

THE SZEGED-FEHÉRTÓ „B” CEMETERY

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I. Excavation of the cemetery

1. *The excavation of the cemetery*

Between October 13th and November 22th 1930, Ferenc Móra excavated graves 1 to 90, then between November 23th and 30th 1932, János Kotormány continued the work and opened up graves 91 to 131. One of the graves (132) „in the environments of Fehértó” was discovered by József Csurgó while he was ditching.

The graves were excavated in the strip holdings surrounding the hamlet „Kormányos-tanya” whose owners, according to the general plan of the cemetery were József and Ferenc Csurgó.

As laid down in the original records the excavations progressed at a lively pace, four to five graves were excavated a day. Móra inspected every grave, took a written inventory of the grave — goods found, once a while he also put down the dimension of the grave pits and those of the skeletons. A cemetery plan in which the trial trenches were additionally indicated was drawn up on the site Fig. 3. Photos were taken of several graves, yet unfortunately the quality of the pictures was pretty poor and they are inadequate for publication.

The documentation of the excavations is safeguarded in the Documentation Department of the Szeged Móra Ferenc Museum under inventory No. 53.3.1–358.

The skeletal material is preserved by the József Attila University of Szeged, Institute of Archeology, whereas the animal bones and other materials brought to light were probably not even handed over to the Museum.

The cemetery has been entered into Csallány's Registry of Sited under No. 861.¹

2. *The site*

The site of the cemetery is situated at a distance of about 8 km of the town Szeged Figs. 1–2. From the Fehértó cemetery „A” mentioned above it is situated at a distance of 100 m or so apart. The excavated areas were located by the author when surviving the sites, by the help of Péter Kormányos, a participant of the former excavation works who could point out the limits reached on the course of the works, to a fair accuracy. He even remembered the find spots of several graves of importance (e.g. of grave 82). Thus the site of the cemetery could be defined Fig. 2.

The graves discovered at the two sites did not mark out the lateral areas of the same cemetery but belonged to two quite isolated burial places.

Their interrelations, connections of chronology and social history will be discussed in the summary in greater detail.

II. Catalogue of graves

Grave 1.

D: 100. Ch. Db. Some yellow glass beads (+).

Grave 2.

D: 140. F. Db. Animal bones (chicken and pig).

