

# Hungarian Prehistory Series



The Hungarians moved to their later homeland, the Carpathian basin at the end of the ninth century. Prior to this period they lived in the western part of the southern Russian steppe as vassals of the Khazar Kaghhanate. The ethnic environment of the Kaghhanate had a great impact on the ethnogenesis of the Hungarians as testified by the numerous Turkic and Iranian loan words as well as the art, the military and the political structure of the Hungarians in the period of the conquest. Therefore, from the point of view of Hungarian prehistory, it is crucial to be familiar with the history of the nomadic peoples, that is, with the "oriental background." The Hungarian Prehistory Series, launched in 1990, aimed to publish source editions, collected papers and monographs in connection with the history of the Eurasian steppe. It includes historical, linguistical and archaeological studies. The Department of Medieval World History (University of Szeged) has played an active role in the publication of the series since 1994.

The published volumes of the series until 2000 are the following:

- Vol. 1. *Őstörténet és nemzettudat 1919–1931*. [Prehistory and the National Consciousness.] Ed. Éva Kincses Nagy, Szeged 1991.
- Vol. 2. Sándor, Klára, *A Bolognai Rovásemlék*. [The Runic Inscription of Bologna.] Szeged 1991.
- Vol. 3. Szűcs, Jenő, *A magyar nemzeti tudat kialakulása*. [The Formation of Hungarian National Consciousness.] Ed. István Zimonyi, Szeged 1992.
- Vol. 4. *Rovásírás a Kárpát-medencében*. [Runic Scripts in the Carpathian Basin.] Ed. Klára Sándor, Szeged 1992.
- Vol. 5. Szádeczky-Kardoss, Samu, *Az avar történelem forrásai*. [Sources of Avar History.] Vol. 1. Co-workers: Márta Borsos, et al. Szeged 1992.
- Vol. 6. Bóna, István, et al., *Hunok – Gepidák – Langobardok*. [Huns, Gepids and Lombards.] Szeged 1993.
- Vol. 7. Vásáry, István, *A régi Belső-Ázsia története*. [A History of Early Inner-Asia.] Szeged 1993.

- Vol. 8. Bálint, Csanád, *Kelet, a korai avarok és Bizánc kapcsolatai*. [The Relation between the East, the Early Avars and Byzantium.] Szeged 1995.
- Vol. 9. Róna-Tas, András *A magyarság korai története*. [The Early History of the Hungarians.] Szeged 1995.
- Vol. 10. Kmoskó, Mihály, *Mohamedán írók a steppe népeiről. Földrajzi irodalom*. [Muslim Writers on the Peoples of the Steppe. Geographical Literature.] Vol. I/1. Ed. István Zimonyi, Budapest 1997.
- Vol. 11. Rédei, Károly, *Őstörténetünk kérdései*. [The Problems of Our Prehistory.] Budapest 1998.
- Vol. 12. Szádeczky-Kardoss, Samu, *Az avar történelem forrásai 557-től 806-ig*. [Sources of the Avar History.] Co-author: Csaba Farkas, co-workers: Márta Borsos, et al. Budapest 1998.
- Vol. 13. Kmoskó, Mihály, *Mohamedán írók a steppe népeiről. Földrajzi irodalom*. [Muslim Writers on the Peoples of the Steppe. Geographical Literature.] Vol. I/2. Ed. Zimonyi István. Budapest 2000.

Professor Samu Szádeczky-Kardoss, an outstanding Hungarian classical scholar published his work entitled *Az avar történelem forrásai*<sup>1</sup> in the series. Its predecessor was a publication, published in German, that collected extracts from the sources on the European Avars.<sup>2</sup> Subsequently, Professor Szádeczky-Kardoss began to publish the Hungarian translation of the sources, with abundant commentaries, in chronological order. The first nine chapters of this work were published in the *Archaeologiai Értesítő* between 1978 and 1986. Due to the great interest in this work, it was reprinted in the *Hungarian Prehistory Series* in 1992 as the first volume of a major undertaking, completed with two chapters. However, with the completion of the second volume, the publisher faced a problem since, by this time, the first volume was out of print. Therefore, instead of a reprint edition of the first volume, the two parts were published jointly.<sup>3</sup> The entire work covers the history of the Avars from 557 to 806.<sup>4</sup> All the sources, from this period, on the Avars can be found in Hungarian translation. The commentaries on the excerpts meet all scholarly standards. The accuracy of the editor is exemplified by

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<sup>1</sup> S. Szádeczky-Kardoss, *Az avar történelem forrásai*. [Sources of the Avar History.] Vol. I. Co-workers: M. Borsos, et al. Szeged 1992.

