

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ПРОСВЕЩЕНИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БАШКОРТОСТАН ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ «БАШКИРСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМ. М. АКМУЛЛЫ» ИНСТИТУТ ИСТОРИЧЕСКОГО, ПРАВОВОГО И СОЦИАЛЬНО-ГУМАНИТАРНОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ

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Настоящий сборник научных статей и воспоминаний посвящен юбилею ученых-археологов БГПУ им. М.Акмуллы доктора исторических наук, профессора Иванова Владимира Александровича и доктора исторических наук, профессора Обыденновой Гюльнары Талгатовны. В издание вошли работы, отражающие широту их научных интересов, а также воспоминания о жизни и научной деятельности юбиляров. Данное издание будет интересно археологам, историкам и всем, кто интересуется наукой.

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ВОСПОМИНАНИЯ

NEW TYPE OF SILK AMONG THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEXTILE FINDS IN THE HUNGARIAN CONQUEST PERIOD (10TH CENTURY AD) IN THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

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The silk trade and the booty of the Western raids of Old Hungarians $(899-955 \text{ AD})^1$

After the early Hungarians having moved into the Carpathian Basin in the end of the 9th century (around 895 AD), the Old Hungarians often led plundering raids over Europe. According to the written sources they had many opportunities to get hold of such goods during their military campaigns in Western and Southwestern Europe in the first half of the tenth century and in South-eastern Europe in the middle third of the century. Among the silks acquired as booty. We have a detailed description from *Leo Marscianus*, which description clearly illustrates the high proportion of textiles within the booty of the Hungarian military raids.

The history of research of the 9–11th century textile finds in the Carpathian Basin

In researching the archaeology of the Hungarian Conquest period, the analysis of organic remains with modern scientific techniques has sparked increasing interest in the past decades. Despite being a rare find – and mostly only fragmentarily preserved – organic remains are an immensely rich source of data, but we known mainly metal objects from the 10th century archaeological heritage of the Carpathian Basin, because organic remains represent only minute percentage of the archaeological finds from the 10th–11th centuries due to the climatic and soil conditions of the Carpathian Basin. Mostly due to the poor preservation of the organic materials, archaeologists have generally failed to take into consideration the technical features of the textile remnants when identifying contemporary garments and textiles. In scholarly publications, hypotheses about the pattern designs of over- and undergarments were based on the position of the mounts

¹ The research project has been realized within the project framework entitled: Archaeology Research on the Contacts between Hungary and the East (Our Eastern Heritage, PPCU History and Archaeology Interdisciplinary Research Team; TUDFO/51757-1/2019/ITM), with the support of Thematic Excellence Program, National Research, Development and Innovation Office.

² Bollók et al. 2009, 148–149.

³ On this see *Leo Marsicanus*' famous description (BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 148).

⁴ BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 148–149.

decorating the clothings,¹ but Béla Kürti, one of an outstanding expert of 10th century women's clothings in archaeology examining the age of the Hungarian Conquest and came to the conclusion not long ago that the pattern design of a dress cannot be reconstructed simply on the basis of the arrangement of metal mounts.²

Later on textile fragments were also found some other archaeological sites, but the systematic research of Conquest Period textile remnants only began in 1970 with the analysis of finds from the excavation at Szabadkígyós-Pálliget plot, directed by Csanád Bálint and Márta T. Knotik.³ Csanád Bálint was also the first to draw attention to the importance of the disintegrated, small fragments of clothing buried with the dead, as well as to their position in relation to metal objects found with them.⁴

Another groundbreaking step was done by a team of researchers, who comprehensively analysed the large textile piece which had been recovered from a grave in Fonyód and to this date the most comprehensive collection of textile finds from the Carpathian Basin was also published by this team.⁵ Based on historical data, the authors comprehensively studied the use of silk in context of the Hungarian population and the period of the Conquest and found Eastern and Byzantine parallels, which was a significant contribution.⁶

The textile finds from the 10th century in the Carpathian Basin

We have data on about more than 100 textile remnants have been gathered from the archaeological heritage of the Old Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin in the 10th–11th centuries and from the literature on the subject.

From the distribution of the it emerges that Transdanubia – poorer in metal grave furniture – also falls behind the Upper Tisza region, county Hajdú-Bihar or even the southern part of the Great Plain in this respect as well (*Fig. 1*).