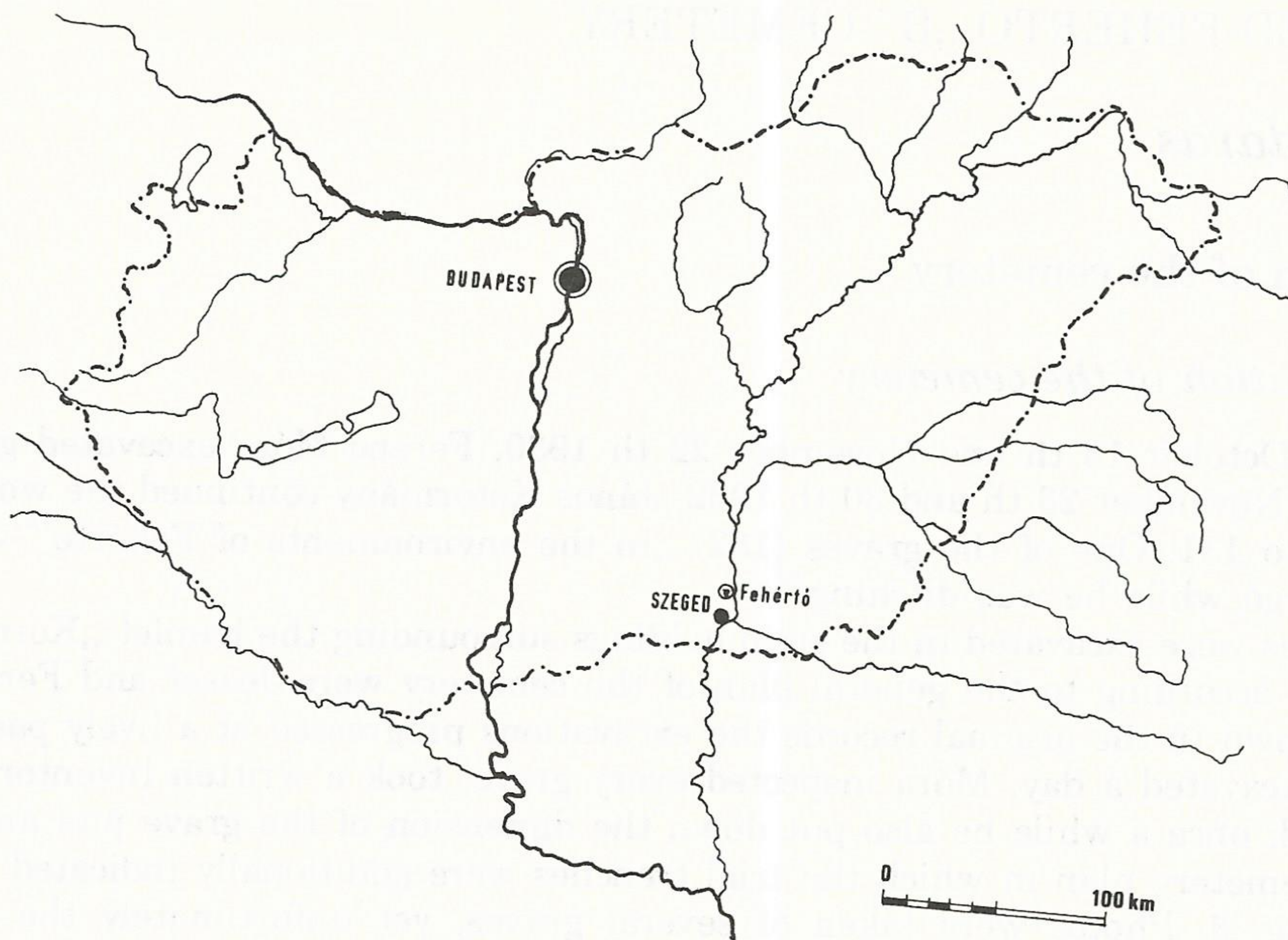


Fig. 1. Szeged–Fehértó „B” cemetery. Map of the area

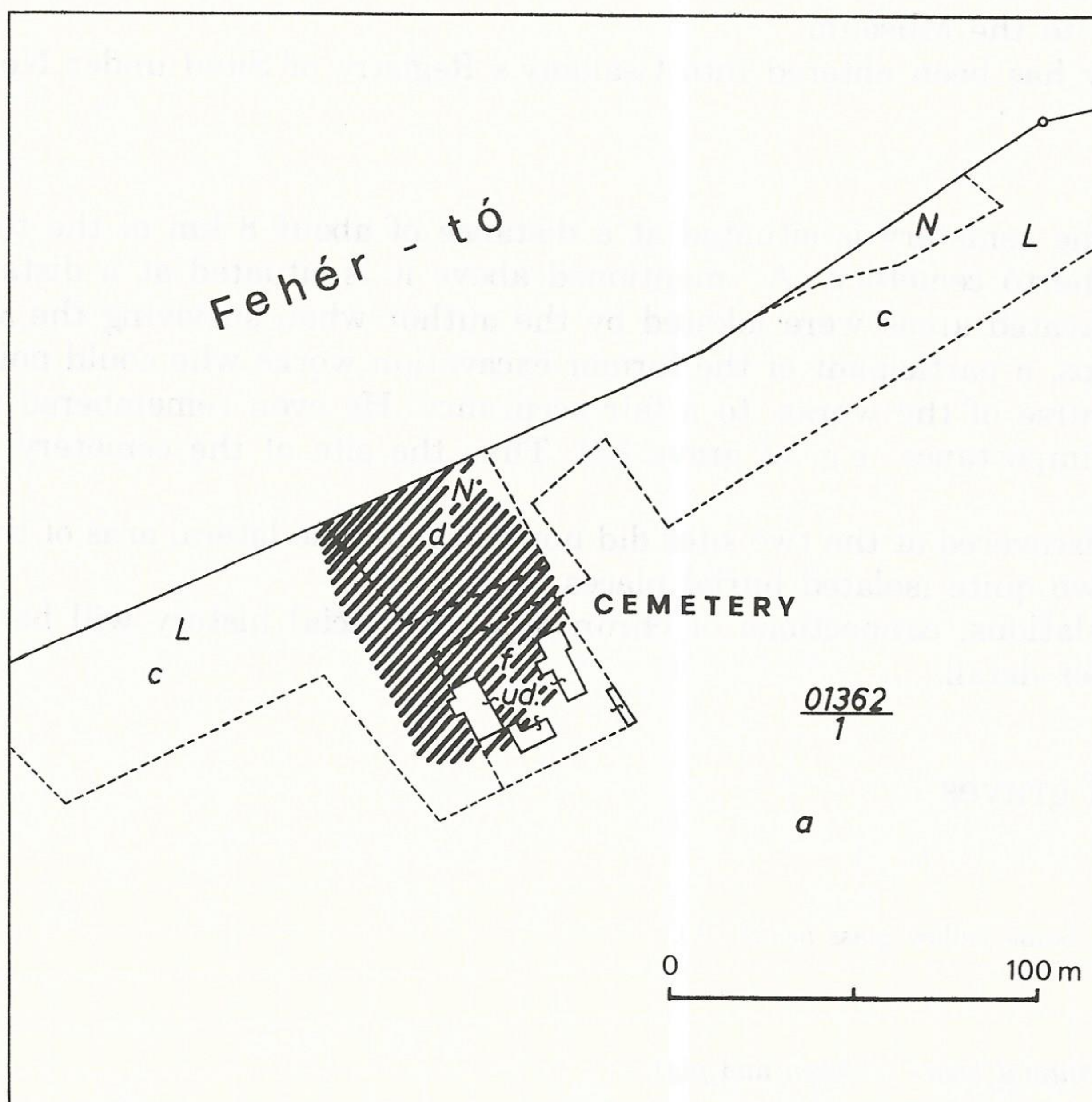


Fig. 2. Szeged–Fehértó „B” cemetery. Sketch plan of the area marked on the cadastral map

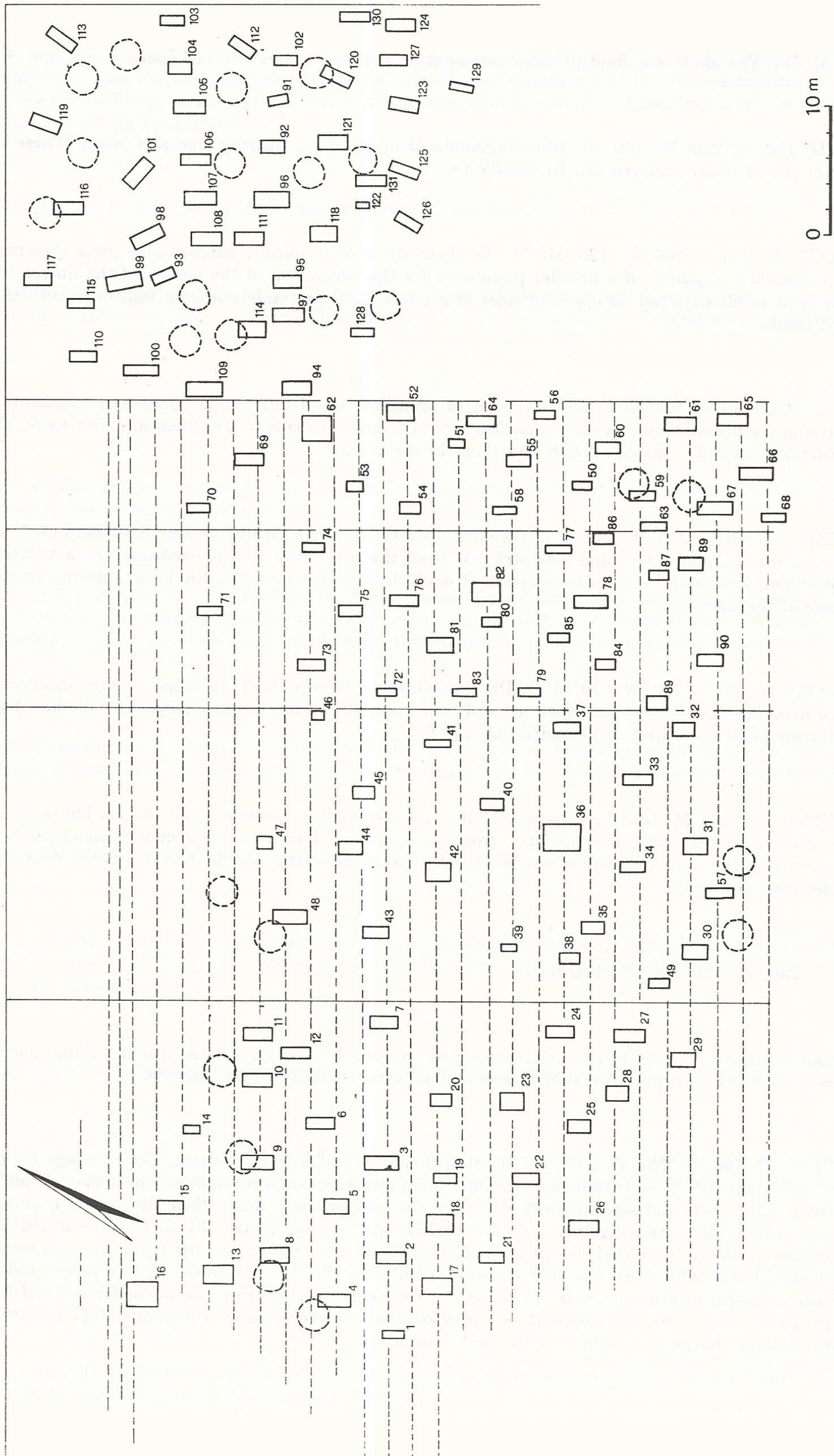


Fig. 3. Cemetery plan with indication of the limits of the area excavated by means of trial trenches

Grave 3.

D: 150. M. Db. The skull was found in pieces scattered on the grave-floor. *Animal bones (horse and cattle)*.

Grave 4

(Pl. 1.). D: 180; L: 250; W: 100. M. Db. Fragments of a *sword* (1) bearing traces of wood. Three trilateral iron *arrowheads*, only one of them survived (2). Br. *buckle* (+).

Grave 5

(Pl. 1, XXX). D: 220; L: 200; W: 120. M. (?). Db. *Bone fittings for a quiver*; narrow bone plate showing „tendrils and double spiral” motifs (1); fragment of a broader plate used for the decoration of the mouth of the quiver (2), decoration: two confronting bird heads depicted on opposite sides of a tendril and incomplete animal figures (hind legs of griffins ?) behind the bird heads.

Grave 6

(Pl. 1.). D: 190. Double burial: F. and an adult of unknown sex. Db. Skeletal bones and fragments coming from two skulls in the grave-filling. Globular clay *spindle-whorl* (1), brown in colour. Fragmentary iron *knife*, slightly curved on its back, bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 7

(Pl. 1, XXII). D: 170; L: 230; W: 110. L. of skeleton: 159. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (5-6) and side-strips (3-3a) from the *terminals*; plates (1-2) and side strip (4) from the *grip*. Two iron *arrowheads* (7), a trilateral one and a two-pronged specimen, both with tangs bearing traces of wood. Iron *knife*, curved on the back, showing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 8

(Pl. 1, XXIX). D: 220; L: 210; W: 210. M (?). Db. *Purse-fastener bone plate* (1) in shape of three interlocked quadrates; ribbon interlace decoration: each quadrate with a motif consisting of two intersecting loops. Ornamental bone plate form a *quiver* (2): narrow plate decorated with tendril-like motifs.

