

hettek az Óvár sáncaiba az új, talán ágyúállások a három könnyen támadható oldal irányába. Ezek pedig már a huszita korra jellemzők.

Véleményünk szerint a huszita kori események az Óvár második, nagy mottéjára vonatkoztathatók. A korai magyar századok várépítészetének kutatása még sok problémát rejt magában. Az oklevelek a XIII. század végéig nem adnak lehetőséget arra, hogy csupán a belőlük nyert adatokból az országban levő várak helyzetére, számára megbízhatóan lehessen általánosítani. Csak a terepen található emlékanyag számbavétele, az okleveles adatokkal együtt történeti komplex feldolgozása visz bennünket előre egy-egy rész kérdés megoldásában.

CASTLES OF MOTTE TYPE IN THE ONE-TIME BORSOD COUNTY

(Abstract)

The study of earthen fortifications has been upswinging during the last decade in county Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. Five earthen castles of Motte type have been elaborated (Miskolc—Leányvár, Kisgyőr—Halomvár, Bükkábrány—Temető, Szihalom—Árpád-vár, Sajónémeti—Várhegy). No castles of Motte type have been described in Hungarian technical literature so far.

The motte is an artificial hill, filled up or carved off, surrounded with a ditch, on the top of which a building made of stone or wood served for defence. A so called pre-fort was attached to the main hill standing either on the original level or on a little higher ground containing usually the economic estates (M. Müller-Wille 1966). This type of fortifications used to be widespread throughout West-Europe. Its original home was, possibly, Normandy. It is pictured on the Bayeux carpet presenting the castles of Dol, Rennes, Dinan, Bayeux and Hastings from the 11th c., from the time of William the Conqueror's campaign. There are several differences among the castles. The simplest one is the castle of Dol with well outlined ditch around it. The castle of Rennes is stronger but the ditch is replaced by timber-wall (palisade). The noblest one is the castle of Dinan, where the balcony-like projection served the defence. The motte of Bayeux stands on a steep hill, thus no ditch or palisade can be seen around it. The castle of Hastings was built by the Norman conquerors in England. The picture shows the building of the castle.

The study of the mottes has begun in West-Europe already in the last century. Its technical literature is rich and manifold. The totally unearthed castles on the Rhein, Husterkupp and Meerbusch, come from the 9th c. The mottes are also studied in Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia, where they appeared in the 11th–13th cc. No mottes are known from Transylvania, though there are some similar castles from the 11th–12th cc. (Firtos, Budvár, Tartód, Kustaly). Some historians, searching only in documents, hold that private castles were first built in Hungary only after the Tartarian invasion (1242). Others at the beginning of the century thought, though unbased, that all the castles without documents were founded by the Slavs. The archaeological finds, however, prove that no castles, except for Zalavár, were founded by the Slavs. The recent discoveries have shown that the private castles were built in Hungary, just like in other parts of Europe, in the time of the early feudalism, in the 11th–13th cc. appearing in the documents somewhat later, mainly from the 14th c. onwards.

Mottes were built first of all on the plains or on the hills. In Hungary the study of the

castles was carried out in the mountains, thus no mottes, "Burghügel"s from the historical territory of Hungary in Burgenland (H. P. Schad'n): Pomogy (Pamhagen), Pecsényéd (Pötsching), Fraknóvár (Fortchtenau), Németkeresztúr (Deutschkreuz), Dörfel (Dörfl); in the present South-Slovakia (A. Fiala—A. Habovštiak—T. Stefanovičova): Kéménd (Kamenin), Berencs (Branc), Veszele (Veszélé), Karkóc (Trakovice). The foreign technical literature deals also with the classification of the mottes. H. P. Schad'n classifies them according to the form of the hill, while Müller-Wille considers the height of the hills. We consider the territory inside the motte's ditch (defence territory) and the territory of the motte, i.e. the upper level of the hill, more important. The first informs about the largest possible number of people defending the motte and residing in it; the latter gives information about the largeness of the building on the top of the hill.

