FROM THE SURVEYS OF FLÓRIS RÓMER TILL MODERN PRACTICE – SOME EXAMPLES OF THE AUTHOR FROM COUNTIES VESZPRÉM AND VAS

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Abstract

On the occasion of the bicentenary anniversary of the birth of Flóris Rómer, pioneering personality of Hungarian archaeology, first the documents of the excavations at Százhalom (Hundred Mounds) of Bakonyszűcs are presented, than topographical research by the author are summarised for the territory of Veszprém County. Following this the surveys of Rómer in the environs of Kőszeg, Vas County are presented together with recent topographical work in Vas County.

Altogether we can summarize that the preparatory work for an Archaeological Topography of Vas County was not really adequate in the last six decades. In the first phase (1959–1994) there were neither enough manpower nor material conditions (e.g. maps, vehicles) available. In the second phase (1994–2008) we made efforts to complement former deficiencies, but preventive excavations for large investments starting from 1999 (e.g., motorway constructions and other infrastructural investment projects, department stores and housing estates) took all the available capacities of the archaeologists and students involved. Field activities performed in the course of training technicians for archaeology at the Szombathely Highschool like systematical field surveys between 1994–2006 and collecting former data on the archaeology of the region were, however, published as far as possible flashed the possibility of creating a systematical topography. New methods like intensive field surveys (collecting over large areas in a 5 x 5 m network and evaluating the results) were tried and applied but even these efforts could not lead to a homogeneous set of observations. Basically it seems that creating a regional archaeological topography really needs dedicated personnel, discharged from other duties. They can work optimally in a central institution (e.g., like in the former Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, collaborating with the 'local forces'). The eleven volumes of the Hungarian Archaeological Topography (MRT) are good examples for this.