Grave 9

(Pl. 1, XXVI). D: 190. M. Db: the ribs were found in a secondary position lying on the bones of the legs. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1-2) and side-strips (3-4) from the *terminals*. Two trilateral iron *arrowheads* (4-5). Fragmentary iron *band* (6). Iron knife bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Chicken bones* near the skull; *cattle bones* (vertebrae) near the feet.

Grave 10.

D: 160; L: 230; W: 130. Db. Chicken bones.

Grave 11

(Pl. 3, XXXII, XXXV). D: 120. F. Db. „Omega-shaped” br. *buckle* (2) with tongue missing. Hand-made *pottery vessel* (1) near the feet; greyish-brown pot with four bosses applied symmetrically to its rim-edge.

Grave 12

(Pl. 2; Pl. 3). D: 190; L: 200; W: 110. M. Db: skull found in a disturbed position. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (Pl. 2. 1-2) and side-strips (Pl. 2.5-6) from the *terminals* lying in a functional position on the l. clavicle and on the bones of the l. leg; plates (Pl. 2. 3-4) and side-strip (Pl. 2.9) from the *grip* by the l. ilium. *Bone fittings for a quiver*; broad bone plate (1) showing interlaced pattern against a dotted background; narrow plates (Pl. 3. 2-3) decorated with interlaced pattern in form like a row of discs each bearing a dotted circle in the middle; narrow plate (Pl. 3.4) bearing chain-like motif; oblong plate (Pl. 3.5) with plain interlace pattern; small plate (Pl. 3.7) perforated by two holes; undecorated plates (Pl. 3.8-18). Four trilateral iron *arrowheads* (Pl. 2.10a-c) with tangs bearing traces of wood. Iron *sword* (+) reported as 93 cm in length; silver *mounts for the scabbard* (+), they occurred on two spots at a distance of 47 cm and 65 cm of the point of the sword-blade. Large iron *knife* (+) on the l. femur.

Grave 13

(Pl. 3). D: 310; L: 240; W: 140. F. Db. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (1) in the grave-filling, in a depth of 200 cm (measured probably from the existing ground surface). Disc-shaped *spindle-whorl* (2) with perforation in a non-concentric position; in the grave-filling, in the same depth as the former spindle-whorl. Fragmentary iron *clench-nail* for the coffin (3); remnants of wood on its surface.

Grave 14

(Pl. 3). D: 140; L: 230; W: 80. Db. Amphora-shaped glass *bead* (1).

Grave 15

(Pl. 3). D: 190; L: 200; W: 100. M. Db. Narrow *bone plate* (1) decorated with dotted circles, oblong in shape. *Bossed bead* (2), brown in colour, bossed in yellow. Three trilateral iron *arrowheads* (3). Fragments of a small iron *knife*.

Grave 16

(Pl. 3). D: 90; L: 200; W: 240. *Iron fragment*. *Pig bones* and *cattl bones* and those of a *chicken*.

Grave 17

(Pl. 3, XXXII). D: 260; L: 240; W: 140. F. Db. Iron *buckle* (1), an 8-shaped specimen. Iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 18

(Pl. 2, XXXI). D: 200; L: 210; W: 140. Db. Glass *beads* (1): six black melonseed-shaped beads of larger size and a smaller one in white, one longish bead in white and a tiny longish one of the same colour. Small iron *knife*. *Br. buckle* (+). The following objects have not been recorded by the excavator: *br. coin* of Claudius II (2a-b) and fragmentary *iron ring* (3).

Grave 18/a.

D: 140. Skeleton found „lying on a fireplace”. *Br. buckle* (+). Fragmentary iron *knife* (+). Some glass *beads* (+). No grave-goods accessed into the museum and no detail is given of the position of the grave within the excavated area.

Grave 19

(Pl. 13). D: 240; L: 180; W: 80. F: Db. Small fragments of an iron *knife*.

Grave 20

(Pl. 14). D: 240; L: 160; W: 110. F. Db. Glass *beads*: brown bead bossed in blue, two prismatic beads in green, two similar ones in white and four light blue beads of the same type. Small, iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Cattle bones*.

Grave 21.

D: 240; L: 200; W: 90. Db. Fragmentary iron *knife* (+). *Silver fragments* (+).

Grave 22

(Pl. 4, XXXV). D: 200; L: 320; W: 90. F. *Pottery vessel* (1): hand-made oval-bodied pot with slightly everted rim, yellowish-brown in colour. Fragments of an iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 23

(Pl. 4). D: 220; L: 200; W: 140. M. Db. Fragmentary iron *stirrup* (1) with circular loop. *Iron hoop* (?) for a *bucket* (?) from the grave-filling.

Grave 24

(Pl. 4). D: 120; L: 240; W: 100. L. of skeleton: 153. F. Large melonseed-shaped glass *beads* (1), black in colour. Iron *knife*. *Animal bones* (*pig* and *chicken*) near the feet.

Grave 25

(Pl. 4, XXXII). D: 190; L: 190; W: 100. M. Db. Br. *buckle* (1): trapezoidal loop cast in one piece with its quinquangular belt-plate furnished with three dome-headed rivets. Two cast br. *belt-hole guards* (2-3) decorated with openwork plant pattern. Cast br. ornamental plate, oblong in shape, for a *belt-loop* (4); decoration: S-shaped tendril. Four *belt-mounts* cast of bronze-gilt, with hinged pendants (5-8); shield-shaped upper parts with symmetrical tendrils and openwork pendants, triangles in shape. *Small strap-end* (9) cast of bronze-gilt, decorated with tendrils set in pairs; socket, decorated with geometrical pattern, with two projecting strap-fasteners. Oblong iron *buckle* (10). Trilateral iron *arrowhead* (11). Small fragment of an iron *knife*. Br. *spiral* (+).

Grave 26

(Pl. 4). D: 60; L: 250; W: 100. L. of skeleton: 147. Cylindrical bone *needle-case* (1) with turned „ball-and-ribs” decoration; within the pelvic area. Iron *needle* (2). *Animal bones* (*chicken* and *pig*) near the feet.

Grave 27

D: 90; L: 240; W: 100. L. of skeleton: 155. No grave-goods.

Grave 28.

(Pl. 4). D: 140; L: 190; W: 120. Fragmentary iron *buckle*.

Grave 29

(Pl. 5, XXV, XXXIII). D: 210; L: 200; W: 120. M. Db: skull found disturbed and badly shattered. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1a-b), each with upper parts perforated by two holes; plate (2) and side-strips (3) from the *grip*. „Omega-shaped” br. *buckle* (7) with belt-plate made of two br. stripes. Fragmentary *belt-loop* of br. plate (19). *Belt-hole guard* of br. plate (8) with a hole in the middle. Five quadrangular *belt-mounts* with slightly incurved sides (10) made of silver-gilt plates, each of them with a raised quadrangular cell set with glass. *Small strap-end* of silver-gilt plate (11) with one rivet near its upper edge. *Propeller-shaped mount* (12) cut out of br. plate. *Large strap-end* made of silver-gilt plates (13) decorated with two raised cells set with glass. Three fragmentary silver *small strap-ends* of repoussé (14). Iron *sabre* (10), blade very slightly curved, with two D-shaped suspension lugs for the scabbard; on the r. side of the skeleton. Fragmentary *bone covering* from the sword handle (5); thin *bone plate* (4) probable from the hilt. Three trilateral iron *arrowheads* (16). Large iron *knife* (18) bearing remnants of the wooden sheath. Two fragmentary iron *buckles* (15-19), oval in shape. Fragmentary panannular br. *ring* (6), circular in section. *Animal bones* (*cattle*, *pig* and *chicken*) near the feet.

Grave 30

(Pl. 6). D: 180; L: 215; W: 110. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1-4), two of them are perforated near their upper edges, and side-strips (7-11) from the same parts of the bow; plates (5-6) and side-strip (12) from the *grip*. Trilateral iron *arrowhead*. (1). *Animal bones* (*chicken* and *cattle*)

Grave 31

(Pl. 4). D: 220; L: 200; W: 130. M. Db. Two iron *stirrups* with oblong loops; they were found in the grave-filling in a depth of 100 cm.

