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Outline of the 11th–15th century settlement history of North-West Jászság

Abstract of doctoral (PhD) thesis

by
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Choice of topic

In our line of work we collected data on the 11th–15th century settlement history of North-West Jászság in both historical and archaeological terms. The choice of topic is justified by the fact that monographic works reviewing and analysing historical and archaeological data for this area and period only summarized the previous – so far known – data, and their purpose was not specifically to examine the given period. At the same time, an MRT volume, which is available for us in the case of several other counties, has not been produced so far referring to Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County, or even at least to Jászság.

The territorial boundary of the research was marked in the north-western half of Jászság. This choice was significantly influenced by the fact that we had the opportunity to process the material of a 2007 excavation at Jászfényszaru–Samsung parkoló / Szőlők alja (Samsung car park / Bottom of Vineyards) thanks to the excavation leader dr. Róbert Kertész. Furthermore, the cemeteries of Négyszállás were excavated in this northern part of Jászság whose legacy (at least in part) can be linked to the early settlers of Jász ethnic group on the basis of previous research. The study of the micro-region of North-West Jászság is also justified by historical arguments, since, according to some researchers, the first wave of the Jász settled in the northern part of Jászság, in Árokszállás, Négyszállás, Apátiszállás and Kisér; on the other hand, in the 15th century, four settlements here (Berényszállás, Négyszállás, Fényszaru, Árokszállás) might have formed a *szék* (*sedes*). The examined micro-region extends to the border of Jászfényszaru in the north-west, Jászágó in the north, Jászárokszállás in the north-east, Jászdózsa in the south-east, Jászberény in the south, Jászfelsőszentgyörgy in the south-west. The southern boundary of the area was drawn along the branch of the river Zagyva and Tarna. The time interval covered by the research was determined in the 11th–15th century. Within this framework, the impact of the settlements of the Árpád Period and the Tartar invasion on the areas of North-West Jászság can be studied; while in the 14th–15th century we already have a lot more written sources, which help to identify late medieval settlements and outline their history. Finally, the process of the formation of the Jász *szék* can mark the closing period of roughly half a thousand years covered by the research.

Objective, methodology

The area designated for research has so far received relatively little attention in relation to the Middle Ages. Years, sometimes decades, have passed since the publication of the works on the subject, during which further data were published. With all this in mind, in the framework of the dissertation we intend to give an overview and summary of the examined area and period, thus revealing our current knowledge to research and those interested. In the course of the data collection we could build our research on the researchable archaeological finds, data archive documents and fieldwork results preserved in the collections of the Jász Museum and the János

Damjanich Museum, as well as on the data in the official archaeological site register and the archaeological database of the Hungarian National Museum. Other sources of data were charters related to the medieval history of the area. The data that can be collected on former settlements varies greatly in both quality and quantity therefore their comparison is not always unquestionable. At the same time, a complete review of the information gathered so far is absolutely necessary in order to provide at least a concise summary of the 11th–15th century settlement history of North-West Jászság. In the framework of the dissertation, in addition to collecting historical and archaeological data on the examined micro-region, we had the opportunity to analyse in detail the Árpád Period settlement excavated at Jászfényszaru–Samsung parkoló / Szőlők alja and the finds from here.

Available archaeological data and historical sources

Based on our research, a total of 85 medieval archaeological sites are currently known in the study area. The vast majority of these are settlement traces, but to a lesser extent, there are medieval cemeteries, churches, four coin finds and a castle in North-West Jászság. We cannot or seldom rely on written sources as for the 11th–13th century. We have knowledge of 14 settlements and estates in the study area, which we know by their names from the 13th–15th century charters and sometimes from latter Turkish defters. In the first half of the 15th century, during the reign of King Sigismund, several villages, lodgings (*descensus*) and plains in Jászság appeared in the written sources.

An Árpád Period village in North-West Jászság – Jászfényszaru–Samsung parkoló / Szőlők alja