<sup>2</sup> *Ein Versuch zur Sammlung und chronologischen Anordnung der griechischen Quellen der Awarengeschichte nebst einer Auswahl von anderssprachigen Quellen*. *Opuscula Byzantina I*. Szeged 1972. Supplemented new edition: *Opuscula Byzantina Vol. 8*, Szeged 1986, 3–140, 229–272. (Co-author: T. Olajos.)

<sup>3</sup> S. Szádeczky-Kardoss, *Az avar történelem forrásai 557-től 806-ig*. [Sources of Avar History from 557 to 806.] Co-author: Cs. Farkas, co-workers: M. Borsos, et al., Budapest 1998.

<sup>4</sup> The translations of Greek sources on the Avars after 806, prepared by Teréz Olajos, are to appear in the Szegedi Középkortörténeti Könyvtár [Szeged Medieval Library.] series.

the corrigenda attached to the volume after its publication. The corrigenda draws the attention of the reader to 11 (!) misprints in the 300-page book. The use of the book is facilitated by an index divided into two parts.

The interest in the Muslim sources for Hungarian prehistory and that of the conquest grew at the end of the nineteenth century. At that time a mostly bilingual book was published with the title *A magyar honfoglalás kútfői*<sup>5</sup> (*MHK*), comprising Muslim texts translated and commented on by Géza Kuun. In the 1950s, Károly Czeglédy re-translated some of these sources<sup>6</sup> and planned to compile a six-volume chrestomathy of Hungarian prehistory. In this undertaking he took upon himself the task of editing Muslim authors. The series, however, has never been completed. It was well-known that Mihály Kmoskó (1876–1931) had compiled a prehistorical chrestomathy of Muslim sources on the Hungarians in the period of the conquest that remained in manuscript form.<sup>7</sup> Due to his ideological position, its publication was not possible in the political situation after 1945. Its recent publication was carried out by István Zimonyi, the editor-in-chief of the Hungarian Prehistory Series, who evaluated the translations from a scholarly point of view and edited the volume that had disgracefully been left unpublished.<sup>8</sup> Mihály Kmoskó considered it to be important to keep the excerpts on the Hungarians in their broader context. Thus he translated sources concerning the different peoples who had been in touch with the Hungarians (Khazars, Volga Bulgars, Alans, Burtas, Moravians, Russians, etc.) Finally, he extended his research to every ethnic groups of the Eurasian steppe zone. The selection from the works of almost forty authors comprises a chrestomathy over a thousand pages long. There are almost 6,000 notes added to the texts. The only imperfection of the book is that – due to non-scholarly reasons – it could not have been published earlier as, in the case of certain sources, some of its results needed to be corrected. Since the death of Mihály Kmoskó, several significant manuscripts have been published that are important for Hungarian prehistorical studies (Hudūd al-ʿĀlam, al-Marvāzī, Ibn Hayyān, etc.). The new results are always highlighted in the notes by István Zimonyi. The work begins with an introduction to the authors. It is followed by the excerpts. In the first volume the relevant passages of the accounts of Ibn Hurdādhbih, Muslim ibn Abi Muslim al Jarmī, Qudāma, Ibn

<sup>5</sup> *A magyar honfoglalás kútfői*. [Sources of the Hungarian Conquest.] Ed. Gy. Pauler and S. Szilágyi, Budapest 1900.

<sup>6</sup> *A magyarok elődeiről és a honfoglalásról*. [On the Ancestors of the Magyars and the Conquest.] Ed. Gy. Györffy, Budapest 1958. (1975<sup>2</sup>, 1986<sup>3</sup>).

<sup>7</sup> K. Czeglédy, "Monographs on Syriac and Muhammadan Sources in the Literary Remains of M. Kmoskó," *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 4 (1954) 19–91; For Mihály Kmoskó's scholarly activity, see István Zimonyi, "Kmoskó Mihály és a magyar őstörténet," [Mihály Kmoskó and the Hungarian Prehistory], in *Őstörténet és nemzetudat 1919–1931*. Ed. É. Kincses Nagy, Szeged 1991, 89–93.