Grave 32

(Pl. 7, XXIV). D: 180; L: 200; W: 100. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1-4), two of them showing perforation near their upper edges, and side-strips (5-9) from the *terminals*; plate (10-11) and side-strips (12) from the *grip*. *Disentangling hook* made of antler (13), its butt-end hollowed into trough-like socket; perforated with a hole in the middle. Oblong *belt-hole guards* of br. plate (14-15), fragmentary specimens. Oblong br. *buckle* (16) with cast belt-plate separated. Two trilateral iron *arrowheads* (17-18). Large iron *knife* (19) bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Fragmentary iron *clench-nail* (21). Fragmentary br. *ring* of wire (20), circular in section. Small fragment of an iron *knife*. *Chickens bones*.

Grave 33

(Pl. 8, XXX). D: 180; L: 250; W: 90. M. Db. nearly no skeletal remains were recovered. *Bone fittings for bow*: side-strips (6-9) from the *terminals*; plates (3-4) and side-strip (5) from the *grip*. *Bone carving* in shape of a snake-head (2). Two iron *arrowheads* (10-11) with tangs bearing traces of wood. Small fragment of a *knife*. Trapezoidal iron *buckle* (12). *Suspension-loop* (1) fashioned from br. band. Wooden plate for a *strap-end* (13). *Cattle bones*.

Grave 34

(Pl. 8, XXV, XXXI). D: 140; L: 220; W: 80. M. Db. Bone stiffeners from the terminal of a *bow* (9) within the l. pelvic cavity. *Belt-loop* (1) made of br. band. Oblong *belt-mounts* (2-5) cut out of br. plates; five rivet-holes in each, one in each corner and in the middle (some of the rivets with domed heads have survived). Fluted *br. band* (6) showing two perforations. *Large strap-end* cast of bronze-gilt (7), the openwork design shows two foliate tendrils, one going over the other alternately; socket without decoration. Socketed *small strap-end* cast of bronze-gilt (6), decorated with a lyriform foliated tendril. Fragmentary *suspension hook* of iron (13) with one rivet. Four trilateral iron *arrowheads* (10-12) with tangs bearing traces of wood, within the l. pelvic cavity. Iron *sword* (+) with D-shaped suspension lug, on the r. of skeleton. Fragmentary iron *knife* showing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Cattle bones* and *chicken bones*.

Grave 35

(Pl. 8). D: 120; L: 190; W: 100. L. of skeleton: 142. F. Db. skull found in a disturbed position. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (1), reddish in colour, with fluting-like decoration. Glass *bead* (+).

Grave 36

(Pl. 9, XXII). D: 320; L: 300; W: 210. M. The grave-goods were recovered from underground water 20 cm in depth. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1a-b; 2) from the *terminals*; plates (3-4) and side-strip (5) form the *grip*. Oval br. *buckle* (6) with belt-plate consisting of two br. bands. Six trilateral iron *arrowheads* (8-9). Straight single-edged *sword* (7), a fragmentary one, bearing traces of the wooden scabbard. Small oblong iron *buckle* (10). Fragmentary iron *knife* showing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Silver fragments* (+).

Grave 37

(Pl. 8). D: 180; L: 220; W: 100-50. L. of skeleton: 147. F. Two oval iron *buckles* (1-2) with remnants of textile adhering to their reverses. Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Silver buttons* (+). *Earrings* (+). *Cattle bones*.

Grave 38

(Pl. 8). D: 150; L: 170; W: 90. Fragmentary iron *knife*, curved on its back, bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 39.

Ch. No grave-goods.

Grave 40

(Pl. 8). D: 160; L: 200; W: 90. *Bone fittings for bow*: plate (1) and side-strips (3-4) from the *grip*. Tang of an iron *arrowhead* bearing traces of wood and those of a string. Fragmentary iron *knife*. *Silver buttons* (+) disintegrated on being lifted.

Grave 41

(Pl. 9). D: 110; L: 210; W: 70. F. Db. *Chalice* (chalice-type stemmed beaker) made of thin br. plate (1) near the r. clavicle. Two discoid *ornaments* (*breast-clasps*?) of bad-quality silver (2-3); decoration in repoussé: geometrical designed placed in concentric fields; they were found lying one upon the other near the l. forearm. Two oval br. *earrings* (4-5) with bead-pendants missing. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (7), brown in colour, in the region of the lower epiphyses of the l. radius und ulna. Iron *knife* (8) bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle; under the bones of the l. hand. Oval iron *buckle* (6) within the pelvic area. Two *finger-rings* (+) one „on the r. hand” the other „on the l. hand”. *Silver buttons* (+) „by the foot”. *Cattle bones* by the l. hand.

Grave 42

(Pl. 8). D: 290; L: 200; W: 150. M. Grave-goods recovered from underground water rushed up when uncovering the grave. Thin *pieces of gold foils* beaked with silver plates (1-2). Iron fragments of a *sword* (?; 3-4). Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 43

(Pl. 8). D: 250; L: 200; W: 100. M. Db. Horseshoe-shaped cast br. *belt-hole guard* (1) with scale-like pattern. Iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 44

(Pl. 10, XXIX). D: 180; L: 200; W: 100. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1-2) and side-strips (6-9) form the *terminals*; plates (3-4) and side-strip (5) from the *grip*. *Bone fittings for a quiver*; narrow bone plate (10) decorated with tendrils with foliate offshoots; small fragment of a broader plate (11) showing an incomplete tendril motif. Four quadrangular *belt-mounts* (12-15) cut out of br. plates; with holes for the rivets, one in each corner. Trilateral iron *arrowhead* (22). Trapezoidal iron *buckle* (16). Three ill-preserved oblong iron buckles (20-21). Iron *bands* (20-21) „in the r. corner of the grave”. Iron *knife* (23) bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Silver *buttons* (+). *Egg*.

Grave 45

(Pl. 10). D: 180; L: 180; W: 100. Double burial: F. and Ch. Db. Quarangular iron *buckle* (1). Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Pottery vessel* (+). *Chicken bones*.

Grave 46.

D: 140; L: 100; W: 80. Ch. Db. Iron *knife* (+).

Grave 47

(Pl. 10). D: 150; L: 140. W: 90. Ch. Db. Horseshoe-shaped *belt-hole guard* (1) cut out of br. plate. Two discoid *belt-mounts* of br. plate (2-3), each with a dome-headed rivet in the middle. Fragmentary br. *small strap-end* of repoussé (4). Iron *knife* (6) bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Dark blue melonseed-shaped glass *bead* (5) (it has not been reported by the excavator). *Chicken bones*.

Grave 48

(Pl. 10). D: 210; L: 220; W: 120. M. Db. Br. *buckle* with tongue missing; oval loop cast in one piece with its shield-shaped belt-plate. Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 49.

Db. M. no grave-goods.

Grave 50.

D: 40. Ch. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 51.

D: 80. Ch. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 52

(Pl. 11). D: 160; L: 230; W: 70. F. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (1), greyish-brown in colour, decorated with girth-grooves; by the l. hand. Barrel-shaped glass *bead* (2) in white. *Cattle bones*.

Grave 53

(Pl. 11). D: 120; L: 140; W: 90. Two oblong iron *buckles* (1-2). Three iron *chain-links* (3) joined together by rust. Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 54.

D: 140; L: 180; W: 90. F. Db. *Spindle-whorl* (+).

Grave 55

(Pl. 11). D: 180; L: 200; W: 100. F. Db. Oval br. *buckle*. *Cattle bones*.

Grave 56.

Ch. No grave-goods.

Grave 57

(Pl. 11, XXVI). D: 180; L: 230; W: 80. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffener from one of the *terminals* (1) and plate from the *grip* (5). Iron *knife* bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle; above the l. part of the chest. Two *iron bands* (3-4) showing wooden remnants and those of textile. Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Animal bones* (cattle and chicken) in large quantity, in the region of the feet.

Grave 58.

D: 120; L: 200; W: 70. Ch. *Chicken bones*.