Most of the silk finds recovered thus far were *samite*. Sometimes several fragments were found in the same grave (*Fig. 3*). The silk fragments make up more than 40 percent of all the textile remnants. Most of the pieces examined belong technically to the weft-faced-compound twill group of textiles. The remnants have one binding warp and two main warps with two wefts. The binding warp and one weft are bound in weft twill rib on the face of the textile. The remnants are sparse, only 8–15 mm in size, and the very fragile state of the silk threads precluded determination of the proportion of weft (*Fig. 4*). So more precise classification of the *samite* textiles could not be made. Nor could the colour or pattern of the fabric be discerned, as the pigments have deteriorated, turning the fabric to a brown colour. However, we take the view that the two wefts used for weaving makes it likely that the two wefts were of different colours. The analytical deficiencies do not affect the definition of the technical origins of the textile

¹ NEPPER 1993.

² Kürti 1996.

³ Bálint 1971; T. Knotik 1971.

⁴ BÁLINT 1971; BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 147.

⁵ BOLLÓK et al. 2009.

⁶ E. NAGY et al. 2009.

⁷ BOLLÓK ET AL. 2009, 154.

⁸ BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 152–153.

remnants.¹ The *samite* fabrics were woven on damask or draw looms (*Fig. 2*). Weaving the wide textiles made in the imperial manufactories called for at least two weavers and two draw boys, to handled the width.²

A new type of silk in the archaeological heritage of the 10th century Carpathian Basin

The *taqueté* technique observed first at Tarpa in Hungary in 2012 and then at Derecske in 2016 both archeological site are in Eastern Hungary (*Fig. 5*).³

We know some *taqueté* textile from the Late Antique Period in the Eastern Mediterranean, however, for textiles made primarily of wool.

But we known some *taqueté* made from silk and wool from the territory of Xinjiang, Central Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean area, Zhao Feng think so this type of silks originate from those textiles, which were the imitations of Chinese Jin silks.⁴

In regard to the period under study, polichrome silk *taqueté* finds are known only from Iran, ⁵ Eastern Mediterranean area ⁶ and the territory of present day Israel, near Jeircho. ⁷ These fact suggest, that the *taqueté* fragments from the Carpathian Basin originate from the Islamic world, the *taqueté* fragments were excavated on Eastern Hungary, from where we known most of the Islamic dirhams.

On one of the *taqueté* fragments from Derecske, a small geometric pattern could be observed, which is a very rare occurrence in the period of the Hungarian Conquest. A fragment with similar polichrome decoration was found the last time in 1875 at Nagyteremia site. On the fragment from Derecske, two dyes were identified: blue and red. These were popular colors in our period, but since organic dyeing stuff decompose, they can be very rarely observed in Hungary (*Fig. 5–6*).

Silks from the Grave 643 at Derecske-Nagymező-dűlő archaeological site

Most of the textile pieces survived because they were protected by the silver discs placed on the upper body. Mainly due to their good preservation and the fast and professional conservation, the textile fragments could be separated from the disks and kept intact. These silver discs are the remains of the outer garment (*Fig.* 7).

Some of the silk fragments in this grave were found underneath the square shaped fittings of the belt or the clothing (Fig.~8,~1-2). Other dress accessories found were likely decorating the undergarment. On the back side of one of the

¹ BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 152.

² Muthesius 1997; Endrei 2000, 168.

³ BERTA et al. 2018, 30.

⁴ FENG 2004, 69–73.

⁵ The Iranian ones came from the Abbasid, Buyyid and Seljuk period (9–11th century) and now are on the collection of Cleveland Art Museum under 1952.83., 1968.235., 1968.239., 1968.234., 1968.231., 1981.22., 1975.45. inventory numbers.

⁶ The Eastern Mediterranean one is now in the Museum of Fine Arts Boston under 33.519. accession number, the provenance of this piece unknown.

⁷ Shamir–Baginski 2012, 4–5; Fig. 8–10.

⁸ BERTA et al. 2018, 30.

⁹ BERTA et al. 2018, 30.

rhomboid pieces there was also a small piece of silk preserved, which suggests that silk had a role also in the design of the undergarment (Fig. 8, 3-4).

Theoretically, there are two possibilities: silk was used only for the hem of the garment, or for the whole garment. Among the archaeological finds from the Carpathian Basin, dating from the period of the Hungarian Conquest, there are examples for both and there are also other parallels from Eastern Europe and from the Northern Caucasus region in the 8th to 10th centuries. The same points apply to the upper garment, fragments of which were of a different type of silk, preserved on the back sides of the silver alloy discs. A piece of linen remained on the front side of one of the discs, which suggests that the whole upper garment was made probably of linen, and only the hem of the garment was silk. The discs were fitted on the hem with sewing holes punched through the plates.²

Footwears with silk decoration from the 10th century

The very small (only a few millimeters large) piece of textile that preserved on the back side of one of the fittings of the foot-gear is particularly important, as it demonstrates that foot-gears were also lined with silk (*Fig 9*).