Description of the site and the excavated archaeological objects

At Szőlők alja on the north-eastern border of Jászfényszaru, a preventive excavation was carried out in 2007 by the staff of the János Damjanich Museum, led by dr. Róbert Kertész. The excavation became necessary due to the establishment of a truck parking lot at the Samsung factory. As many as 309 objects were revealed in the excavation area of more than 30 000 m². Most of the archaeological objects belonged to an Árpád Period settlement, however, some Sarmatian objects and a few prehistoric finds were also found. In the dissertation we presented the houses and other important structures of the Árpád Period village excavated here (outdoor ovens, pens, ditch systems, etc.), as well as the finds from them. Regarding the extent of the settlement, it can be said that the edge of the excavation section cut in half several houses in the west, so it is certain that the settlement must continue in this direction. There are ditch systems on the south-western edge of the area, which are somewhat separate from the other objects, probably indicating the boundary of the site. In a northern direction there are ditches and pits on the edge of the excavated surface, but they are also located 15–20 m from the centre. The plant is bounded by the factory area from east to south-east. In the autumn of 2012, on the field west

of the 2007 excavation section, as well as on the sand ridge adjacent to the south, an on-site inspection was carried out at a site called Ószőlő II. Surface finds confirmed the hypothesis that a part of the village is still unexplored, and it can be assumed that Ószőlő II. and Szőlők alja may retain traces of the same settlement.

The excavated Árpád Period settlement piece included 69 ditches, 45 buildings, 9 outdoor ovens, 3 outdoor / temporary fire pits, 2 paddocks, and 10 objects identified as pile spaces. It is important to mention that no wells were found during the excavation, neither from the Árpád Period nor from earlier times. Based on this fact, either natural waters found in the environment may have provided water supply, or the well / wells belonging to the village are located in still unexplored areas.

Houses

In the case of the houses, we examined house pits, structural solutions, masonry, entrances, floor, ovens, fireplaces and equipment elements. The extent of the sinking of the buildings in Jászfényszaru cannot be determined without the knowledge of the original walking level, but based on the observed phenomena, we may probably count on pit and surface houses with slightly sunken-floor. The base of the houses varied between 5.04 and 19.32 m², with an average of 9.96 m². Regarding the structure of the buildings, we classified the objects into seven groups based on the number and location of the poles supporting the roof: two ear poles on the two shorter or longer sides; three ear poles in the centre axis of the house; one or two poles on one shorter or longer side; one pole in the middle; four poles in the middle of the pages and one or two poles around the centre of the house; houses without poles; structures that cannot be defined more precisely. Each house had an oven, usually made by plastering or partly carved, square or rounded, oval in shape. In two buildings (houses 16 and 18), two larger round, sometimes slightly rectangular pits could be observed, which, based on the parallels, might presumably have served as a storage place.

Outdoor ovens

A total of 9 outdoor ovens became found at Szőlők alja. In terms of their design, outdoor ovens 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9 can be classified into the group of shaft ovens. The outdoor oven 9 has a staircase leading down to its forefront. At the outdoor oven 3, a large ash pit was dug, and a column site could also be observed, which may indicate the presence of a roof. Regarding their function, some of them (e.g. outdoor oven 4) could presumably have served as a smokery. These objects were mostly located around the outermost residential buildings and on the ditched southern periphery of the centre. According to István Méri's observations, such objects were mostly located on both sides of the village in other settlements therefore the outdoor ovens in the eastern part of the excavation area (7 in total) may indicate the proximity of the settlement border.

Outdoor stoves

In the case of 3 objects, based on the burnt parts and the ashy, charcoaly, sometimes daub spotted filling, it can be assumed that they served as a kind of temporary fire place. They are round or rectangular in shape and their diameter varies from 50 to 100 cm. As for their location, it can be observed that stoves 2 and 3 were also formed in a ditch.

Holes, pits

Of the objects that became found during the excavation, 103 holes and pits may have belonged to the Árpád Period settlement based on their location and finds. Holes around the houses, usually of regular circular or rectangular shape, may also be of interest in terms of settlement structure. A total of 11 of the 28 key objects in this respect contained archaeological finds, but for the most part this also meant only a few ceramic fragments. This may suggest that these holes were used for food storage and were not later used too often for waste collection. Although no artefacts were found in them, but in one case, based on its location, a rectangular hole can undoubtedly be connected to the house 18, which can be considered a "pit cellar" under a modern name.

Ditches

In the excavated part of the settlement, several sections of ditches were found, which can be connected to 69 ditches. The ditches in Jászfényszaru may have mostly functioned as drainage and barrier, but we do not rule out the possibility that they sometimes performed a dual function. It has been suggested, especially in the case of the ditches 2, 3, 7, 24 and 56, that they might have served as barriers on the basis of the rectangular areas surrounded by them and other ditch sections. The location of the ditch 12 and the relatively low number of objects excavated in this area of the settlement compared to the other areas may indicate the southern boundary of the settlement.