Grave 59

(Pl. 11). D: 160; L: 220; W: 80. Oblong iron *buckle* with slightly incurved sides. Fragmentary iron *knife* of small size. *Chicken bones*.

Grave 60

(Pl. 12). D: 170; L: 200; W: 80. F. *Glass beads* (1): tiny beads in yellow and in brown and a light blue one of larger size. Fragments from an iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Animal bones* (pig and cattle).

Grave 61

(Pl. 11, XXVII). L: 260; W: 110. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1-2) and side-strips (3-4) from the *terminals*; side-strip from the *grip* (5). Trilateral iron *arrowhead* (7). Fragment from the blade of an straight, single-edged iron *sword* (8-9). Iron *knife* bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Pieces of *gold foil* (6) along the leg bones found in situ. Fragments of silver plate *strap-ends* (+). *Iron bands* for the grip of the bow; they were found lying one upon the other, in the place of the grip of the bow. Iron *clench-nails* for the coffin (10-11) occurring scattered over the grave-floor. *Cattle bones*.

Grave 62

(Pl. 12). D: 220; L: 240; W: 200. M. M. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1); plates (2-3) and side-strip (4) from the *grip*. *Propeller-shaped mount* (6) cut out of a br. plate. Oblong-shaped *belt-mount* (5) cut out of br. plate, with slightly incurved sides. Fragmentary br. *strap-end* (7) decorated in repoussé: incomplete tendril motif below the fluted upper edge. Iron *arrowhead* (10) of narrow-bladed type. *Ring of lead* (8), circular in section. Fragmentary iron *knife*. *Iron bands* (+).

Grave 63.

D: 100; L: 210; W: 70. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 64.

D: 260; L: 240; W: 80. Db. *Animal bones* (chicken, cattle and sheep) found mixed with human skeletal bones.

Grave 65.

(Pl. 14, XXIV, XXXII) D: 200; L: 250; W: 90. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1-2), each pierced with a hole near its upper edge and side-strips (5-7) from the *terminals*, „by the foot”; plates (3-4) and side-strip (8) from the *grip*, „by the pelvis”. Br. *buckle* (10) with tongue missing; oval loop cast in one piece with its shield-shaped belt-plate. Oblong iron *buckle* (11). Iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Fragments of an silver *strap-end* of repoussé (9). *Animal bones* (sheep and cattle).

Grave 66

(Pl. 12). D: 300; L: 280; W: 100. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1-2) and side-strip (3) from the *terminals*; plate for the *grip* (4). Two trilateral iron *arrowheads* (6-7), one with remnants of textile attached by rust to its blade. Oval br. *buckle* (5) with open terminals, circular in section. Iron *sword* (+). Silver *strap-end* (+). *Glass bead* (+). Iron *knife*.

Grave 67

(Pl. 12). D: 300; L: 285; W: 120. M. Db. Skull and fragmentary scapulae of a horse, found in the grave-filling, indicative of burial of a man with horse. *Bone fittings for bow* within the pelvic area; plate (1) and side-strip (2) for the *grip*. Large iron *knife* (3) bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Fragments of an iron *sword* (+).

Grave 68.

D: 220; L: 200; W: 70. F. Db. *Animal bones* (*chicken* and *cattle*) near the feet.

Grave 69

(Pl. 13, XXIII, XXIX, XXXI). D: 200; L: 240; W: 100. Db. „from the pelvis” downwards (?). *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1–4) from the *terminals*, by the l. leg and „among the upper vertebrae”; side-strips (8–9) from the same part of the bow; plates (5–6) and side-strip (7) for the *grip*, under the l. ilium. *Bone fittings for a quiver*; broad plate with interlaced pattern (11); narrow plate decorated with „elongated” tendrils (10). Narrow *bone object* (12) within the pelvic area; it shows interlace pattern with dotted circles placed inside the loops (12); circular perforation near one of the narrow edges. Cast br. hinged *buckle* (13) consisting of an oval loop and fragmentary belt-plate; decoration: openwork chequer design, each field filled with an X-shaped motif. Cast br. *attachment mount* (17) with hook, decorated with plant pattern. Three cast br. *belt-hole guards* (14–16). Four cast *belt mounts* of bronze-gilt (18–21), quadrangular in shape; decoration: openwork chequer design, each field filled with an X-shaped motif. Cast *small strap-ends* of bronze gilt (22–23) and *large strap-end* (24) of the same material; decoration: openwork chequer design, each field filled with a X-shaped motif. Oblong *mounts* (29–30) of larger size, cut out of br. plates, each with two holes for the rivets. Oval br. *buckle* (31) with belt-plate consisting of two narrow br. bands. *Belt-loops* (38–39) fashioned from br. bands. Four trilateral iron *arrowheads* (34–36) with tangs bearing traces of wood; by the l. hand. Small iron *rattle* (32). Iron *chain-links* linked together (37) bearing remnants of textile adhered by rust. *Iron ring* (33). Iron *sword* (+) on the r. of the skeleton. Iron *knife* (+) outside the l. femur. *Cattle bones*.

Grave 70

(Pl. 14, XXXI). D: 180; L: 200; W: 80. F. Db: skull in a disturbed position. Four discoid *belt-mounts* of gilt-silver plate (1–4), decoration in repoussé: eight ribs radiating from a central roundel; on the bones of the pelvis. Trilateral iron *arrowhead* (5) from the soil of the grave-floor (?). Oval iron *buckle* (6) by the l. hand. Fragmentary iron *knife* by the l. hand. *Egg* showing traces of painting and „engraving”; by the lower epiphyses of the l. radius and ulna. *Chicken bones* and *pig bones*.

Grave 71

(Pl. 14, XXVIII). D: 160; L: 200; W: 80. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1–4) and plate from the *grip* (5–6). Quadrangular iron *buckle* (7). Trilateral iron *arrowhead* (8) with tang bearing traces of wood. *Set of belt-ornaments* (+). *Egg* in one of the corners of the grave-pit. *Animal bones* (*pig* and *cattle*).

Grave 72.

D: 110; L: 160; W: 60. No grave-goods.

Grave 73

(Pl. 15, XXVIII). D: 90; L: 220; W: 90. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1–4) from the *terminals* „by the clavicle and by the leg bones” and side-strip (7–10) within the pelvic area; side strips from the *grip* (5–6) within the pelvic area. Oblong *belt-mounts* (14), each with two rivets. Trapezoidal br. *buckle* (11) with belt-plate made of br. sheet, within the pelvic area. *Belt-loop* (12) fashioned from br. hand. *Br. ring* (14), circular in section. Iron *knife* (17) bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle; between the legs. Two trilateral iron *arrowheads* (16) within the pelvic area. *Pig bone* near the feet.

Grave 74

(Pl. 15). D: 130; L: 200; W: 80. Db. Double burial: skeletal remnants of two individuals lying haphazard on the grave-floor. Fragmentary oval br. *buckle*. Iron *buckle* (+). Fragmentary iron *knife* (+).

Grave 75

(Pl. 15; Pl. 16, XXXIII). M. Db. Four small-sized holes, 25–30 cm in depth, had been deepened into the the grave-floor, one in each corner. Five *belt-mounts* with hinged pendants (1–5) cast of bronze-gilt; shield-shaped openwork upper parts decorated with plant pattern of symmetrical tendril type and pendants of similar type. Four „heart-shaped” *belt-hole*

guards (6–10) made of gilt-bronze plates; decoration in repoussé: leaf-like border and similar motif against a punched background. *Mount for the pendant straps* (10) of similar shape and decoration. Tendril-decorated *small strap-end* cast in gilt-bronze (11) with two projecting strap-fasteners in form of confronting animal heads. *Mount with ring-pendant* (12). Two oval br. *buckles* (13, 17). Three trilateral iron *arrowheads* (18) with tangs showing traces of wood and those of a string. Small circular *gold plate* (15). Oval iron *buckle* (14). Amber *bead* (16). Two iron *knives* of various size, each of them bearing traces of wood and those of the hilt. Iron *clench-nails* for the coffin (Pl. 16) along the long sides and at the foot-end of the grave-pit. *Pig bones* in large quantity, in position of the skull.

