

LOCALITY NAMES WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE TERRITORY OF HISTORICAL HUNGARY

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Abstract

The name of the archaeological localities is not a simple label or means for denomination but in many cases means considerable help, especially for old appellations, in locating and classifying the localities. A part of the site names denotes the archaeological locality in itself. This paper deals with such loquacious names. The author has collected, partly from archaeological literature, partly from place-names and old maps, over 5000 denominations from the territory of historical Hungary, for further scientific elaboration.

Locality names with archaeological implication offer a wide variety of analytical possibilities; this study can present only a taster without claiming completeness. More attention is paid here, illustrated with a large number of instances, to place names, grouped according to archaeological phenomena.

In the multi-national country, a specific locality may have often had two or three names. Quite frequently, even a detailed local historical study is not adequate to judge, which was the original name. Names adopted from foreign languages can be distorted beyond recognition. The author is drawing attention to specific problems emerging when analysing names of archaeological interest.