<sup>8</sup> M. Kmoskó, *Mohamedán írók a steppe népeiről*. *Földrajzi irodalom*. [Muslim Writers on the Peoples of the Steppe. Geographical Literature.] Vol. I/1–2. Ed. I. Zimonyi, Budapest 1997–2000. The publication of the forthcoming four volumes is in progress.

Rusta<sup>9</sup> and Hārūn ibn Yahyā can be found. The second volume comprises the texts of al-Istakhri, Ibn Hauqal, al-Muqaddasī, al-Maʿsūdī and al-Bakrī. The work published half a century after the death of Mihály Kmoskó, proved to be abiding and unique in terms of national scholarship.

Klára Sándor produced a critical edition of the longest extant document of the Székely runic script, known as the Runic inscription of Bologna, discovered by Count Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli.<sup>10</sup> The count, a member of the Habsburg imperial army, discovered a stick with Runic inscription in Gyergyószentmiklós (Now: Gheorgheni, Romania), in 1690. He copied the inscriptions and accompanied it with the alphabet of the Székely Runic script as well as with the Latin translation of the texts. The book begins with a philological analysis of the Runic inscription. In the first chapter the author introduces the source, reconstructs its history and determines the date of its origin. On the basis of a textual analysis, Klára Sándor identified several chronological layers. Most probably, the first step was a Hungarian Runic calendar based on the Latin alphabet. It might have been transformed into a Hungarian Runic script around the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries. This inscription might have been copied several times and once – in the second half of the fifteenth century – Franciscan friars incorporated the feast of a new saint into the saints' calendar. The next chapter comprises the description of the content of the text and the detailed phonetic analysis of the identification of the Runic script. The second part of the book lists all the Runic words of the inscription, arranged into entries. The photocopies of the Runic texts can be found in the appendix.<sup>11</sup> Various studies have been published on the enumeration of the Székely Runic script and its historical background in recent decades.<sup>12</sup> This is the first study, however, carrying out a critical edition of the Székely Runic script that claims to meet modern scholarly standards. The study and the critical edition

<sup>9</sup> See also H. Göckenjan und I. Zimonyi, *Orientalische Berichte über die Völker Osteuropas und Zentralasiens im Mittelalter. Die Gayhānī-Tradition*. Veröffentlichungen der Societas Uralo-Altaica, Band 54, Wiesbaden 2001.

<sup>10</sup> K. Sándor *A Bolognai Rovásémlék*. [The Runic Inscription of Bologna.] Szeged 1991.

<sup>11</sup> Formerly it was published by Gyula Sebestyén (*A magyar rovásírás hiteles emlékei*. [The Authentic Remnants of the Hungarian Runic Scripts] Budapest 1915). His work, however, can only be obtained at book auctions, moreover, the photos in the reviewed work are of much better quality.

<sup>12</sup> I. Vásáry, "A magyar rovásírás. A kutatás története és mai helyzete. [The Hungarian Runic Scripts. The History and the Present State of Research]," *Keletkutatás* (1974) 159–171; K. Sándor, "A székely rovásírás. [The Székely Runic Script]," *Néprajz és Nyelvtudomány* 33 (1989–1990) 65–81; A. Róna-Tas, "A magyar rovásírás és a Mátyás-kori humanizmus. [The Hungarian Runic Script and Humanism in the Age of King Matthias]," *Néprajz és Nyelvtudomány* 29–30 (1985–1986) 173–179; Idem, in A. Róna-Tas, *A magyarság korai története*. [The Early History of the Hungarians] Szeged 1995, 139–145; A. Róna-Tas, "On the Development and Origin of the East Turkic 'Runic' Script," *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 41 (1987) 7–14; A. Róna-Tas, "Problems of the East European Scripts with Special Regard to the Newly Found Inscriptions of Szarvas" in *Popoli delle Steppe: Unni, Avari, Ungari*. Spoleto 23–29 aprile 1987. Settimane di studio del Centro italiano di studi sull'alto medioevo 35. Spoleto 1988, 483–511.

of the entirety of the authentic texts should yield a corpus that can be a basis for further academic research. The Székely Runic script would be the key to the hitherto underciphered Eastern European (Avar, Khazar, etc.) Runic scripts.