Pens

On the northern edge of the centre of the Árpád Period settlement, a multiple ditch system surrounding a rectangular area became excavated that can be interpreted as 2 pens. The inner area of the pen 1 might have been 441–462 m², while the pen 2 approx. 405–472 m². The entrance to pen 1 may have been in the south-east corner, the entrance to pen 2 can be clearly visible in the north-east corner. The column space here may have belonged to the former gate. Judging by the size of the area of the pens, they could probably have been used to keep larger animals, perhaps horses or cattle. Based on the animal bone material, the presence of both mentioned species can be expected.

Ceramics

Most of the artefacts are ceramic fragments, only one intact, one pieced-out and one refillable pot was found. The general characteristics of the ceramic material, the typological groups, the

decoration methods, the bottom stamp and the white ceramics were examined. In the case of the latter ceramic groups, we also had an insight on the territory of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County.

All the ceramics from Jászfényszaru (certainly from the Árpád Period) can be said to have been made on a slow, hand-driven throwing-wheel, with no clear traces of a fast throwing-wheel. In terms of type of the ceramic, pots dominated, and their shape was followed by larger vessels, which could have functioned as pots and / or containers. There were a small number of fragments of cauldrons, a few specimens were represented by bottles, and in the case of one or two fragments, it was suggested that they belonged to a bowl or cup.

Among the ceramics we found a relatively large number of ornamented ones, but there are also completely unornamented and uncharacteristic fragments. Combinations of typical decoration methods were mostly observed on 12th–13th century vessels and often on white ceramics. Based on the ceramics excavated in Jászfényszaru, the older and newer decoration methods were present side by side for a while, sometimes merging with each other, but certain tendencies – such as the dominance of spiral decoration in the late Árpád Period or the decrease in the use of wave and line bundles – can also be detected.

In Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County at the moment we currently know 10th–14th century bottom-stamped vessels from 18 sites. At Jászfényszaru–Szőlők alja, a bottom stamp or a part of it can be seen only in the case of 15 fragments and 3 intact or refillable dishes. Although there are similarities between their motifs, but only two fragments show a completely identical pattern. In our view, several factors suggest that bottom stamps had a symbolic meaning and cannot be interpreted as master or proprietary marks.

According to the current state of the research, white ceramics from the 12th–14th century in Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County can be documented from 54 sites – including all shades. Based on the results so far, the white ceramics, more precisely pottery with intended white colour, appeared in the county as early as in the second half of the 12th century. From the turn of the century, burnt white pottery became one of the most characteristic pottery products, which – sometimes in smaller quantities – can be found in all late Árpád Period sites in the study region. In the case of the sites of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County – especially at Jászság – the experience so far shows that although there was a change of raw materials, the pottery traditions (shapes, decorations, etc.) did not change so quickly, but a gradual transformation can be observed. Based on these, it is probable that the raw material in the study area might have been obtained from elsewhere and not the completed pots were transported to the local villages, but the latter possibility cannot be ruled out either. Based on the findings so far, it is possible to macroscopically distinguish 8 groups among the white ceramics, which can be dated from the second half of the 12th century to the 14th century.

Regarding the ceramic material presented, in general it can be said that the choice of material, tempering and other work phases often seem irregular, as in decoration, somewhat unconventional solutions can also be observed.

Metal finds

During the excavation, a total of 47 metal objects were brought to light, of which 39 were accompanied by ceramics from the Árpád Period, or metal find probably related to this period. Non-ferrous alloys or mixed metal objects, knives, sickle, pickaxe, keys, iron plate, iron strap, spur, spear tip, iron ring and clamping plate, iron nail, iron slab and iron melt, as well as other iron objects with the function still in question, also occur. Most objects are fragmentary and highly corroded therefore their original shape and size cannot be reconstructed. The condition of the finds also made it difficult to find parallels. Those objects that still made it possible suggest similarity between the finds in most of the 12th–13th century settlements – e.g. in the case of the sickle, pickaxe and keys – while based on the form of spurs, parallel is known from the end of the 11th century, the first third of the 12th century, but 12th–13th century parallel is also known.

Stone material

During the excavation, a total of 113 stone objects and rock fragments were discovered, of which 82 stone finds were accompanied by mostly Árpád Period finds. Regarding the types of the latter, mill and millstones dominate, followed in number by amorphous rock fragments and stones, and then by honing stones. There is a negligible number of gavel stone and small stone tools or stone tools for the purpose in question, and only one core stone was found.

Archaeozoological and malacological remnants

A total of 152 objects contained some archaeozoological and malacological remains, 1403 fragments of bones and shells were found from the site. The processing and evaluation of animal bone material will take place in the near future, but it can already be seen that remains of cattle, pig, sheep, horse and dog also occur among them.

