé–Malajdok hoard (Kőhegyi–Nagy 1978, p. 136).

<sup>19</sup> All objects recovered through metal detecting are stray finds. In the present case, the majority of the finds may originate from the period during which the settlement was inhabited, although the presence of items dating from after the abandonment of the settlement(s) must also be taken into account.

<sup>20</sup> Stibrányi 2017.

<sup>21</sup> The image clearly shows the former boundary ditch (*gránic*) of Mezőhegyes, as well as the fact that the site of the church located at the triple border point was also surrounded by a ditch when the boundary was marked. Thus, the church 'mound' remained a significant landmark even after the Turkish expulsion during the demarcation of the plains. The drone footage was taken by Krisztián Melega.

<sup>22</sup> <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/hu/MOLTerkeptar/1470/?list=eyJxdWVyeSI6ICJwZXJlZyJ9> (date of download: 10.30.2024.).

the usual wasteland maps – indicates an important longitudinal depression labeled *vallis*, meaning ditch<sup>23</sup>.

### Catalogue of Metal Finds<sup>24</sup>

Below we present the most significant archaeological metal objects from the site that have entered the museum's collection. Among them are several fragmentary items, for which neither function nor form can be determined with certainty; these are not included in our publication. Likewise, several objects could not be dated or assigned to a specific period; these are also omitted from the catalogue<sup>25</sup>.

#### Scythian / Celtic period

Fragment of a ribbed bronze bracelet with a circular cross-section. D: 0.8 cm (Fig. 6, 1). Found by György Kerekes on 20 May 2018.

#### Roman period<sup>26</sup>

Fragment of a cast bronze mirror, with a flat, worn rib along the edge; the surface is porous. D: 9 cm (Fig. 6, 2). Date: 2nd–4th century. Found by György Kerekes on 21 May 2019.

Cast bronze, one-piece spring T-fibula. The bow has a rectangular cross-section and a curved back, with a sharp central rib running along its length. It tapers at the head end in both directions and is decorated with notched ornamentation at the foot end. Fragmentary. Dimensions: W: 0.5 cm (Fig. 6, 3). Date: 3rd–4th centuries AD. Provenance: Found by György Kerekes on 08 May 2019.

Fragment of a cast bronze, two-piece fibula with top chord. The end of the spring housing terminates in a segmented knob. The bow was originally semicircular in shape, with a rectangular cross-section and ribbon-like form. Bow W: 0.4 cm (Fig. 6, 4). Date: 3rd–4th century AD. Provenance: Found by Gábor Tóth on 03 March 2019.

Fragment of a cast bronze tutulus fibula with originally hinged clasp mechanism and enamel inlay. The D-shaped body features a stepped structure. The uppermost, flanged segment likely held an enamel inlay. On the reverse, two small lugs—remnants of the pin's axis—are partially preserved. The back is recessed in a hemispherical shape. Dimensions: D: 2.4 cm, H: 0.6 cm (Fig. 6, 5). Date: Possibly 2nd century AD. Provenance: Found by Róbert Kvak on 21 August 2015.

Cast bronze, two-piece knee fibula with top chord. The head plate is narrow, rectangular in shape, with a trapezoidal cross-section. The bow curves into an S-shape in profile, flat in form, widening toward the head and rising and broadening toward the foot. The catch plate is longitudinal, tall, and narrow; the pin rest is formed by a simple return bend. Only half of the spring mechanism is preserved, and the iron axis pin is corroded. Dimensions: H: 3.2 cm; Head: 2 × 0.6 cm; Bow H: 1.5 cm (Fig. 6, 6). Date: Second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd centuries AD. Provenance: Found by György Kerekes on 26 March 2019.

Cast bronze, two-piece knee fibula with top chord. The rectangular head plate bears incised decoration, though it is worn. In side view, the bow is straight beyond the curve, flat with a rectangular cross-section, and widens into a circular form above the catch plate. The catch plate is longitudinal and rectangular; the pin rest is formed by a simple return bend. The spring mechanism is well preserved, but the pin is missing. Dimensions: H: 3.6 cm; Head: 2.3 × 0.9 cm; Bow height: 1.5 cm (Fig. 6, 7). Date: Second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd centuries AD. Provenance: Found by György Kerekes on 29 March 2019.