Grave 76.

D: 170; L: 250; W: 100. Db. Nearly no skeletal bones survived. *Pig bone* in the region of the skull.

Grave 77

(Pl.15). D: 170; L: 210; W: 70. F. Db: only skull and „shoulder” survived. Globular clay *spindle-whorl* (1), yellow in colour, with fluting-like decoration. Cylindrical bone *needle-case* (2) with turned „ball-and-ribs” decoration.

Grave 78

(Pl.15, XXIX, XXXI). D: 300; L: 280; W: 100. M. Underground water rushed up when uncovering the grave, depth: 40 cm. Fragmentary bone stiffener from the terminal of a *bow* (1). *Purse-fastener* (2): rhomboidal bone plate with discoid terminals (one of the terminals incomplete). Small fragment of a bone plate for *quiver* (3); narrow plate showing tendrils with foliate offshoots. Trapezoidal iron *buckle* (4). *Small strap-end* of br. plate (6) with a floated band at its upper edge. „Omega-shaped” br. *buckle* (6) with tongue missing. Pieces of *gold-leaf* (7) round the skull. Fragments of an iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Cattle bones*.

Grave 79.

D: 180; L: 180; W: 70. Db: bones of the skull found in a disturbed position. *Gallstones* within the pelvic area. Fragmentary iron *knife* (+) lying across the bones of one of the legs. Trapezoidal iron *buckle* (+). *Egg-shells* on the bones of the l. leg.

Grave 80

(Pl. 17, XXXV). D: 80. Ch. Db. *Pottery vessel* (1) near the feet; coarse hand-made pot, reddish-black in colour. Fragment of an iron *buckle* (+).

Grave 81

(Pl. 17, XXX). D: 310; L: 220; W: 100. Db. M. (?). Fragmentary narrow bone plate from a *quiver* (1); decoration: incomplete tendril motif depicted horizontally. *Hairplait-ornament* cast in gilt-bronze (2), a „bar-shaped” one decorated with zones of ribs. Three trilateral iron *arrowheads* (3–5). *Pieces of gold-leaf* (6). *Cattle bones*.

Grave 82

(Pl. 18, XXXII, XXXIV). D: 320; L: 230; W: 150. F. Db. Grave-goods recovered from underground water 60 cm in depth. Discoid br. *mirror* (1) lying on the chest; decoration: raised plain border and circle in the middle. Imitation of the coin of Konstantinos Pogonatos IV (4) „on the chest”, 20 cm higher than the bones of the thorax. *Bezel* of gold (5): circular cell surrounded by grooved wire and set with blue glass. Two oval gold *hoops of earrings* (2–3) showing traces of granulation. Polyhedral glass *bead* (6) in blue. *Pieces of gold-leaf* (7–24) along the r. side of the grave pit and at its foot-end in line with the r. foot.

Grave 83.

D: 150; L: 200; W: 70. F. *Animal bones* (chicken and pig) near the skull.

Grave 84.

D: 180; L: 170; W: 90. Chicken bones.

Grave 85

(Pl. 18, XXXIV). D: 170; L: 190; W: 80. F. *Ornamental mount* of bronze-gilt: six-petalled rosette in repoussé (1). Iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 86

(Pl. 18). D: 160; L: 170; W: 190. F. Fragmentary iron *knife*.

Grave 87.

D: 80. Ch. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 88

(Pl. 17, XXV, XXIX). D: 280; L: 180; W: 110. M. Db: bones of the upper part (?) of the skeleton found scattered over the grave-floor. On of the clavicles showing in vivo reossified fracture. *Bone fittings for quiver* with carved decoration: broad ornamental plate (1) to the l. of the pelvis; narrow plate (2) showing tendrils with foliate offshoots within the pelvic area. *Bone fittings for a bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (3-6) „by the leg” and „by the l. clavicle”; side-strips (10-11) from the same parts of the bow; plates from the *grip* (7-9) within the pelvic area and side-strip (9) from the same part of the bow. Two quadrangular *belt-mounts* of br. plate (19-20) with very slightly incurved sides, decorated with interlace pattern. Two *small strap-ends* of br. plate (21-22) decorated with interlace pattern in repoussé. Circular br. *button* of repoussé (24). Fragments of an iron *chape* (16) bearing traces of the wooden scabbard; the excavator observed that only the scabbard had been deposited on the r. of the deceased. *Flint* (23). *Iron strike-a-light Iron fragments* (13-15, 18) showing traces of wood. Large iron *knife* (17).

Grave 89.

D: 180; L: 210; W: 70. *Chicken bones* and *pig bones*.

Grave 90

(Pl. 18). D: 170; L: 220; W: 100. Db. Fragments of a quadrangular iron *buckle*. *Chicken bones* and *cattle bones*.

Grave 91

(Pl. 18). D: 120; L: 160; W: 70. Ch. Db. Small quadrangular br. *buckle* (1). Iron *knife* (2), curved on its back, bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Pig bone* in one of the corners of the grave-pit.

Grave 92

(Pl. 18). D: 150; L: 200; W: 100. F. Db. Two melonseed-shaped glass *beads* in white (1-2). Globular clay *spindle-whorl* (3) in brown, with vertical, fluting-like decoration. *Pig bone* at one of the corners of the grave-pit.

Grave 93.

D: 40. The deceased was deposited prone and extended. No grave-goods.

Grave 94

(Pl. 18). D: 190; L: 240; W: 110. Db. skeletal bones lying haphazard in a heap at the „N end” of the grave-pit. Oblong iron *buckle* in the grave-filling.

Grave 95

(Pl. 18). D: 200; L: 240; W: 110. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1-2) by one of the clavicles and in the region of the r. knee; plate from the *grip* (3) in the grave-filling, about 20 cm higher than the skull; and side-strip (4) from the same part of the bow. Seven trilateral iron *arrowheads* (7-18) in the region of one of the elbows. Iron *sword* (14), 90 cm in length, on the r. of the skeleton. Two cast br. *hairplait-ornaments* of „bar-type” (5-6) in one of the corners of the foot-end of the pit. Fragmentary iron *knife* by the l. hand. *Remnants of leather* (+) in the region of the feet.

Grave 96

(Pl. 18, XXIII). D: 260; L: 300; W: 120. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1-4) and plate-fragments (5-8). Trilateral iron *arrowhead* (10) in the grave-filling. Iron *knife* (9) bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle; by the r. hand. Iron *sword* (+) on the r. of skeleton. *Animal bones* (*pig* and *cattle*) near the feet.

Grave 97

(Pl. 19). D: 200; L: 260; W: 110. M (?). Db: skeletal bones lying haphazard near the skull-end of the grave-pit. Bone stiffener from the *terminal of a bow* (1). Trapezoidal br. *buckle* (2) with iron tongue. Iron *buckle* with incurved sides (3), with remnants of textile on its reverse. Fragmentary *iron ring* (4). Two trilateral iron *arrowheads* (5). Fragmentary iron *knife* bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. Glass *bead* (+). *Pig bones* near the feet.

Grave 98.

D: 220; L: 260; W: 110. F. Db: skeletal bones lying haphazard near the skull-end of the grave-pit. Glass *bead* (+). *Earring* (+). *Animal bones* beside the skull.

Grave 99

(Pl. 19, XXXIV). D: 210; L: 280; W: 110. F. Db: skeletal bones lying haphazard near the skull-end of the grave-pit. Two trapezoidal folded *gold plates* (1-2), each perforated by a hole near its shorted edge. Glass *beads* (3): large melonseed-shaped bead in white, a cylindrical one of the same colour, one four-sided green bead, three polyhedral beads in blue and in white, a biconical one in white and one globular bead in brown. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (4) near the upper end of the l. femur. *Animal bones* in the NW corner of the grave-pit.

Grave 100.

D: 300; L: 260; W: 60. Underground water about 60 cm in depth; no grave-goods could be observed.

Grave 101.

D: 160; L: 260; W: 120. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 102.

Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 103

(Pl. 19). D: 150; L: 200; W: 70. Double burial; Ch. Db. *Belt-loop* (1) fashioned from br. band. *Belt-hole guard* (2) cut out of br. plate. Circular br. *earring* (3) with pendant made up of four granules, hoop decorated with a small granule inside its lower segment. Black melonseed-shaped glass *beads* of large size (4). Iron *knife* (+).

Grave 104.

D: 180; L: 240; W: 110. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 105

(Pl. 19). D: 220; L: 200; W: 110. Db. Oval br. *buckle* (1) within the pelvic area. Glass *beads* (+) within the pelvic area.

Grave 106

(Pl. 19, XXIX, XXXI). D: 220; L: 250; W: 100. F. Db. Bone *needle-case* (1), four-sided in shape; decoration: plant pattern of flat-leaf tendril type with foliate offshoots; by the l. hand. Iron *needle* (2) originally enclosed in the needle-case. Br. *buckle* (3) with iron tongue; oblong loop cast in one piece with its tendril-decorated belt-plate. Melonseed-shaped glass *beads* (4) white and light blue in colour. Fragments from a small iron *knife* (5) by the r. hand.

Grave 107

(Pl. 19, XXXI). D: 230; L: 260; W: 110. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffener (1) and side-strip (3) for the *terminals*; side-strip (2) from the *grip*. Three trilateral iron *arrowheads* (11-13) with tangs showing traces of wood. Cast bronze-gilt hinged *buckle* (5) consisting of an oval loop and shield-shaped belt-plate decorated with „lyriform” tendril. Fragmentary *belt-mount* cast of bronze-gilt (7) decorated with tendrils arranged symmetrically. *Belt-loop* (6) fashioned from br. band. Oblong *belt-mounts* of br. plate (8-10), each with two dome-headed rivets. Oblong iron *buckle* (4). Iron *knife* (14) bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 108.

D: 120; L: 260; W: 110. *Bones of a large animal* at one of the ends of the grave-pit.

Grave 109.

D: 260; L: 300; W: 120. Db: skeletal bones lying haphazard near the skull-end of the grave-pit. No grave-goods.

Grave 110

(Pl. 19). D: 150; L: 220. W: 90. Db. Small fragment of an iron *knife*. Some glass *beads* (+) among the skeletal bones.

Grave 111.

D: 190; L: 250; W: 110. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 112.

Empty pit, only some traces of some bones occurred. D: 160; L: 230; W: 80.

Grave 113

(Pl. 19, XXVI). D: 190; L: 250; W: 100. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners (1–2) and side-strip (5) form the *terminals*; plate (3) and side-strip (4) from the *grip*. Two „*loops*” for *suspension* (10–11) fashioned from br. bands. Four trilateral iron *arrowheads* (6–7). Two fragmentary *suspension lugs for a scabbard* (9); the *sword* (sabre?) about 90–100 cm in length, was found lying along the bones of the l. arm; D-shaped suspension-lugs for the scabbard. Large iron *knife* (8) bearing remnants of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Chicken bones* and *egg* beside the sword.

Grave 114

(Pl. 19). D: 200; L: 260; W: 120. Db. F. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (1), reddish in colour, with floating-like decoration. *Animal bone* near the foot-end of the grave-pit.

Grave 115

(Pl. 20, XXXV). D: 180; L: 220; W: 80. Db. F. *Pottery vessel*: yellow *bottle* made on a kick-wheel, with body bulging so about in its middle, short cylindrical neck, rim slightly everted; upper part decorated with zones of horizontally incised lines. *Beads* (+).

Grave 116

(Pl. 20). D: 180; L: 240; W: 100. Db. Light blue melonseed-shaped glass *bead* (1). Oblong iron *buckle* (2) between the feet (?). Small iron *knife* (3) bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Animal bones* near the feet.

Grave 117.

D: 160; L: 230; W: 100. No grave-goods.

Grave 118.

D: 130; L: 260; W: 120. No grave-goods.

Grave 119

(Pl. 20, XXVII, XXXIV). D: 210; L: 240; W: 100. M. Db. *Bone fittings for bow*: stiffeners from the *terminals* (1–2), each bearing two perforations near the upper edge, and side-strip (5); plate (3) and side-strip (4) from the *grip*. Two trilateral iron *arrowheads* (12–13) with tangs showing traces of wood and those of a string. Discoid *belt-mount* of gold plate (6) decorated with a row of embossed dots around a central roundel. Pieces of fragmentary *gold plates* (7–11). Iron *knife* (15), slightly curved on the back. Small *piece of iron* (14). *Small pieces of gold plates* (+). *Pig bones* near the foot-end of the grave-pit.

Grave 120

(Pl. 20). D: 180; L: 240; W: 100. F. Db. Four small-sized pits had been deepened into the grave-floor, one in each corner of the pit. Br. *earring* (+) coming from one of the former pits. Fragmentary dark-brown *spindle-whorl* of clay (+). Oblong iron *buckle* (2). Fragmentary iron *knife* (4) bearing traces of an iron sheath and those of the handle. *Pig bones* lying across the bones of the feet (?). *Chicken bone* and *egg* near the distal end of the l. femur.

Grave 121.

D: 200; L: 260; W: 120. Db: by digging a pit-dwelling. No grave-goods.

Grave 122

(Pl. 20, XXXV). D: 80; L: 120; W: 50. Ch. Glass *beads* (1) within the pelvic area; melonseed-shaped beads in light blue and in black and a globular bead. Thin br. *ring* (2), a fragmentary one, near the r. elbow. *Pottery vessel* (3) beside the skull; greyish-brown hand-made pot with slightly everted rim.

Grave 123

(Pl. 20). D: 200; L: 240; W: 100. Db. Oval br. *earring* (1) showing traces of granulation. Iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Animal bones* near the feet.

Grave 124.

D: 200; L: 250; W: 100. M. Skeleton lying with one leg bent over the other. No grave-goods.

Grave 125

(Pl. 20). D: 180; L: 250; W: 90. Db. Four small-sized pits had been deepened into the grave-floor, one in each of the corners. Quadrangular br. *buckle* (1) with tongue missing. Iron *knife* (2) bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle. *Chicken bones* near the feet.

Grave 126

(Pl. 20). D: 190; L: 240; W: 80. F. Db. Biconical clay *spindle-whorl* (1), brown in colour. Small iron *knife* (2) bearing traces of a leather-covered wooden sheath. *Chicken bones* near the feet.

Grave 127

(Pl. 20). D: 180; L: 230; W: 90. Db. Fragment of an iron *knife*.

Grave 128

(Pl. 20). D: 160; L: 200; W: 70. Db. Iron *ring* (1). Iron *knife* bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle.

Grave 129.

D: 130; L: 200; W: 60. Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 130.

A-B (Pl. 20). D: 200; L: 250; W: 90. Double burial: F. and Ch. (babe deposited on the l. forearm of the female). Db: skull found in a disturbed position. Four small-sized pits had been deepened into the grave-floor, one in each corner. *Piece of stone* (1) coming from one of the former pits. Oblong iron *buckle* (2). Iron *knife* (3), slightly curved on the back, bearing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle; under the bones of one of the hands. Iron *knife* (4) showing traces of a wooden sheath and those of the handle; between the legs of the babe. *Egg* and *chicken bones* covering the babe's skeleton; *pig bones* near the feet of the female.

Grave 131.

Db. No grave-goods.

Grave 132

(Pl. 20, XXXII). M. The grave was discovered by J. Csurgó in the area situated in the direction of Fehértó. Shield-shaped cast br. *belt-hole guard* (1). Two cast br. *belt-mounts* with hinged pendants (2-3); elongated shield-shaped upper part with scale-like decoration, openwork in the middle, and small shield-shaped pendant. Double-plate cast br. *large strap-end* (4) decorated with flat-leaf tendrils, each panel with two projecting strap-fasteners in form of confronting animal heads.