The Department of Altaistics, together with the Hungarian Prehistory Research Group of the József Attila University<sup>13</sup> organized a workshop on the Runic scripts of the Carpathian Basin on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1992. The proceedings of the workshop were published in the same year in the Hungarian Prehistory Series.<sup>14</sup> The first article of the volume by András Róna-Tas treats the Turkic origin of the Hungarian *ír* 'write' and *betű* 'letter' words. The author reckons both expressions to be Turkic loan words dating from prior to the Hungarian conquest. Irén Juhász reported a Runic script found on a large strap end that was discovered in a late Avar grave in Szarvas (County Békés, Hungary). While János Harmatta published the transcription of Avar Runic inscriptions. István Dienes reported an inscription discovered in a grave from the period of the Hungarian conquest near Kalocsa (County Bács-Kiskun, Hungary), and the transcription of the script was provided by Gábor Vékony. He identified the language of the inscription as common Turkic. Géza Ferenczi reviewed the Székely Runic inscription. Ferenc Kósa dealt with the methodic quest of the Runic inscriptions, while Klára Sándor treated the issues raised concerning the origins of the Székely Runic script.

Several outstanding Hungarian orientalists have published volumes containing their collected studies.<sup>15</sup> The series continued this tradition by publishing a selection of the articles of András Róna-Tas.<sup>16</sup> Here we mention only a few of the fifty papers. The preface of the book, written by the author himself, surveys the post-World War II historiography of Hungarian prehistorical studies.<sup>17</sup> Among the articles of the book the evaluation report on István Fodor's PhD thesis can be found. In this report András Róna-Tas not only presents his own ideas concerning Hungarian prehistory, but also makes critical remarks on Fodor's theses upon the migration of the Hungarians from the Eastern European forest-land to the

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<sup>13</sup> Since 1 January 2000 the name of the institution has been "University of Szeged."

<sup>14</sup> *Rovásírás a Kárpát-medencében*. [Runic Script in the Carpathian Basin.] Ed. K. Sándor, Szeged 1992.

<sup>15</sup> L. Ligeti, *A magyar nyelv török kapcsolatai és ami körülöttük van*. [The Turkic Connection of the Hungarian Language and Other Related Issues.] 2 vols. Budapest Oriental Reprints A1-2. Budapest 1977-1979; K. Czeglédy, *Magyar őstörténeti tanulmányok*. [Studies on Hungarian Prehistory.] Budapest Oriental Reprints A3, Budapest 1985; Gy. Németh, *Törökök és magyarok*. [Turks and Hungarians.] 2 vols. Budapest Oriental Reprints A4-5, Budapest 1990.

<sup>16</sup> A. Róna-Tas, *A magyarság korai története*. [The Early History of the Hungarians.] Szeged 1995.

<sup>17</sup> A. Róna-Tas, *A honfoglaló magyar nép*. [The Magyars of the Conquest.] Budapest 1996, 305-321; Its English edition: Idem, *Hungarians and Europe in the Early Middle Ages*, Budapest, 1999. 395-411.

steppe zone.<sup>18</sup> Some papers of the volume study the Khazar ethnonym and others investigate their language.<sup>19</sup> The author's conclusion from the point of view of Hungarian prehistory is that the idea of common Turkic etymology of the Khazar ethnonym was not valid. Thus he invalidated one of the major pieces of evidence of purporting to prove the common Turkic origin of the Khazar language. There are many Turkic loan words in Hungarian from the pre-conquest period that conform to Chuvash criteria. Scholars, however, deemed the language of the Khazars to be of common Turkic type. Therefore, they tried to place the Khazar–Hungarian coexistence in a very short time framework since a long-lasting impact would not be appropriate for explaining the huge proportion of Chuvash-type loan words to be found in the Hungarian language as against the common Turkic ones. The studies of András Róna-Tas showed that there is not an adequate basis for identifying the language of the Khazars as common Turkic. Thus, one can assume a longer connection between Khazars and Hungarians. This can basically alter ideas about the migration of the Hungarians before the conquest. In his work entitled *A magyar népnév egy 1311-es volgai bolgár sírfeliraton*,<sup>20</sup> the author showed that the self-designation of the Hungarians – i.e. Magyars – could be related to a Hungarian group settled in the Volga region. The history of this separate group of Hungarians is particularly interesting not only from the point of view of the ethnogenesis of those Hungarians who settled in the Carpathian basin but also in the light of ethnic changes in the Volga region during the Mongol period.<sup>21</sup> The volume ends with the bibliography of András Róna-Tas up to 1994, compiled by Éva Kincses Nagy. The book comprises substantial studies of the author that should not to be overlooked by those studying Hungarian prehistory, particularly, in many cases it is difficult to have access to them.