<sup>23</sup> Blazovich 1996, 43.

<sup>24</sup> The drawings were prepared by Dorottya Kékegyi, and the manuscript was reviewed by László Schilling. We express our gratitude for their contributions. The translation of this paper was prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence, and was proofread by native speaker József Labancz. We thank him for his help. The following abbreviations were used: D: Diameter; H: Height; L: Length; Th: Thickness; W: Width.

<sup>25</sup> A good example is the case of wrought iron nails. For the aims of this paper, these timeless artifacts do not bring us closer to a precise dating. Dating stray finds – especially on multi-period sites – can be much more challenging than dating finds from closed contexts; therefore, we requested and received assistance from colleagues in the identification process. We express our sincere thanks to: Sára Fábrián, Attila Gyucha, Viktória Horváth, Péter Kovács, Mónika Merczi, Maxim Mordovin, Balázs Polgár, Borbála Schliszka, Kornél Sós-kúti, Nóra Ujhelyi, Andrea Vaday, and Zsolt Visy.

<sup>26</sup> Sarmatian pottery fragments can also be collected at the site.

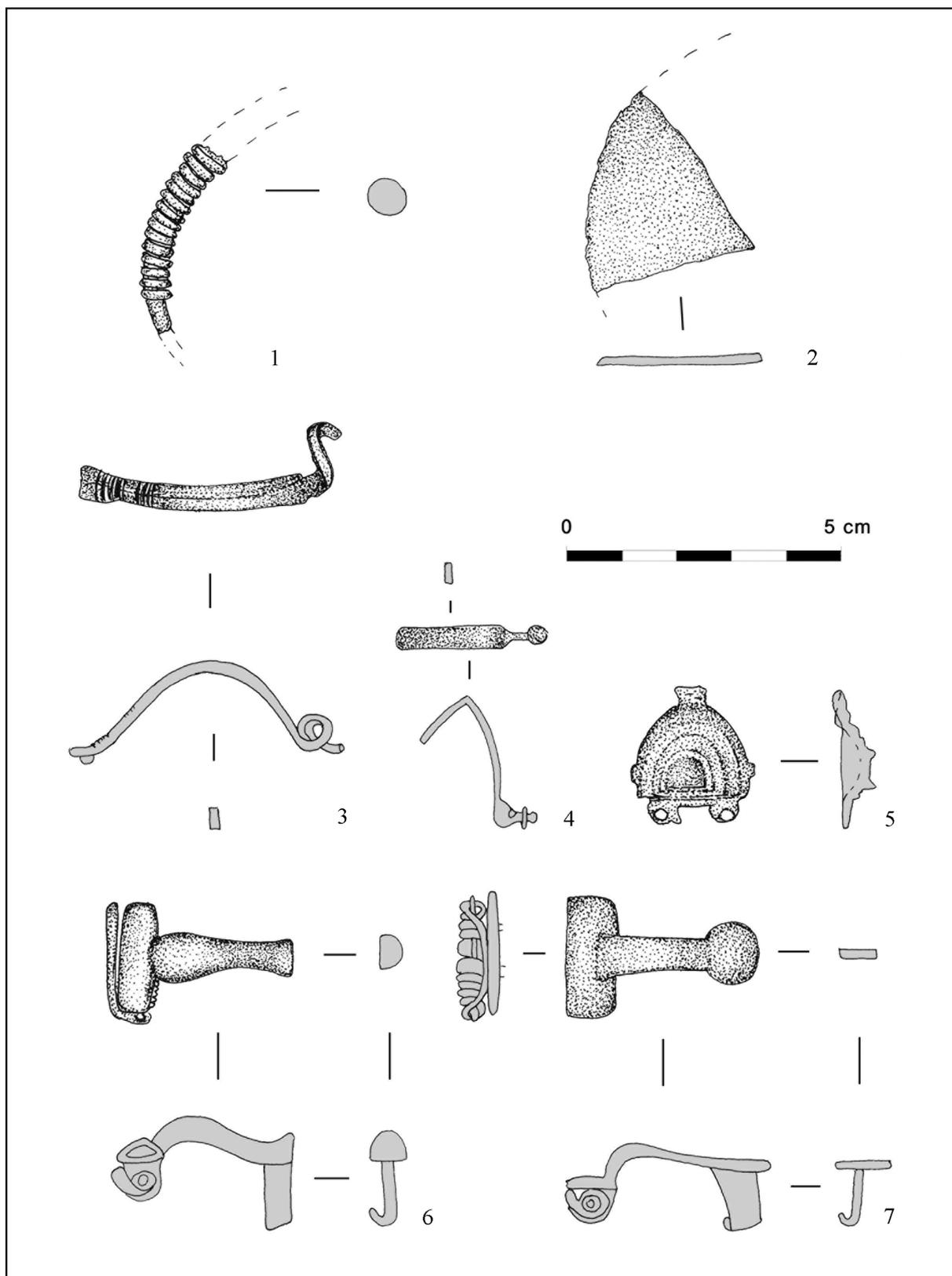


Fig. 6. Iron Age and Migration Period metal finds.

### Árpáadian Age

Fragment of a cast bronze buckle. At the junction of the buckle loop and the plate-like body, the latter protrudes and features a convex surface with geometric decorations. Th: 0,2 cm (Fig. 7, 2). Date: 12th–13th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 11 October 2017.

Body of a round brooch cast in bronze. Decorated with a twisted turban-like motif; one section is flattened into a rectangular shape with a hole. Opposite the hole, the circular body bulges slightly, which once held the now-missing pin. H: 2,4 cm, w: 2,1 cm (Fig. 7, 3). Date: 12th–13th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 21 May 2019.

Closed bronze ring made from a cast band. Wide and convex. D.: 1,8 cm, band w.: 0,6 cm (Fig. 7, 4). Date: 11th–12th centuries (?) Found by György Kerekes on 19 September 2018.