Dating

The earlier period (11th–12th century), which can be distinguished on the basis of superpositions and finds, is connected by a transitional period (second half of the 12th century – early 13th century) with the later period (turn of the 12th / 13th century – second half of the 13th century / early 14th century). 13 buildings (houses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 19, 20, 22, 26, 31, 32) could be dated for the previous period, 15 houses for the transitional period (houses 6, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 37, 43) and 12 buildings for the late period (houses 7, 16, 23, 24, 29, 36, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46). 5 houses had no finds or problems with dating (houses 10, 12, 35, 40 and 41). Thus, the 45 excavated buildings did not stand at the same time, but we can still count on at least 12–15 houses per period in the known part of the settlement. According to our data, life was continuous in the village.

The ceramic groups separated on the basis of raw material, tempering and colour usually delimit well the historical periods of the settlement. From the 11th century onwards, ceramics made from lime-rich raw materials with sandy (or less commonly sand-tempered) and relatively

fine-grained substance that is rough to the touch, and mostly in shades of red and black. These were replaced in the late 12th – early 13th centuries with vessels made of other raw materials, which were visibly poorer in lime and were often tempered with large debris, in various shades of grey and white. In the finds examined so far, the smallest proportion of fragments refers to the second half of the 13th century or the beginning of the 14th century, which, compared to the former ones, are mostly fine, less coarse-grained, thin-walled and grey or light in colour (greyish-white, yellowish-white, light red), sometimes clear white. From the early period, only pots are known at first, and only from the 12th century onwards we can observe an increase in pot types. Also, we can experience a gradual transition between the earlier and later periods. The transformation seen in the pottery, the survival of certain ornamentation, the unchanged presence of the main types of dishes, and the gradual change in their shape suggest that the same population lived here all the time. This assumption is also confirmed in some cases by traces of house renovation. The period of use of some ceramics can be extended to the 14th century on the basis of its construction, formal features, decoration, and parallels, however, finds dating only to this period cannot be found in the find material. Taking all this into account, the existence of the settlement in the 13th century is beyond dispute, but due to the circumstances described, the date of its depopulation cannot be determined precisely on the basis of our present knowledge. According to the evidence of the part of the village discovered so far, no attack can be detected – e.g. traces of destruction related to the Tartar invasion –, so we can count on the possibility of conscious relocation and depopulation.

Settlement structure

The river Zagyva and its smaller arms still wind there at Jászfényszaru, but in the past there were floodplain, almost marshy areas. The sand ridge, which was also inhabited in the Árpád Period, stood out from this environment with a level difference of 2.7 m. The surface model made with the help of points measured during the excavation clearly shows the higher parts where most of the objects were located. As far as possible, the lower lane between the two higher areas was omitted, mainly pens were created in this part, and the next pits and ditches were already formed in the higher area. The location of each house is not accidental either, but in many cases it shows a distinctly arranged layout. The early buildings are roughly arranged in a north-west–south-east line follow the southern curve of the higher area (houses 26, 5, 8, 3), and some of them are a few meters south of this line (houses 22, 20, 19, 9, 2, 4, 1) and in the north-eastern part of the settlement (houses 32, 31). Perpendicular to the north-west–south-east row of houses, another row of houses outlines along the western edge of the section (houses 22, 26, 27, 30), whose buildings can already be dated in part in the transitional period. A long, north-west–south-east line can also be observed in the buildings of the transition period (houses 27, 28, 25, 6, 11, 13). The other houses of this time interval stood in the south-west (houses 15, 21, 17, 18) and north-east parts (houses 43, 34, 33, 37) of the settlement centre. The residential buildings of the transition period and the late period fit relatively well into the pattern of north-

west–south-east row of the previous houses, and also form new rows of houses in parallel (houses 44, 42, 39, 38) and perpendicularly (houses 42, 43, 45 and houses 38, 34, 36) in the eastern–north-eastern part of the excavated segment of the settlement. Other buildings of the late period are located in the western part of the town center (houses 29, 24, 23, 16, 46, 7), where, in some cases, they took over the place of former buildings. The Árpád Period houses with uncertain age and without finds (houses 41, 40, 35, 10, 12) also integrate in the mentioned rows, where they are typically surrounded by buildings belonging to the transition period and the late period. Based on the above, a roughly north-west–south-east strip with a width of 17 to 33 m is clearly outlined. So here we can count on the existence of an undeveloped street lined with rows of houses. The houses forming the south and north sides of the street did not all stand at the same time, yet their serial location along the affected lane draws the line of the street. This also confirms that in this part there was a street lane formed in the early Árpád Period and existing for several generations, which was also an important aspect in choosing the place of construction of the subsequent houses. What is also worth mentioning are those ditch systems that intersect the buildings of the Árpád Period village with late finds, which in several cases enclose rectangular areas, so they most likely had the function to delimit the area. At present, it is still questionable who created these ditches, for what purpose and exactly when, but it seems probable that a new settlement structure was created on the late Árpád Period settlement structure, important elements of which were the ditch systems and the areas they delimited.

