

SETTLEMENT LAYOUTS, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURE OF THE OTOMANI-FÜZESABONY
CULTURAL COMPLEX

Klára P. Fischl

University of Miskolc, Department of Archaeology
fklari@gmail.com

Kivonat 2018. június 7–9 között került sor Miskolcon a *Settlement layouts, systems and structure of the Otomani-Füzesabony Cultural Complex (a továbbiakban OFCC) című nemzetközi konferencia megrendezésére. A konferencián az OFCC területét érintő öt ország kutatói mutatták be településkutatásaikat. A jelen kötet a konferencián elhangzott előadások egy részét tartalmazza. A bevezető tanulmány a konferencia és a kötet célját és felépítését járja körül.*

Kulcsszavak *OFCC, miskolci konferencia, településkutatás*

Keywords *Otomani-Füzesabony Cultural Complex, Conference at Miskolc, Settlement-researches*

Introduction

The international conference, Settlement layouts, system and structure of the Otomani-Füzesabony Cultural Complex (further OFCC) took place in Miskolc between the 7th and 9th of June 2018. This occasion was also a formal closing event for the research grant of The National Scholarship Programme of Slovak Republic with the title: *Bronze Age Settlement System of the Otomani-Füzesabony Ceramic Style across borders. A comparative study of Bronze Age societies in the Hernád Valley and beyond.* The Host institution of the grant was the Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Parallel to the conference the latest results from the years 2012–2018 of the BORBAS project (Borsod Plain Bronze Age Settlements) were also published: T. L. Kienlin, K. P. Fischl, T. Pusztai: *Borsod Region Bronze Age Settlement (BORBAS) Catalogue of the Early to Middle Bronze Age Tell Sites Covered by Magnetometry and Surface Survey.* Universitätsforschungen zur prähistorischen Archäologie 317, Bonn 2018. In the light of the newest researches, which put our knowledge about the OFCC settlements into a new context, organisation of an international conference was reasonable.

In addition many other aims and reasons motivated the organisation of the conference. OFCC research has always been the red-headed stepchild in the history of archaeology. This large cultural block stretches from Lesser Poland to the rivers Hernád and Tisza, and even to the river

Maros via the Tisza's right bank creeks, in the Eastern half of the Carpathian Basin namely across the territories of five present day nations.

Research history

The first summaries of ceramics with spiral knobs and helicoidal ribs (also known as turbanrand) decorations were named Otomani- (Romania, Nestor 1933), Hornopotiska- (Slovakia, Eisner 1933) and Füzesabony-Culture (Hungary, Tompa 1937) respectively. While Hungarian and Romanian research still clings to their own naming conventions to this day, Slovaks eventually adopted the use of the Otomani term (for further research history see Bader 1998, Thomas 2008). Even though the Hornopotiska Culture, which refers to the culture of the upper regions around the river Tisza, did not cover the entire range of the area, it still could have resolved the argument that has been dragged on for nearly half a century with its geographically focused approach; alas, it quickly went out of use. In addition to the insistence on national nomenclature, the fact that the first monography-like descriptions were made using Childe's definition of culture (Childe 1929) also makes the debate difficult to this day, since they categorized these prehistoric cultures based on the shapes and decorative motifs of their ceramics (Popescu 1944; Bóna 1975; Furmánek et al. 1999). The dubiousness of assessing these two "cultures" is reflected by the word choice in Bóna's monography, which was written in 1958 but only published in 1975, where he discusses

under the name “Culture of pots with spiral knobbed decorations” of the Füzesabony and so-called Gyulavarsánd—which is Otomani in reality—cultures together (Bóna 1975: 120–170). Resolving this issue is made more difficult by the lack of knowledge about burials from Otomani territories (Thomas 2008); according to Childe’s understanding of culture the characteristics of those provide the second most important frame of reference after typology.

Even though Hungarian material is closer to the sites excavated in Slovakia, both in terms of typology and burial traditions, due to the usage of the Otomani nomenclature the Slovaks reinforced the relation with the Romanian material more.

If we examine the subsystems of culture within the OFCC with methods of the processual archaeology, our results are not overlapping polygons. While following a ceramic-typological distinction we can separate two major groups, as suggested by Bóna, the so called Füzesabony és Gyulavarsánd units, on the contrary based on the burying habits we can distinguish between a north-western group marked by their more unified bipolar, gender specific rituals and a lesser known southern society, perhaps with funerary urns. In comparison with the southern tells in the northern region we only know settlements which were surrounded by massive ditch-rampart constructions.

Aim of the conference

However, by the investigation of the settlements fundamental patterns which tie these areas together were observed during the research. The selection of the sites for the settlements in the space, the digging of ditches around the core parts of the settlements, the existence of outer settlement zones and the detection of clusters within the living place emphasizes the similarities between northern and south-eastern areas. The location of the settlements in space, their inner, social organisation and their demarcation from the surrounding area may hide a cognitive background that binds the OFCC communities and area together, which is otherwise not unified through any means of research history.