Fragment of an iron spur with spike, forged, with straight arms. The arms were originally likely joined in a semicircular shape and aligned parallel, but they are now deformed and incomplete. The arms are thin, of uniform width, with an oval cross-section. The neck is short, straight, and circular in cross-section; the spike forms a four-sided pyramid. Neck H: 2 cm, spike H: 1.6 cm (Fig. 7, 5). Date: 10th–11th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 28 March 2017.

Pressed and gilded mount made of bronze sheet. Shaped like a flattened cone, with slightly inward-curving sides. A round-sectioned rivet is attached to the tip. The sides are decorated with parallel incised lines crossing the midpoints; additional lines connect these midpoints. Base W: 2.1 cm, H: 1.3 cm (Fig. 7, 6). Date: 12th–13th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 28 March 2019.

Pyramidal mount pressed from bronze sheet, with a round-section rivet. Base W: 0.8 cm, H: 0.8 cm (Fig. 7, 7). Date: Árpáadian Age (?) Found by György Kerekes on 29 March 2019.

Pyramidal mount pressed from bronze sheet, with a round-section rivet. Base W: 0.8 cm, H: 1 cm (Fig. 7, 8)<sup>27</sup>. Date: Árpáadian Age (?) Found by Gábor Tóth on 25 March 2017.

Bronze arm of a possible balance scale (?). Cast, round in cross-section and tapering toward the ends. Both ends are flattened and perforated. In the thickest, slightly angular central part is a rectangular cross-sectioned bronze pin remnant in a drilled hole. The object is crushed and bent. Th.: 0.5 cm (Fig. 7, 9). Date: Árpáadian Age (?) Found by György Kerekes on 29 March 2019.

### Late medieval era

Cast bronze signet ring. Its round bezel is flaring and stepped. Within an irregularly engraved border, a fleur-de-lis and a cross are visible. The hoop is convex with a slight ridge. D: 1.8 cm, bezel d.: 1 cm, hoop W: 0.5 cm (Fig. 8, 1). Date: 14th–16th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 11 Oct 2017.