The medieval settlement history of North-West Jászság based on archaeological and historical data

From the 11th century to the Tartar invasion

The North-West Jászság area examined by us, located on the border of the early counties of Visegrád and Újvár, was predominantly situated in the western part of the latter. Regarding the history of the micro-region in the 10th and early 11th centuries, principally the cemeteries and scattered finds from this period may provide some information. Based on the work of László Révész, only seven early sites can be found in our study area, six of which are cemeteries used in the 10th century and one continuously in use between the 10th and the first third of the 12th century.

In the Great Plain, six dioceses were established in the early Árpád Period, with the area being studied now belonged to the diocese of Eger. There are 11 known church sites in the research area, of which 7 local churches existed in the Árpád Period. The distances between them usually vary 2.6 and 6 km, while the distance between the groupings observed in the western and eastern parts of North-West Jászság is 15–17 km. Based on the research disproportions already mentioned several times, as well as the proximity of the known churches to each other, we can probably count on additional church places in the parts that currently seem empty.

Among the archaeological sites of different ages in the designated area, 35.12% have medieval finds. In the case of the sites certainly from Árpád Period, this ratio is 22.72%, while in the case of the Late Middle Ages it is 15.29%. Compared to other areas of Hungary (Békés County, sand ridge between the Danube and the Tisza, Pest County), the micro-region of North-West Jászság lags behind the others in this respect. Of the 85 sites discussed in the dissertation, 55 are from the Árpád Period, which is 64.71% of all the sites examined. In the case of another 16 sites, it is possible that they (also) had a phase from the Árpád Period, as these are scattered finds or sites indicated to have medieval origin, without precise date, or with disputed dates. Considering the settlement categories of Dénes Jankovich B., which he defined by studying the Gyomaendrőd area of Békés County, it is hardly possible to find a site in the area we examined that does not belong to the category of villages with an area of more than one hectare. Even the smallest have a size of around 0.8–0.9 ha. At the same time, we know much fewer, only seven of the church places that already existed in the Árpád Period, based on which we must also reckon with the presence of smaller settlements and accommodations without a church. Compared to the example of Békés County or the sand ridge between the Danube and the Tisza, the "rings" of smaller settlements around the church places cannot be really detected here, only some groupings can be seen north-east of the inner area of Jászfényszaru in the wider surroundings of the church. This may be due in part to the fact that we presumably do not know all the former church sites or the former settlements around them. The traces of individual settlements are usually located at a short distance from each other. Even if the more distant sites are taken into account, the "next" settlement is still at most 5–6 km away, but 1.5–3 km is typical. Overall, we see the distribution of Árpád Period settlements in the North-West Jászság micro-region as dense but somewhat disproportionate. The one time settlements mostly followed watercourses as well as the edges of waterlogged areas. We know from the work of Gerzson Nemes that, due to the hydrographical conditions of Jászság, floodplain farming can be detected in the area even before the Turkish conquest. The sometime inhabitants also took the advantage of the water-rich areas suitable for grazing, as it can be perceived mostly on the basis of the animal bones found in the settlements as well as the objects implying animal husbandry.

Regarding the location of the settlements of the Árpád Period, we have observed that there is a lack of sites in the central part of the study area – not only in the 11th–13th centuries, but also in the later period. It is questionable to what extent the site concentrations and the territories without sites are related to the natural and topographic features and the exploration of some areas. Regarding the relationship between the subsequent road network drawn by Sámuel Mikoviny and the sites of the Árpád Period, we occasionally found that the given settlement was located along the route or at or near the junction of the roads. On this ground, it can be assumed that at least some of the latter routes had already existed before.

In North-West Jászság we know of relatively few early settlements which presumably did not lived to see the Tartar invasion, at least we do not yet have data on the given settlement later than the middle of the 13th century. These include, for instance, Jászberény–Kövér-tanya I.

(86167) and Jászfelsőszentgyörgy–Lucskos rét (36099). We know of several settlements that existed until the Tartar invasion, but disappeared either as a result of the invasion or in the internal migration observed in the second half of the 13th century. An example of this can be the Árpád Period settlement Jászágó–patak-part I–II. (71165; 71167) and Jászberény–Négyszállás II. (28379).