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<sup>18</sup> I. Fodor, *Verecke híres útján...* [On the Famous Pass of Verecke...] Budapest 1975; Its English edition: Idem, *In Search of a New Homeland. The Prehistory of the Hungarian People and the Conquest*. Budapest 1982.

<sup>19</sup> A. Róna-Tas, "A kazár népnévről. [On the Khazar Ethnonym]," *Nyelvtudományi Közlemények* 84 (1982) 349–380; Idem, "Újabb adatok a kazár népnév történetéhez. [New Data on the History of the Khazar Ethnonym]," *Nyelvtudományi Közlemények* 85 (1983) 126–133.

<sup>20</sup> *The 'Magyar' Ethnonym on a Volga Bulghar Grave Inscription from 1311*.

<sup>21</sup> See I. Vásáry, "A jezsuita Cseles Márton és a Julianus-jelentés (A Magna Hungaria- és a Jugria-kérdés történetéhez). [The Jesuit Márton Cseles and the Julianus Report (On the History of the Question on Magna Hungaria and Yugria)]," in *Középkori kútfontok kritikus kérdései*. Ed. J. Horváth, and Gy. Székely, Budapest 1974, 261–275; Idem, "The Hungarians or Možars and the Meščers/Mišers of the Middle Volga region," *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* 1 (1975) 237–275; Idem, "A Volga-vidéki magyar töredékek a mongol kor után. [Groups of Magyars in the Volga Region after the Mongol Era]," in *Magyar őstörténeti tanulmányok*. Ed. A. Bartha, K. Czeglédy, and A. Róna-Tas, Budapest 1977, 283–290; L. Tardy, *A tatárországi rabszolgakereskedelem és a magyarok a XIII–XV. században*. [The Slave-Trade of the Golden Horde and the Hungarians in the Thirteenth–Fifteenth Centuries.] Kőrösi Csoma Kiskönyvtár 17. Budapest 1980; Idem, *Sklavenhandel in der Tartarei*. *Studia uralo-altaica* 20. Szeged 1983.

In his work, entitled *Kelet, a korai avarok és Bizánc kapcsolatai*,<sup>22</sup> Csanád Bálint published the enlarged and corrected version of two of his former papers in German.<sup>23</sup> These articles are closely connected with each other. The first paper treats the strap mountings connected to the steppe culture and their parallels through the analysis of a grave in Üč Tepe (Azerbaijan). He points out that the political-cultural influence of the Byzantine Empire was not coterminous with its borders. Certain objects deriving from Byzantine culture reached Europe, Africa, the Southern Russian Steppe, and Iran. This requires a reconsideration of the ethnospecific nature of several objects. While the first article discusses a particular object type, the other provides a new approach towards the evaluation of the findings. The author is right in his warning that from a methodological point of view it is hazardous to draw conclusions on the basis of a group of archaeological hoards (or even on a single finding). Such "conclusions" infiltrate into historical studies as "results of archaeology" and in many cases produce erroneous hypotheses strengthening one another. According to Csanád Bálint, the main objective of archaeology is to provide a solid source basis for further research through systematic study of the finds. The article of János Harmatta on the inscription of a Sassanian seal-ring found in a grave in Üč Tepe is in the appendix. The practical use of the volume is facilitated by more than sixty photos, drawings and maps.

In the Spring of 1988 a conference was organized in Szeged and its eleven contributors tried to analyze the impact of losing World War I and the negative effects of the peace treaties on the scholars dealing with Hungarian prehistory.<sup>24</sup> Through the peace treaties, Hungary lost two thirds of its original territory. One third of the population became citizen of surrounding foreign countries. The reaction of the scholars of the period differed. István Fried studied the opinions on Hungarian-Slav relations. After the war the Slav ethnic groups, formerly belonging to Hungary, established their autonomous nation-states. Both among the Slavs and the Hungarians there arose a need to reappraise their history in accordance with their changed situation. The article of Árpád Berta on the development of the first prehistorical theory of Gyula Németh can also be found in the volume.<sup>25</sup> The author, who edited the enlarged and revised work of Gyula Né-

<sup>22</sup> Cs. Bálint, *Kelet, a korai avarok és Bizánc kapcsolatai*. [The Relation between the East, the Early Avars and Byzantium.] Szeged 1995.