Cast bronze signet ring. The bezel is oval, decorated with a fleur-de-lis within a beaded punched frame. The stepped shoulders are adorned with engraved notches, and below them, on both sides, an X-shape made of parallel engraved lines. D: 2.2 cm, bezel: 1.4×1.1 cm, hoop W: 0.5 cm (Fig. 8, 2). Date: 14th–16th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 28 June 2018.

Cast bronze clasp, possibly for a book strap or book cover. The upper end features small extended lugs with transverse perforations. The body is elongated shield-shaped with a flat rectangular cross-section. The end slightly widens and terminates in a point. Its surface is decorated with incised dot-in-circle motifs, crossed by a straight engraved line, with two horizontal S-shaped incisions near the widened end. L: 4.6 cm, W: 0.6 cm (Fig. 8, 3). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 28 Mar 2019.

Fragment of a gilded bronze object. A rivet at the rectangularly flared end fits into a hole on the folded sheet body. W: 0.7 cm (Fig. 8, 4). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 25 Mar 2017.

Cast and silvered bronze mantle clasp (male part). The clasp body resembles a bush with pierced openings between the branches. The shank is bent back. L: 2.2 cm, W: 2.6 cm (Fig. 3, 3; 8, 5). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 28 Feb 2019.

Cast bronze mantle clasp (male part). The clasp body is ovoid, shaped like a serrated-edged leaf. The design is schematic and decorated with small pierced holes. The shank is bent back. L: 2.1 cm, W: 1.9 cm (Fig. 8, 6). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 9 July 2016.

Cast lead weight. Round and convex, with a circular hole in the centre. D: 1.4 cm, Th: 0.3 cm (Fig. 8, 7). Date: 15th–16th century (?). Found by György Kerekes on 29 Mar 2019.

Cast round lead weight with a central hole, edge is damaged. D: 1.9 cm, Th: 0.3 cm (Fig. 8, 8). Date: 15th–16th centuries (?). Found by György Kerekes on 29 Mar 2019.

Oval knife scale made of bronze sheet, with a rectangular hole in the centre. L: 1.3 cm, W: 1 cm (Fig. 8, 9). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 25 Mar 2017.

<sup>27</sup> The end of the rivet is bent at a right angle and hammered flat. The fitting decorated an object 0.5 cm thick.