We can identify only a small part of the 11th–13th century settlements with the places mentioned in the written sources, however, their names appeared somewhat later in the charters compared to when the existence of the settlement documented archeologically. The area of Kerekudvar, also known as Tyukod, is marked by the sites of Jászfelsőszentgyörgy–Pusztakerekudvar II. (20328) and Jászfelsőszentgyörgy–Pusztakerekudvar (17033). In this connection, our first data is that Béla IV gave Kerekudvar to Péter Kátai, a master barrel. We can also early meet the name of Hajóhalom, which can be identified with the Jászdózsa–Kápolnahalom (17035) site, in connection with the diet held in 1271. The Árpád Period Barasó – which is identical to the latter Borsóhalma, which may be indicated by a medieval house excavated at the Jászberény–Borsóhalma site – was first mentioned in 1331 as neighbour area of Kerekudvar. Jászfényszaru–Kozma-part and Kozmadomb (38297; 69825) includes the relics of Szentkozmadamján, which appeared in charters in the 15th century. Necsőgyháza, which remained in the form of an archeological site in Jászberény–Zsombékos and Necsőgyháza (58870; new site), is also mentioned as a *praedium* only in 1449.

Examining the medieval settlement network of Jászság, we can see that the people living in the given area maintained close contact with the communities living in today's Pest and Heves Counties. Perhaps the connection with the north-eastern and Pest areas of the country can also be indicated by the fact that parallels of archaeological objects and finds known from the studied micro-region are often found in the mentioned areas. The North-West Jászság and the mentioned areas are located roughly along and around the route connecting Buda with the north-eastern parts of the country. In this way, the connection could be easily established between the singular territorial units. However, this kind of connection made it possible to convey not only commercial goods, but even more, the knowledge of the technologies and "fashion trends" observed in the various architectures and ceramics.

From the Tartar invasion to the formation of the Jász szék system

In the 13th century, several Árpád Period settlements in North-West Jászság ceased to exist. However, no treasures or coin finds from the Tartar invasion have been found in the study area so far, nor have any traces of a Tartar attack such as those known from other areas. In the case of 55 settlements currently known in the North-West Jászság area, as well as 7 ones certainly existed in the Árpád Period, it is probable that they were destroyed or depopulated as a result of the Tartar invasion or the internal migration in the 13th century. Accordingly, the destroyed, depopulated villages make up only 12.72% of the 11th–13th century settlements. Of the settlements existing between the 11th–13th century, 6 show a probable continuity and 9 a

possible continuity in the late Middle Ages. If only the former 6 are taken into account, then 10.9% of the previous settlements, if we add the possible 9, 27.27% survived the Tartar invasion. In the case of 16 sites – 43.24% of all certainly late medieval sites – there is either no Árpád Period antecedent and the settlement was newly established in the 14th century – possibly later – or the late medieval period follows the antecedents with some hiatus.

We can count on existing late medieval settlements, sometimes in the early modern period as well in the case of 37 sites in the study area, which is 43.53% of the medieval sites in North-West Jászság. In addition, it is possible that at another 16 sites may have had a late medieval period (as well). If we consider only the settlements that can be classified with high certainty, then to the best of our knowledge, there were 17 less sites (21.18% of the examined sites) in the late Middle Ages than in the Árpád Period. As before, the 14th–15th century settlement network also shows disproportions in North-West Jászság. Many settlement traces are located quite close to each other, barely 1–1.5 km away, while some are more scattered, 3.5–8 km apart. The settlement-forming power of watercourses and floodplains can also be observed in this period. The late medieval sites are sometimes located along latter roads and sometimes at junctions. Comparing this with the similar location of the settlements of the Árpád Period as well as with the early modern road network, it is likely that certain routes were formed quite early and had existed in the same place for hundreds of years. The extent of the sites also shows a similar picture as in the previous period. Of the 11 church sites in the study area, 6 existed during the 14th–15th/16th century. Between them, the smallest distance is 3.5 km and the largest is 15.6 km.

In the case of both the Árpád Period and the late Middle Ages, the possibility of reconstructing the settlement network is limited by the fact that we have only the little information about some of the sites that they are medieval, but they have not been dated yet more exactly. A total of 14 are among such sites of questionable age, but certainly medieval.