<sup>23</sup> Cs. Bálint, "Kontakte zwischen Iran, Byzanz und der Steppe. Das Grab von Üč Tepe (Sowj. Azerbajdzan) und der beschlagverzierte Gürtel im 6. und 7. Jahrhundert," in *Awarenforschungen* Vol. 1, Hg.: F. Daim. *Archaeologia Austriaca*, Monographien 1; Studien zur Archäologie der Awaren 4. Wien 1992. 309-496; Idem, "Probleme der archäologischen Forschung zur awarischen Landnahme," in *Ausgewählte Probleme der europäischen Landnahmen des Früh- und Hochmittelalters*. Hrsg. M. Müller-Wille und R. Schneider, *Vorträge und Forschungen* 41, Sigmaringen 1993, 195-273.

<sup>24</sup> *Őstörténet és nemzettudat 1919-1931*. [Prehistory and the National Consciousness.] Ed. É. Kincses Nagy, Szeged 1991.

<sup>25</sup> For the Gyula Németh's work, see A. Róna-Tas, "Julius Németh. Life and Work" *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 32 (1978) 261-284; A. Róna-Tas, *Németh Gyula*. Budapest 1991; For Gyula Németh's bibliography, see G. Uray, "A Bibliography

meth (*A honfoglaló magyarság kialakulása*),<sup>26</sup> provides an excellent summary of the ideas on the prehistory of the Hungarians of the young turcologist. He points out that these ideas need to be interpreted together with the prehistorical ideas of noted contemporary orientalists (Ármin Vámbéry, Zoltán Gombocz, Bernát Munkácsi, István Zichy and others). Finally, Zoltán Kordé provides a summary of several studies on the ethnogenesis of the Székelys.<sup>27</sup>

The work of Károly Rédei, a leading professor of the Finno-Ugric Department at the University of Vienna, dealing with the history of the Hungarian language was published in the Prehistory Series.<sup>28</sup> The democratization process of the 1990s in Hungary made possible the publication of the works of numerous emigrant Hungarian historians. In addition to the high standard scholarly studies, many amateur "historians" published their so-called "works." Their fantastic and unscholarly ideas (about the Hun–Hungarian, the Sumer–Hungarian or the Turkic–Hungarian relationship) unfortunately found their way to an enthusiastic general readership. Books were also published prior to this period trying to criticize these false theories.<sup>29</sup> The increasing number of amateur works led Károly Rédei to provide a new summary in his work. He presents a detailed historiography of these "genial discoveries" and through striking examples shows the unscholarly nature of the methods applied by these "historians."

Jenő Szűcs prepared a monograph on the Hungarian ethnogenesis in the 1970s. However, until his death in 1988 this work was not published. His historical approach, nonetheless, became well-known and popular.<sup>30</sup> His book on the economic and social regions of Europe became a bestseller, and this success surprised even its publishing house.<sup>31</sup> His work, entitled *A magyar nemzeti tudat kialakulása*,<sup>32</sup> proved to be a turning point in research on Hungarian prehistory. Szűcs adapted the theory of the historian Reinhard Wenskus to the Hungarian case. The

of the Works of Prof. J. Németh," *Acta Orientalia Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 11 (1960) 11–28; His complete bibliography: Gy. Németh, *Törökök és magyarok*. [Turks and Hungarians.] Vol. 2, Budapest Oriental Reprints A5. Budapest 1990, 287–312.

<sup>26</sup> Gy. Németh, *A honfoglaló magyarság kialakulása*. [The Formation of the Conquering Magyars.] 2nd enlarged and revised edition. Ed. Á. Berta, Budapest 1991.

<sup>27</sup> For the relevant secondary literature, see Gy. Kristó, *A székelyek eredetéről*. [On the Origin of the Szeklers.] Szegedi Középkortörténeti Könyvtár, 10. Szeged 1996.

<sup>28</sup> K. Rédei, *Őstörténetünk kérdései*. [The Problems of Our Prehistory.] Budapest 1998.

<sup>29</sup> M. Zsirai, "Őstörténeti csodabogarak," [Queer cards of the Hungarian Prehistory] in *A magyarság őstörténete*, ed. L. Ligeti, Budapest 1943, 266–289; G. Komoróczy, *Sumer és magyar?* [Sumer and Hungarian?] Budapest 1976; J. Puszta, *Az "ugor-török háború" után*. [The Aftermath of the "Ugor–Turkic War."] Budapest 1977.

<sup>30</sup> His selected studies (J. Szűcs, *Nemzet és történelem*. [Nation and History.] Budapest 1974) were reprinted in 1984. Its German edition: Idem, *Nation und Geschichte*. Budapest 1981.