Silk lined foot-gears without fittings are known from Sogdiana and China, dating from the 8th to 12th centuries.³ From the region of the Caucasus, however, we only know of such footgear, of which certain parts were edged or lined, but not the top of the feet.⁴ The best paralell of the footwear from Derecske known from an Oghuz grave from the Bogolyubovka, Southern part of Russia, this fragment of a boots also decorated with silk and fittings.⁵

Regardin finds from the Conquest period associated with the Hungarian population, the lining and decorating of shoes with silk is not unprecedented. It has been documented and observed in detail by Ukrainian archaeologists in case of Grave 2 at Dmitrievka, which is one of the Subbotsy-type sites associated with the Hungarian settlement in, so called, *Etelköz*⁶ (9th century before the Carpathian Basin, along the Dnieper and Dniester river).

The tiny fragment from Derecske demonstrates that even the smallest piece of organic remain can be extremely informative. Therefore, a great deal of attention is required when excavating graves and professional conservation is also indispensable – best done by a conservator, who is ideally on site and also takes part in the excavation of the grave.

Summary

We know some written sources about the Magyar raids in Western- and Southwestern Europe originated mainly from the first half of the 10th century. These sources suggest that the most valuable booties for Old Hungarians in these

¹ BERTA et al. 2018, 32.

² BERTA et al. 2018, 32.

³ WATT-WARDWELL 2004. The piece from Sogdia showed up at an auction of Sotheby's a few years ago. Currently, however, it cannot be traced – it is perhaps in a private collection.

⁴ IERUSALIMSKAYA 2012, ил. 54a, ил. 116.

⁵ MATYUSHKO 2014, 622.

⁶ Maevska 2011, 125–129.

⁷ Shcherbakova–Tashchi–Telnov 2008.

military campaigns – beside prisoners and slaves – were clothes and items from silk, silver coins and objects made of silver and gold.

These products were buried in the graves of Old Hungarians later in the Carpathian Basin in the 10th century. We know several graves and cemeteries among them which are extremly rich in silver objects and in these graves, under metal objects often small fragments of textiles-often silk fragments- were discovered.² During the excavations it is often needs a really big effort to save this fragments, although these small textile remnants are immensely rich sources of data. Unquestionably silk was always an import product for Old Hungarians.

In regard to materials from the 10th century, two categories of textiles can be identified up until now: linen and silk finds. Their different weaving patterns could also be identified. Most of the silk finds recovered so far have been "samite", almost without exception, demonstrating that this was a generally widespread type of fabric this period.³ These weft-faced compound twill silks are well known from Western European treasuries and written sources from the 10th century. These facts and the archaeological heritage of the 10th century in the Carpathian Basin (such as the presumably solitary grave at Fonyód in Hungary) suggest that, these silks could be the booty of the Western raids.⁴

A different type of archaeological silkfragments (taqueté, weft facedcompound tabby) was excavated first at Tarpa cemetery in 2012 and then in 2016 at Derecske. These taqueté silk remains are absent from Western Europe or the famous Viking finds in Northern Europe. Maybe this type of textile has arrived in the Carpathian Basin from the Near East on the Transeuropean trade route(s) (Fig. 10) All this suggests that Hungarians had access to a different sources of silk in the 10th century beside their Western raids, but their role is not negligible.⁵

The sites of the new type of silk are situated in North-Eastern Hungary and whish is the same region from where the most 10th-century finds originate too and we believe it is not accidental and surprising. The dirhams and the taqueté silk finds suggest, that Old Hungarians kept their trade contacts with Middle Asia even after their conquest in the Carpathian Basin in 895 AD.

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⁵ BERTA et al. 2018.

About this special type of silk, see: BECKER 1986, 84-89; LINSCHIED 2016, 20; FENG 2004, 69-73; FENG 2014, 51-52; KUHN 2012, 27-30; SHAMIR-BAGINSKI 2012, 6. From the 10th century we known similar textiles from the Near East and Iran: The Iranian ones came from the Abbasid, Buyyid and Seljuk period (9–11th century) and now are on the collection of Cleveland Art Museum under 1952.83., 1968.235., 1968.239., 1968.234., 1968.231., 1981.22., 1975.45. inventory numbers. An Eastern Mediterranean one is now in the Museum of Fine Arts Boston under 33.519. accesion number, the provenance of this piece unknown.

¹ See Leo Marsicanus's famous description: KRISTÓ 1995, 259–260; BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 148. About the silver coins as the booty of magyar raids, see: Kovács 1989; Kovács 2011.

² BÁLINT 1991, 108–109; E. NAGY et al. 2010, 21–23.

³ BOLLÓK et al. 2009, 152–154.

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