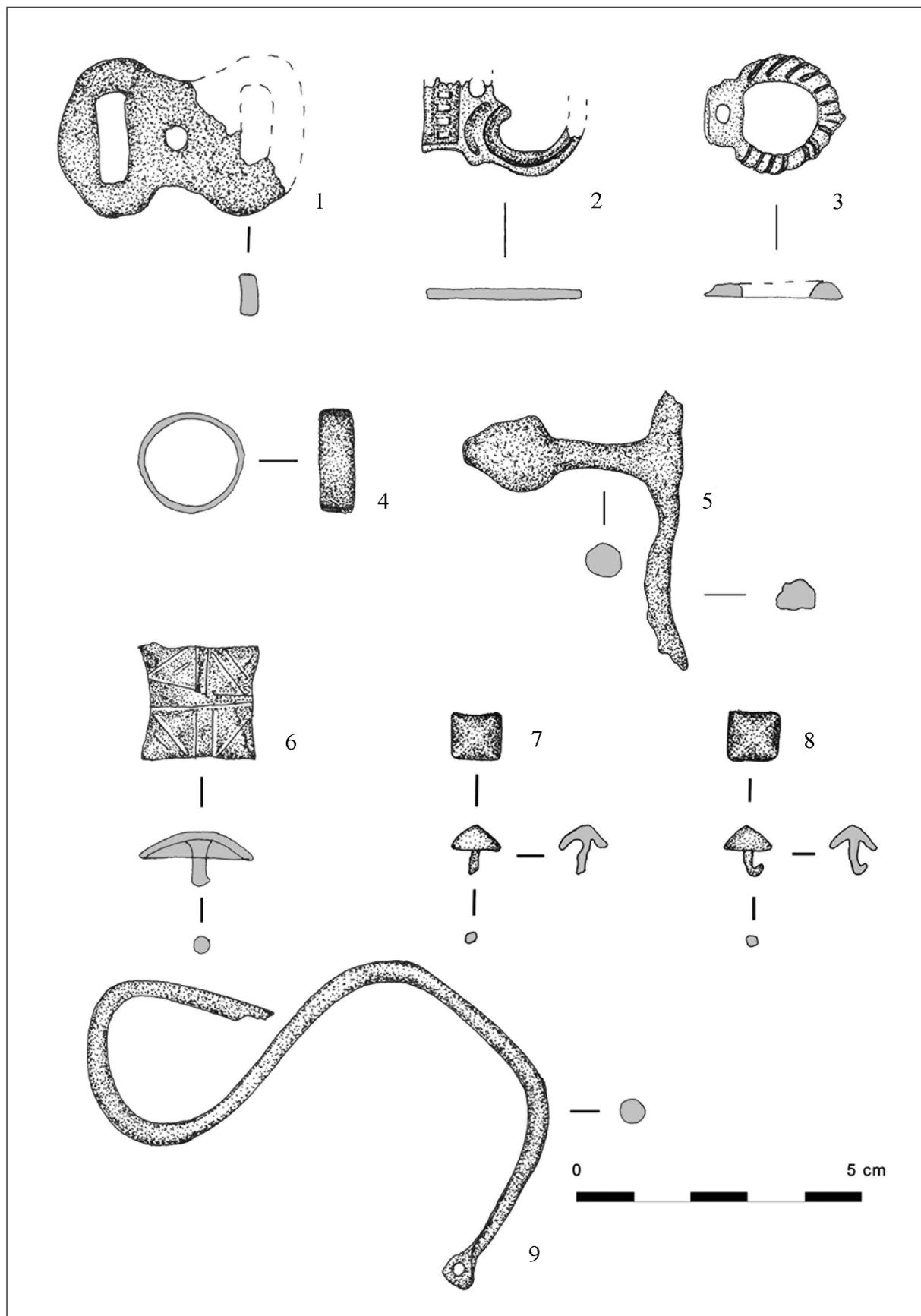


Fig. 7. Metal finds of unknown date and from the Árpáadian Age.

Oval knife scale made of bronze sheet, with a rectangular hole, not positioned along the central axis. 1.5×1.3 cm (Fig. 8, 10). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 29 Mar 2019.

Pressed, slightly convex knife scale made of bronze sheet. Oval, one end pointed, with a rectangular hole along its axis. L: 1.3 cm, W: 1.1 cm (Fig. 8, 11). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 9 July 2016.

Pressed “tulip-shaped” knife mount made of bronze sheet, with a rounded depression in the centre and a rivet hole on each side. Fragmentary. W: 1.2 cm (Fig. 8, 12). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 18 Feb 2017.