<sup>31</sup> J. Szűcs, *Vázlat Európa három történeti régiójáról*. [The Three Historical Regions of Europe.] Budapest 1983; *Die drei historischen Regionen Europas*. Übersetzt von B. Rásky, Frankfurt am Main 1990.

<sup>32</sup> J. Szűcs, *A magyar nemzeti tudat kialakulása*. [The Formation of the Hungarian National Consciousness.] Szeged 1992. New edition: Budapest 1997.

majority of the German ethnic groups that had settled in the western part of the Roman Empire merged into the local population of the occupied territories. During this process their ethnonym gradually became a territorial category. From a qualitative point of view, this process resulted in a new phenomenon: the modern nation. Szűcs pointed out that the transitions between the stages are not evident. The Hungarians in the period of the conquest did not lose their national consciousness, it rather spread among the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Hungary. After accepting Christianity, only fragments of the ancient ethnic ideas of the Hungarians found their way into written sources. Szűcs managed to provide a homogenous picture out of the small pieces that had not been achieved by other Hungarian scholars until then. At the end of the book a summary can be found of the scholarly activity of the author written by István Zimonyi.<sup>33</sup> It is followed by a bibliography of Jenő Szűcs' work, compiled by Erzsébet Szűcs.

The medievalists of the communist countries launched a new project that aimed at compiling a Marxist encyclopaedia of the medieval history of Eastern Europe with the title *Encyklopädie der Frühgeschichte der europäischen Völker*. In the course of the distribution of entries, however, the editors – in a very unscholarly way – took the modern borders of the countries as a basis. Thus the Hungarian scholars were to be excluded from the preparation of entries discussing the history of two thirds of Hungary that had once belonged to the medieval Kingdom of Hungary. Therefore, they begin to launch a new project with a working title *A magyar föld és nép korai történetének enciklopédiája*. The editorial work was taken by Sándor Bökönyi and Gyula Kristó and the secretary of the editorial board was Csanád Bálint. The entry-words would have included the Hungarian prehistory and medieval history up to 1387, as well as the history of the Carpathian basin between the Hun and the Hungarian conquests. In addition to the Hungarian edition, they also planned an edition in German. A pilot booklet – containing 26 entries – of the future encyclopaedia was published.<sup>34</sup> The publication of the first volume was planned for 1992. Due to the political changes, the financial basis of the undertaking became uncertain. Thus, on the basis of the already prepared entries a team, led by Gyula Kristó, began to compile a new book. It was eventually published in 1994 under the title *Korai magyar történeti lexikon (9–14. század)*.<sup>35</sup> With the shortening of the period under investigation, the entries – imperfectly – prepared on the pre-conquest history of the Carpathian basin were left out. Thus only 2,000 entries of the originally scheduled 3,000 were published.

Out of the remaining entries those, concerning the Huns, the Gepids and the Lombards were prepared in a way that they were published together in one vol-

<sup>33</sup> See also I. Zimonyi, "The Concept of Nation as Interpreted by Jenő Szűcs" in *Forms of Identity*. Ed. L. Löb, I. Petrovics, Gy. E. Szőnyi, Szeged 1994, 1-8.

<sup>34</sup> *A magyar föld és nép korai történetének enciklopédiája*. [Encyclopaedia of the Early History of the Hungarian Land and People.] Editor-in-chief: S. Bökönyi and Gy. Kristó, Budapest 1987. In a booklet as a manuscript.

<sup>35</sup> *Korai magyar történeti lexikon (9–14. század)*. [Lexicon of Early Hungarian History, 9th–14th Century.] Editor-in-chief: Gy. Kristó, ed. P. Engel and F. Makk, Budapest 1994.

ume. Before the publication of the encyclopaedia, István Bóna, who had co-ordinated the preparation of the entries dealing with the period under study, published a volume containing these entries in a book entitled *Hunok – Gepidák – Langobardok*.<sup>36</sup> This volume of 180 entries comprises the writings of István Bóna, János Cseh, Péter Tomka and Ágnes Tóth. There are separate entries, besides the substantial, summarizing ones (the Huns, the clothing of the Gepids, or the archaeology of the Lombards), on all the notable individuals (e.g. Arikan / Erekan, Dengitzik / Dintzik, Onegesios, Orestes, Uldin, Audomharjis / Omharius, Alboin / Albuin / Albwin, Bajan, Hildigis). The entries on the Hun golden bows, the Gepid survival and the one on the religious life of the Lombards were especially interesting.