(The comparison of the geometrical data of the five Hungarian mottes and two ones from the Rhein area is given in Table 1.)

Kisgyőr—Halomvár, Miskolc—Leányvár

The two castles being close to each other, and being similar in many features are described and evaluated together. Both of them are ill settled from the aspect of defence. They are situated on the middle of a flat ridge, being easily sieged. The earth from the ditches was piled up on the highest point of the ridge. There are big holes in the centre of both mottes which are of no natural origin. The defence territory is much larger than that of the average ones. The builders left an entrance road in the ditches of both mottes as proved by the detailed investigations. Leányvár was excavated by T. Kemenczei in 1970, who proved that the castle had never been inhabited. The holes on the mottes show that the tower was not on the top of the hill in either case, but on the original level, then it was surrounded with the earth from the ditches. The door of the tower opened in the side of the hill. The hole is the remnant of the tower, which must have been 7×7 metres of ground plan. The data of the two castles can be summed up in the followings:

1. They both are early types, flourishing in West-Europe in the 9th—13th cc, in Central-Europe in the 11th—14th cc.
2. They were planned to accept many people.
3. Their building needed many hands, thus the builders ruled over great population.
4. The builder of both mottes is identical, who stucked to the usual forms.
5. The excavation and investigation of the entrance routs detected neither durational inhabitation nor siege.

Kisgyőr and its vicinity belonged to the estate of the bishopric of Eger in 1261. The bishop of Eger between 1243—1275 was Lambert of Schafnaburg, who came from the present Aschaffenburg (West-Germany), near the Rhein area. After the Tartarian invasion Lambert settled people, possibly also from his motherland, in his bishopric, who, together with the Hungarians feared the return of the Tartarians.

Thus Leányvár and Halomvár of "peoples' castle" type, similar to those in Austria also connected with the German settlers, can be attached to Lambert and the German settlement. They must have been built in the years right after the Tartarian invasion.

Bükkábrány—Temető

The territory as a prehistoric site has long been known. No finds from the Middle Ages have yet been found, but the situation and the sketch map show unilaterally that the prehistoric settlement was occupied in the Middle Ages by a motte. Now the cemetery of the village can be found there. Considering its measurements it must have been a feudal centre, just like most of the Western-European mottes with average measurements. The name of the village is known since 1221, it used to have mutual border with Nyárád belonging to the estate of the bishopric of Eger. The dating of the castle is a future task.

Szihalom—Árpádvár

The finds from the Bronze Age and the Árpád Era are well known. There are no documents about the castle, but its type is characteristic of the Middle Ages. The territory is built in, thus its form is not so striking than in other cases. According to its defence territory it is among the medium-sized castles. The settlement was mentioned in Anonimus' *Gesta* (cca 1200). A principal or royal court (*curtis*) existed here in the 11th c. In 1261 it was the estate of Eger just like Kisgyőr with Leányvár and Halomvár. The castle originates, possibly, from the 11th–13th cc.

Sajónémeti—Várhegy

In its present state the castle seems to show two independent mottes. The documents refer to the castles on occasion of the Hussite events, mixing the names castle (*castrum*) and palace (*castellum*). L. Dobosi, researcher, revealed (1975) that under the castle in the present cemetery a palace used to stand, the walls of which are still to be found under the earth. Ceramic material found there can be dated from the 14th c. Sajónémeti as a settlement is known in documents since 1219. The first motte is a little and very early one, earlier than the Hussite movements. It is supposed that the mottes of the Sajónémeti "Óvár" were built around the time of the Tartarian invasion and later they were left as living palace, just like the Visegrád one, and a new palace was built under it in the 14th c. As the palace was not fortified the old castle must have been used later during wars.

The research of castles from the early centuries of the Hungarian state is still in its first period, and the problems are numerous. The documents are missing from before the 13th c. thus we cannot rely exclusively on them in study of the castles in Hungary.

Only the consideration and complex elaboration of the archaeological finds together with the documents can yield further data.

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