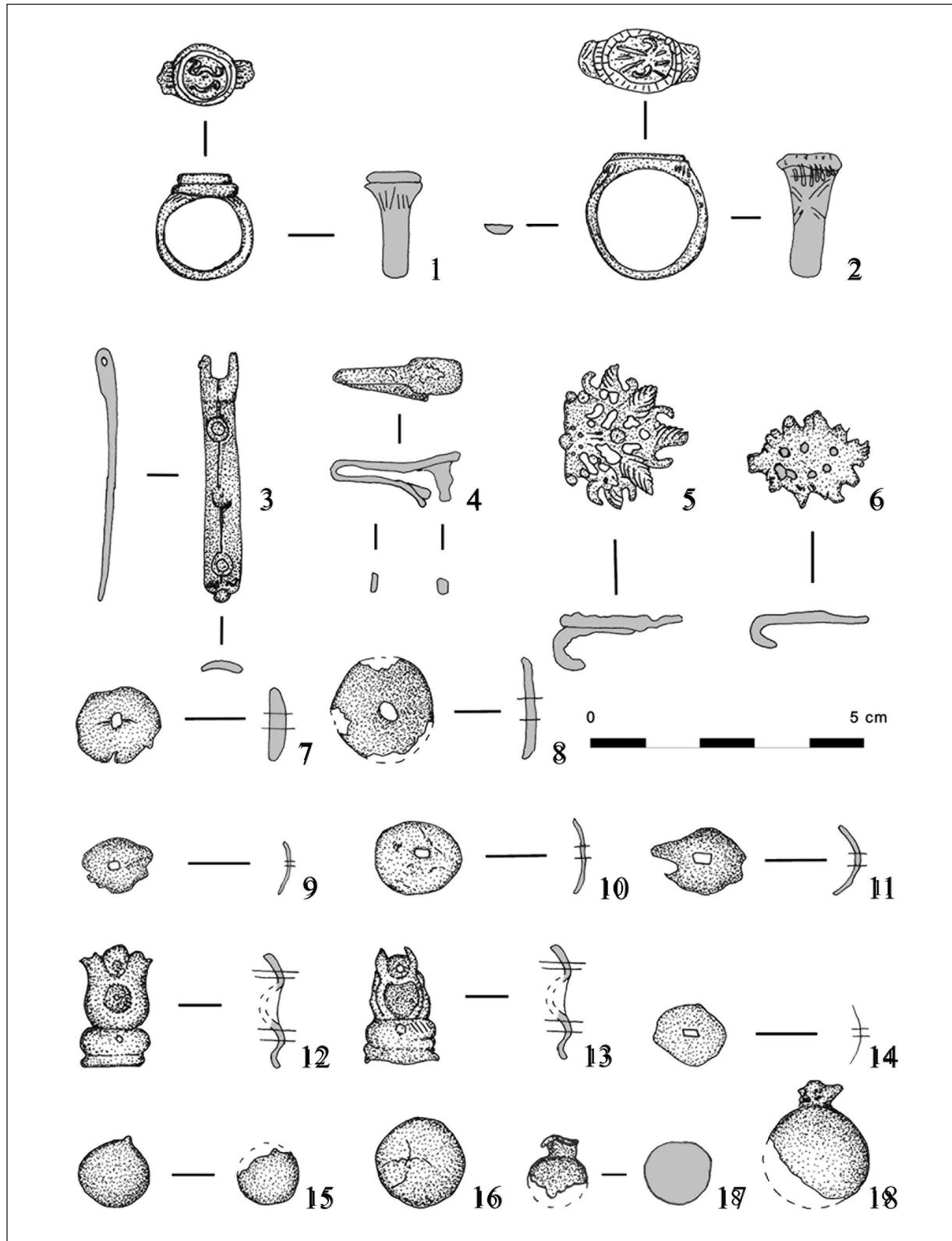


Fig. 8. Late Medieval metal finds.

Pressed “tulip-shaped” knife mount made of bronze sheet, with a rounded depression in the centre and a rivet hole on each side. L: 2.3 cm, W: 1.2 cm (Fig. 8, 13). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 21 May 2019.

Pressed convex knife scale made of bronze sheet, with a rectangular hole along its broken axis. Fragmentary. L: 1.8 cm, W: 1.3 cm (Fig. 8, 14). Date: 15th–16th centuries. Found by Gábor Tóth on 25 Mar 2017.

Cast lead spherical bullet for a handheld firearm, intact (dropped), with a seam at the junction of the mould halves. D: 1.3 cm (Fig. 8, 15). Date: 16th–17th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 21 May 2019.

Cast lead spherical bullet for a handheld firearm, intact (dropped). The casting sprue has been removed. D: 1.6 cm (Fig. 8, 16). Date: 16th–17th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 11 Oct 2017.

Cast lead deformed bullet for a handheld firearm, with casting sprue. L: 1 cm, W: 1.3 cm (Fig. 8, 17). Date: 16th–17th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 26 Mar 2019.

Cast lead deformed bullet for a handheld firearm, the casting sprue intact. L: 2 cm, D: 1.8 cm (Fig. 8, 18). Date: 16th–17th centuries. Found by György Kerekes on 28 Mar 2017.

### Unknown period

Double buckle cast in lead, with an oval loop and a circular hole in the long connecting part between the two elements. One half is missing. W: 2.8 cm (Fig. 7, 1). Found by György Kerekes on 20 May 2018.

#### György Kerekes

Mezőhegyes, HU  
kerekesgy74@gmail.com

#### Zoltán Rózsa

Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre  
Budapest, HU  
rozo30@hotmail.com

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