The area of North-West Jászság was still on the border of two counties after the Tartar invasion, with the western part of it being part of Pest and the north-eastern part being a part of Hevesújvár. Later, from the south, the privileged area of the Jász was embedded, the northern part of which belonged to the studied micro-region. The establishment of the Jász in the Carpathian Basin is still a defining historical act among the inhabitants of Jászság, which also deserves attention from the point of view of our topic. In the last two centuries, a number of researchers have published studies in connection with the problem of the migration of the Jász, which has brought new research directions into the horizons of historians, linguists and archaeologists interested in the subject. For many decades, the research accepted the assumption that the Jász arrived in Hungary together with the returning Cumans as early as in the middle of the 13th century, while according to other opinions, they moved in larger numbers only during the 14th century. In this recent summary, we do not have the opportunity to discuss in detail the many researchers' opinions on the move of the Jász – which we have described in the dissertation – therefore we will only publish our conclusions based on them. We consider the

historians' arguments – such as the appearance of the Jász in charters and their previous absence, the aspects formulated in connection with the property relations – to be considered, and mostly acceptable. From archaeological point of view, it is the cemeteries and the smaller parts of the settlements that can be considered as exclusive sources in the research of the Jász history, the latter of which that came to light due the work of László Selmeczi. Regarding the date of the Jász setting – reviewing the historical and archaeological data as well, we currently believe that the setting of Jász could not have taken place at once and in mass, but rather in several stages, in smaller or larger groups. It is conceivable that as early as in the second half or the end of the 13th century the Jász came to Hungary independently of the Cumans from Moldova, Havasalföld and possibly the Bulgarian side of the Lower-Danube, but the lack of sources reporting their move may also indicate that their number was so low that it was not necessary to mention them in the sources. Thus, their setting was presumably not a clearly identifiable, one-off event at a given time, but rather a prolonged, variable-pace process, and perhaps that is why we do not find any reference to this in our sources. Archaeological and historical data reviewed in the dissertation also show that despite the devastating effects of the Tartar invasion, life did not disappear completely in the Jászság area, not all settlements disappeared, Hungarian inhabitants stayed in the area, and even new villages were established. In addition to all this, we can also conclude from the 1271 diet in Hajóhalom that in the second half of the 13th century this area was hardly occupied by the Jász en masse. Just because restorations took place somewhere in the area of the later Jászság after the Tartar invasion, or a new settlement was created, we cannot yet automatically link them to the Jász. In relation with the 14th–15th century, the sites mentioned in the written sources and the archaeological sites can be better connected to each other, which could provide a more secure point of reference in this regard. At the same time, in terms of settlement, the presence of the Jász could be traceable most exclusively on the basis of charter data, as this issue can mostly be examined or decided by archaeological methods, considering only the objects and finds of a settlement trace. Thus, however, the data preserved in the written sources are available, according to which we had not had Jász in the territory of the Hungarian Kingdom before the first third of the 14th century. Regardless of this, based on the previous hypotheses and the cemetery of Négyszállás, several researchers accept the possibility of the Jász moving in after the Tartar invasion, possibly together with the Cumans, settling down in Jászság. It can be seen that there are still sometimes gaps and contradictions between the results of historical and archaeological research, and recent publications on the subject also show well that the debate is still in full swing and, moreover, has now received new impetus. We are convinced that further research will help to clarify the issue of the Jász migration, as we currently have relatively little historical and archaeological data, which in our opinion does not allow for a clear, undisputed position on the issue.

We examined the settlement network between the middle of the 13th century and the end of the 14th century also in terms of whether the earlier settlements of the Árpád Period had survived the Tartar invasion, and where, how and by whom the newer settlements were

established. Based on these, we classified five settlement groups in the given micro-region. These groups are outlined before us on the basis of currently known data, sometimes sporadic and of varying accuracy, so future research will certainly refine the view. The first group includes those villages of the Árpád Period that were destroyed during the Tartar invasion and were not revived by either the local population or the Jász – e.g. Jászágó–Ágói-patak-part I–II. (71165; 71167). The second group consists of those Hungarian settlements that were not later inhabited by the Jász and that survived the Tartar invasion or became reconstructed after that, or the necessary parts of them rebuilt – e.g. Jászdózsa–Kápolnahalom (17035). The third group of settlements consists of the Jász settlements which merged the areas of several settlements that were destroyed or abandoned during the Tartar invasion, or were established in former medieval settlements. This can sometimes be seen as a kind of continuity, which is well illustrated by the continued use of former churches and cemeteries by the Jász – e.g. Négyszállás. There is a special case with an antecedent from the Árpád Period in the given area, then the Jász created a lodging where Hungarians later settled – such was Berény, where the part of the city with Hungarian and Jász population became separated later. The fourth group includes the lodgings created by the setting Jász, so from the beginning they were Jász settlements. In several of these cases, it can be observed that there had been a former Árpád Period settlement in the area, which was depopulated or destroyed, however, the new Jász lodging was not established in its place, but independently, a little further away – e.g. Jászágó–Középkori Ágó (93883). The fifth group consists of the settlements that existed as Hungarian settlements throughout the Middle Ages, and it was only in the 16th century when the settlements, inhabited by Hungarians until then, became occupied by the Jász. Among other settlements, Szentgyörgy, which exists on the western border of the study micro-region, can be classified here, which was depopulated after the Turkish occupation and which was presumably taken over by the Jász before 1558.