This is one of the reasons why this conference is mainly about the settlements. The goal is to further research and compare the concept of space and the land use in the OFCC region.

I believe that this conference was the first

occasion that members from all five nations of the OFCC phenomenon are sitting at the same table. Previously there have been attempts to create joint international researches in the forms of conferences and publications. (Gancarski 1999—where the OFCC concept introduced; 2002)

The aim of the conference was to restart a conversation between colleagues working in the same fields and rethinking a cultural concept of the so called OFCC phenomenon.

The conference was supported by the National Cultural Fund of Hungary, the National Scholarship Programme of Slovak Republic, the University of Miskolc, the Commune of Borsodivánka and Lajos Tóth.

The following presentation was held on the open session (Fig. 1):

Klára P. Fischl: Introduction to the settlement structure of the OFCC in the Dél-Borsod flatland area; Füköh Dániel: Preliminary report from a pending excavation of a middle bronze age burial field at Encs (north-east Hungary); Dani János / Márkus Gábor / Bálint Marianna / Bacskai István: Early and middle Bronze Age settlement network around Polgár; Szathmári Ildikó / Guba Szilvia: New results on the settlement structure of the Füzesabony Bronze Age tell; Kertész Gabriella Nikolett: Nondestructive researches at Alsóvadász-Várdomb archaeological site; Mengyán Ákos: Problems of the late Hatvan period at the Southern foothills of the Bükk mountains; Jan Gancarski / Paweł Madej: Defensive settlements of the Otomani-Füzesabony Culture in the Wisłoka river basin; Johanna Jędrzyk / Marcin S. Przybyła: Bronze Age fortified settlement on Zyndram's Hill at Maszkowice (Polish Carpathians); Peter Romsauer: Frühbronzezeitliche befestigte Siedlung Košice-Barca I.; Ladislav Olexa: The Settlement II of Nižna Mišľa; Dominika Oravkinova: „All humans are equal, but some are more equal than others” Towards intra-site social organization at Spišský Štvrtok; Peter Tóth: Settlement strategies at the end of the Early Bronze Age in Eastern Slovakia; Zsolt Molnár / Liviu Marta: Landscape and habitat in north-western Transylvania. Archaeological researches of the Middle Bronze Age tell Carei-Bobald (Satu Mare County, RO); Florin Gogâltan / Gruița Fazecas: At the south-eastern edge of the Otomani-Füzesabony Cultural Complex; Alexandra Gavan / Marian Lie: Tell-site of Toboliu "Dambu Zanacănului" (Bihor County), Otomani-Füzesabony; Josyp V. Kobal’:



Figure 1. Participants of the conference



Figure 2. Participants of the excursion at Tiszabábolna-Fehérló tanya

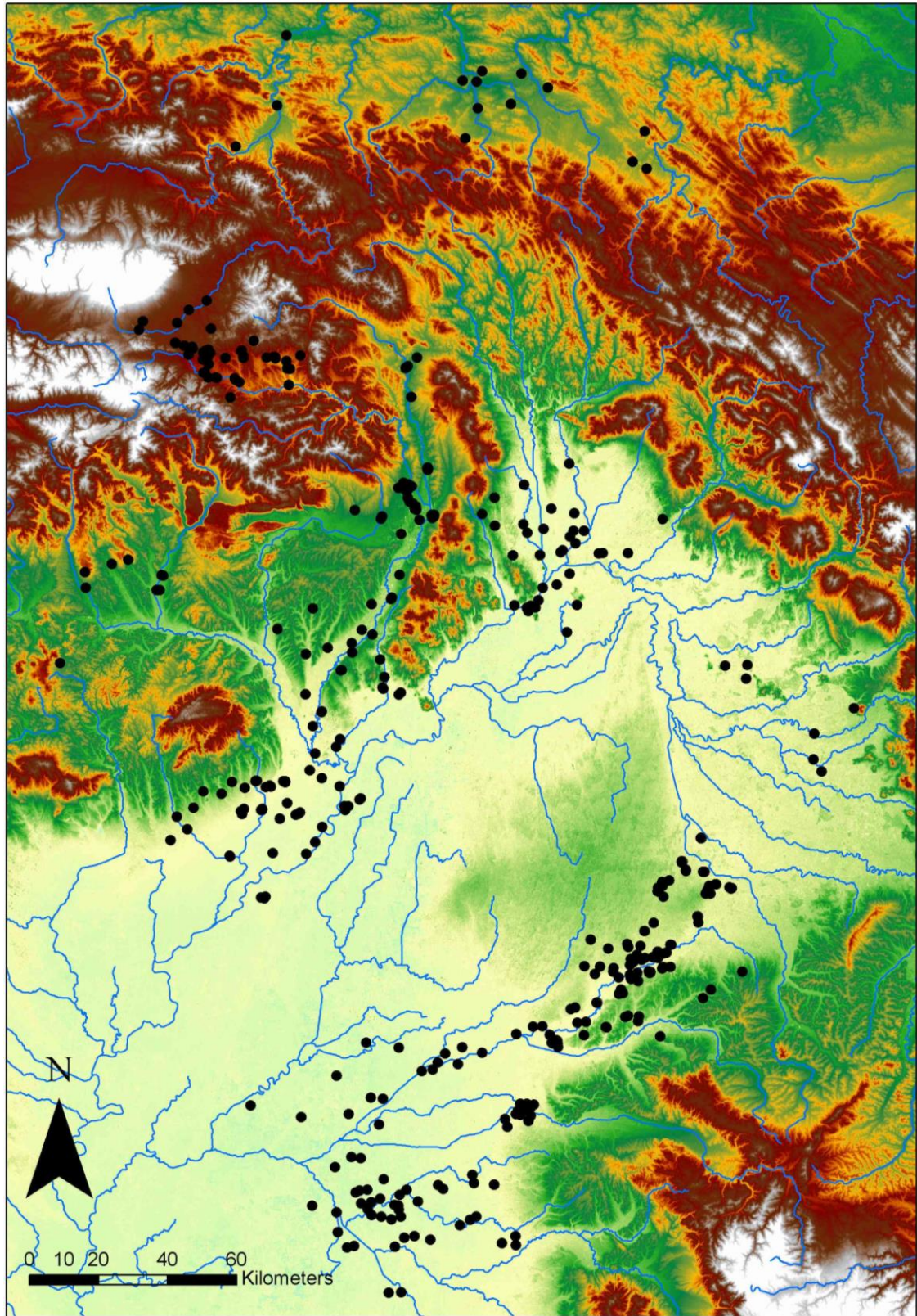


Figure 3. Distribution of the OFCC sites

Die mittlere Bronzezeit in der Transkarpatien (Ukrainine); Ilčišin Vasyl: Burial place of the Bronze Age horses in the Burial.mond near Husiatyn Ternopil region (by results of archeological excavations 2015). The layout of the settlement, which they have been working on, with descriptions and scale, information on the excavation and researches, the most important list of literature and the description and photos of some important finds and appearances. From this data standardized posters was created for comparison the data and to show how difficult it is to set up a unified model based on sites that are researched at different rates and with differing methods.

Near the posters about the presented sites (Alsóvadász-Várdomb, Carei-Bobald, Bogács-Pazsagpuszta, Borsodivánka-Nagyhalom, Brezówka 10, Füzesabony-Öregdomb, Košice-Barca I, Maklár-Baglyashalom, Novaj-Földvár, Szihalom-Árpád vár, Maszkowice-Góra Zyndrama, Nižna Mišľa-Várhegy, Spišský Štvrtok-Myšia Hôrka, Toboliu-Dambu Zanacanolui, Trzcínica 1 and one poster with the map about the south-eastern edge of the Otomani-Füzesabony Cultural Complex) we have also some others: Lucia Szabó: The pit 519 at Nižna Mišľa and its metallurgical finds and Nicklas Larsson: Méra I.

A little exhibition from the new finds of the cemetery at Encs was also organised by favour of the excavators Áron Dávid and Zoltán Farkas.

As a closing event of the conference a one-day trip took place in the South-Borsod Plain (Fig. 2). With those how joined us we visited the tell settlement of Borsodivánka-Nagyhalom, the island-like settlement of Tiszababolna-Fehérlótanya and the composite settlements of Tiszakeszi-Szódadomb with small core area, to gain experience and study the geographical attributes of the Dél-Borsod flatland and the settlements that were located here in the Bronze Age. The material of the conference will be published in the online journal, “Gesta” of the University Miskolc Institute of History. The reader holds this band in his/her hands. During the production of the manuscripts, so that the results from different teams and individuals can be part of a work that allows a comparison of every unit, the editor asked the followings from the authors:

A detailed research history, mentioning all used literature and sources. Marking the size of the settlement, the size of the excavated area, the types of already used research methods on the site (e.g.

excavation, non-invasive researches, geophysics, drilling Etc.), the type of the fortification (if such exists) and the data regarding to possible outer settlement part or satellite settlements.

If known the size of the site catchment area. A topographic map with the location of the site and it's layout. The mention of the used chronological system (5 phases after Nižna Mišľa, A–C phases after Bóna, 3-4-5 phases system of the Romanian literature/year...).

An important result of the above-mentioned projects is that an online database of the OFCC sites and a new map of these will be created. The uploading process of the database is running parallel to the publication of this volume. The map as it was at its state back to the day of the conference, contained 243 locations, this number raises ever since then. The participants of the conference also provided their data for this collecting process, some of them even took part in the uploading of the database into our cloud.

The map below (Fig. 3) shows the OFCC sites at the current stage of our researches.

At that site the organisers wish to thank to the authors published in this volume for the effort to contribute and to all of the participants of the conference *Settlement layouts, systems and structure of the Otomani-Füzesabony Cultural Complex.*

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