The exhibition arranged for the eleven hundredth anniversary of the Magyar conquest of Hungary was first shown to the public in Miskolc, in 1995. The exhibition was opened to a wider public in the National Museum of Hungary in the following year. The catalogue of this exhibition,<sup>37</sup> after the introductory studies, presents the archaeological findings on the Hungarians in the period of the conquest arranged into lexicon-like entries, well illustrated with color plates. The three publications together, except the entries concerning the Avar period, provide a useful summary of the history of the Carpathian basin between the fourth and the fourteenth centuries that meets all scholarly expectations.

István Vásáry redeemed a long-lasting debt on the part of Hungarian orientalists by publishing his work entitled *A régi Belső-Ázsia története*,<sup>38</sup> since up to this time no monograph had been published in Hungarian on the more than a thousand-year history of the steppe. The work of Lajos Ligeti, *Az ismeretlen Belső-Ázsia* – according to the expectations of the publishing house – aimed at a wider readership.<sup>39</sup> The work of Károly Czeglédy only treated the events between the second century B.C. and the sixth century A.D. Also, he only studied the eastern part of the steppe region. Moreover, his work was not widely diffused, due to his extraordinarily condensed style.<sup>40</sup> The book of Vásáry combines a readable style with the abundant notes required by scholarly literature. The first chapter of the book comprises a general introduction, in which the author clarifies the subject matter discussed, explains his sources and outlines the geographical environment of the events. The term 'Inner-Asia', used in the title, refers to a cultural unity

<sup>36</sup> I. Bóna, et al., *Hunok – Gepidák – Langobardok*. [Huns, Gepids and Lombards.] Szeged 1993.

<sup>37</sup> "Őscinket felhozád..." *A honfoglaló magyarság*. ["Bringing Our Ancestors..." The Conquering Magyars.] Ed. I. Fodor, co-workers: L. Révész, M. Wolf, and I. M. Nepper, Budapest 1996.

<sup>38</sup> I. Vásáry, *A régi Belső-Ázsia története*. [A History of Early Inner-Asia.] Szeged 1993; Its German edition: *Geschichte des frühen Innerasiens*. Herne 1999.

<sup>39</sup> L. Ligeti, *Az ismeretlen Belső-Ázsia*. [The Unknown Inner-Asia.] Budapest 1940.

<sup>40</sup> K. Czeglédy, *Nomád népek vándorlása Napkelettől Napnyugatig*. [Migration of Nomadic People from East to the West.] Kőrösi Csoma Kiskönyvtár 8, Budapest 1969; English version: K. Czeglédy, "From East to the West: The Age of Nomadic Migrations in Eurasia," *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* 3 (1983) 25–125.

bordered by populations settled from the south and the ethnic groups of the taiga and tundra from the north. This territory extended as far west as the Carpathian basin and as far east as Manchuria. Besides dealing with the Inner Asian nomadic populations (Hsiung-nu, Yüeh-chih, Hsien pi, Juan-juan, Türk, Uyghur, Kirghiz, etc.), the book also provides a detailed discussion of the nomadic peoples (Scythian, Hun, Onoghur, Volga Bulghar, Avar, Khazar, Hungarian, Pecheneg, Uz, Cuman) who were in contact with Europe at any stage in their history. István Vásáry not only examined the history of the peoples of the steppe but also these of the nations, countries (Kitans, Jurchens, Tibetans, Tanguts, Karakhanid Empire, Khwarezm) that ever were in contact with them at certain stages of their history. The volume also comprises a twenty-page annotated bibliography, a detailed chronology and indices. Together with his book entitled *Az Arany Horda* (The Golden Horde) it provides a summary of the history of the Eurasian steppe from the Scythians to the Mongols.<sup>41</sup>

The thirteen volumes of the Prehistory Series published during the last decade prove that there is a well-skilled scholarly team in Szeged, and also that there is a palpable academic need for such publications. Finally, it should be pointed out that, in addition to the series reviewed here, orientalist and historical studies in Szeged are also represented by the foreign language publication *Studia uralo-altaica* series as well as by the *Szegedi Középkortörténeti Könyvtár*.

LÁSZLÓ BALOGH

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<sup>41</sup> I. Vásáry, *Az Arany Horda*. [The Golden Horde.] Budapest 1986.