After the reconstructions and transformations following the Mongol invasion, the Great Plain had gained new administrative organizations by the 14th century, including the lodging area of the Cumans and Jász, where the Franciscan order carried out proselytization from the middle of the 14th century.

Some of the medieval settlements mentioned in the sources have been successfully localized thanks to the results of historical and archaeological research in recent decades, including Szentkozmadamján / Kozmadamjánszállás – its equivalent is Jászfényszaru–Kozma-part and Kozmadomb (38297; 69825), Ágó – its equivalent is Jászágó–Középkori Ágó (93883), Hajóhalom – its equivalent is Jászdózsa–Kápolnahalom (17035), Négyszállás – its equivalent is Jászberény–Négyszállás / Négyszállás I. (25476) and Jászberény–Négyszállás II. (28379), and Kerekudvar – its equivalent is Jászfelsőszentgyörgy–Pusztakerekudvar II. (20328). The location of Necsőegyháza, which existed in the Árpád Period and appeared as a donated *praedium* in the late Middle Ages, is also known – its equivalent is Jászberény–Zsombékos and Necsőegyháza (58870; new site). The location of Bény / Bénye has been managed to conditionally identify, but still requires further research. The examination of the medieval settlements causes difficulties in

the case of Fényszaru, Árokszállás, Dózsa and Berényszállás since they may lie under present settlements, while we can position some additional places on the map only with approximate precision (Barasó / Borsóhalma, Pusztamonostor / Papmonostora).

At the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, some of the villages became urban areas. Hajóhalom in Heves County, which housed the diet in the 13th century, had the right to hold fairs in the 14th century, and appears in András Kubinyi's book on urban development and network as an unclassifiable central location with incomplete data. Berény / Berényszállás / Jászberény, which has already played an important role in the examined area, was given the opportunity by its central location within Jászság to perform a central task. András Kubinyi classified it among the market towns with a partial urban function.

Although in the first half of the 15th century, during the reign of King Sigismund, we can already find several settlements in Jászság – Jász and non-Jász – in the written sources, we can also see from this that the formation of the settlement network was far from complete. Rather, this took place only at the beginning of the Turkish occupation. After the early Jász settlements established in the studied area – Árokszállás, Berényszállás, Fényszaru, Négyszállás – new lodgings, estates and plains appeared in the 15th century. These include Ágó, Borsóhalma, Dózsa, Necsőegyháza, Szentkozmadamjanszállás and Újfalu. At the end of the Middle Ages, Fényszaru, Ágó, Árokszállás, Négyszállás and Dósa / Dózsa were definitely Jász settlements in the study area; Jászberény was founded by Jász, with some Hungarian population and acted as a Jász *szék*. Gábor Bagi added Borsóhalma and Necsőegyháza to the list of Jász settlements. In addition, Pusztamonostor and Kerekudvar existed as non-Jász estates, and Kozmadamjanszállás was owned by nobles of Jász origin.

A significant transformation took place in the organization of the Jász at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries: feudal territorial administration based on manorial management, the so-called *szék* system changed the nomadic-originated clan organization with military function. Berényszállás, Négyszállás, Árokszállás and Fényszaru *szék* (*sedes*) could together have formed a *szék*, which is also indicated by their constant co-occurrence in the written sources – as several researchers have already referred to it. According to Péter Tóth, it is also conceivable that in the 15th century Jászság consisted of not one but of two territorial organizations, which two units were connected by the captain's office. One of the units could have been Berényszállás, Négyszállás, Árokszállás, Fényszaru, Ágó, and the other Apáti, Kisér Alsószentgyörgy, Ladány and Újszász, that is, the east–south-east part of today's Jászság. Based on the size of the area under their jurisdiction, we believe that the four lodgings appearing as *szék* in the North-West Jászság area we examined formed a single Jász *szék*. Considering the charters data, the Jász *sedes* may have been formed during the second third of the 15th century, and it must have existed around the middle of the century. Although the Jászság cannot be considered a homogeneous, cohesive area in the Middle Ages, the formation of the Jász *szék* made it possible to create its own special administrative unit.

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