Stray-finds (Pl. 21)

- 1 Circular br. earring with bead-pendant missing, hoop decorated with „muffs” of beaded wire.
- 2 Oval *earring* with trunco-pyramidal bead-pendant, hoop decorated with „muffs” of beaded wire.
- 3 Globular glass *beads*.
- 4 Melonseed-shaped glass *beads*.
- 5 Biconical clay *spindle-whorl*, brown in colour.
- 6 Trilateral iron *arrowhead*.
- 7-9 Fragments of iron *stirrups*.
- 10-11 Two fragmentary iron *stirrups*, one with circular loop, the other with oblong loop; foot-rests bearing midrib.

III. BURIAL CUSTOMS

1. The grave pit

(a) On the *shapes of the graves pits* so to say no data have been preserved in the documentation of the excavations. Móra probably opened up grave pits of oblong shape, with rounded corners, generally widespread in the Avar Period. This might be why he did not put down any other information.

(b) In the *dimension of the grave pits*, with the exception of children's graves and of those thoroughly disturbed we possess relatively precise data. Yet we may consider these data to be for information says were fantastically enlarged and he recorded the dimensions thus enlarged. 100 graves were disturbed in the cemetery. From the data of the graves left undisturbed we may infer that the initial lengths of the graves were of 190-220 cm, and their widths varied from 80 to 100 cm. The greatest departure from the average data was found in grave 36, where the grave pit was 300 cm long and 210 cm wide. No difference was made between the dimensions of female and male graves. From the dimensions of the grave pits it appears that the sizes of children's graves were probably selected depending on the sized of the dead.

(c) Móra put down the *depths of the graves* with seven exceptions (graves 39, 49, 56, 75, 102, 131, 132).

In the Table below we have compiled the data extant, in a breakdown of 20 cm depths. The Table covers forty male, thirty-one female and twelve children's graves, plus forty six graves in which the sex of the skeleton could not be ascertained.

Sex and %	1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-220	221-240	241-260	261-280	281-300	301-320	TOTAL
Male					1	1	3	7	8	9	2	1	1	5	2	40	
%					2.5	2.5	7.5	17.5	20	22.5	5	2.5	2.5	12.5	5	100	
Female						4	2	6	7	4	4	1	1		2	31	
%						12.9	6.5	19.3	21.6	12.9	12.9	3.2	3.2		6.5	100	
Child		1		4	1	2	1	2	1							12	

Sex and %	1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-220	221-240	241-260	261-280	281-300	301-320	TOTAL
%		8.3		33.4	8.3	16.7	8.3	16.7	8.3								100
Sex not determined		1			3	2	4	9	7	5	10	1	3		1		46
%		2.2			6.5	4.3	8.7	19.6	15.2	10.9	21.7	2.2	6.5		2.2		100
Empty grave								1									

At double burials information regarding the two skeletons was recorded separately. 67,7 per cent of the male graves were of depths varying between 140 and 220 cm, and 67,4 per cent of the female graves belonged to this same depth category. We surmise that the average depth of the graves pits should be looked for between these extreme values. Yet in the answer to the questions to which extreme the average grave pit depth falls nearer, we are unable further to refine and better approximate the date in hand, since in the vicinity of both extreme values we may find richly furnished graves (e.g. belts adorned with mounts, weapons in male graves).

The deepest graves go down to depth beyond 300 cm (graves 13, 82), the shallowest among the male graves was grave 73: of 80 cm depth.

In the cemetery the depth of the grave pits had no necessary connection with the richness of the grave-furnishing. This is demonstrated by grave 73, in which a male was buried with a bow, an arrow and a mount-decorated belt in the shallowest grave pit of the entire cemetery.

The data of the children's graves show a quite different picture. Children's graves were shallow as compared with those of adults. Even the deepest grave can be assigned at best to the average, depth group of the graves of the adults. And even thus only a single such grave was found: grave 70 in which a child was buried with a belt adorned with mounts. The greater part of the children's graves falls into the 61 cm to 180 cm depth groups (33,4 per cent of the graves), the rest being equally disturbed between 31 cm and 180 cm depths.

(d) *Further phenomena observed.* In male grave 75, female graves 120, 130 and in that of the skeleton of indetermined sex in grave 125 Móra discovered a small-sized pits in each of the four corners of the grave pit. Similar phenomena were observed in various cemeteries. The functions of the post-hole-like pits have been attempted to be cleared up by various explanations.²

The same phenomenon was observed not only in the four graves of the cemetery. This is substantiated by Móra's observation made in the description of grave 75: „In the four corners, like in the rest of the graves of some depth, small pits, 25–30 cm deep, were found, one in every corner.” Since the greater part of the graves may be classed as being deep, this was possibly a custom generally widespread among the members of the community making use of the site as burial ground.

In all probability it was by mere chance that an earring happened to get into the small pit deepened into the grave-floor at grave 120, and a flat fragment of a rock into one of the small pits in grave 130. Both graves had been disturbed.

2. The deposition of the dead (Fig. 4)

(a) As regards the deposition of the dead bodies in the graves we possess practically no data. Probably, according to the general burial customs of the Avar Period the dead were *laid out supine* in the graves also in this cemetery. Móra did not consider it necessary to mention this way of depositing but called the attention to several cases in which he noticed departures from this

custom. It should be noted that there was no chance of making many observations as 100 among the graves were found disturbed.

(b) In grave 124 the corpse was deposited *with one leg bent over the other*.

(c) Coffin burials can be proved by some iron clench-nails for coffins. In female grave 13, severely disturbed, a clech-nail; in grave 16 (adult of unknown sex) an iron object similar to a clench-nail indicate coffin burials.

The clench-nail mentioned in the description of grave 61 (male) probably belonged to a coffin. In male grave 75, along the long walls of the pit and at one of the shorter ends big iron clench-nails came to light. In the grave a male with a belt decorated with cast ornaments was entombed.

Péter Tomka considers the small sized pits the corners of the grave pits as being positive signs of the use of coffins.³ Such phenomena were observed in graves 75, 120, 125 and 130.

(e) *Double burials*. Five graves contained two skeletons each. Grave 6: skeletal bones and fragments of two skulls in the grave-filling; grave 45: disturbed skeletons of a female and a child; grave 74: skeletal remnants of two individuals, the bones were found lying haphazard on the grave-floor; grave 103: disturbed skeletons of two children; grave 130: female with a babe deposited in her left forearm. The skeletons were unearthed at the same depth, the burials were contemporaneous, not subsequent. The graves were poor in grave-goods, yet this might be the result of the disturbances to which all the five graves had been subjected.

(f) *Empty graves*. In grave 112 there was no trace of a skeleton, nor remnants of grave-goods. The numbers of cenothaps are growing in direct proportion with the progress of modern excavations.⁴

The Fehértó grave was 160 cm deep, and this depth may be regarded as an average.

3. *Burials of horsemen*

In male grave 67 (disturbed) some skeletal bones (shoulder blade, fragmentary ribs) and the skull of a horse were found (Fig. 4).

Fragments of iron stirrups came to light in graves 23 and 31. Such fragments also turned up among the stray finds. The graves were disturbed. In grave 23, in addition to a pair of stirrups, iron hoops for a wooden bucket were preserved. Except for the stirrups, grave 31 did not yield any further grave-goods.

4. *Traces of funeral feasts and food offerings*

a) The finds excavated in the 72 graves of the cemetery indicate the presence of such phenomena Fig. 5. *Pottery vessels* were deposited in 6 graves (11, 22, 45, 80, 115, 122). Hand-made vessels were found in graves 11, 22, 80 and 122. The big yellow bottle of grave 115 was made on a kick-wheel. The vessels of grave 45 got lost, its onetime existence is known only from descriptions.

In grave 41 by the right clavicle of the female skeleton, a small bronze chalice was found. The grave belongs to the richest-furnished female graves.

Grave 23 yielded iron hoops for a *wooden bucket* (?), the hoops have preserved the traces of vertical tree nervation or bark. Literature treats such finds invariably as small wooden buckets or drinking cups. In graves where a single such iron hoop was found, one must not think only of the presence of a wooden vessel. A single hoop cannot possibly hold together staves fitted into each other by tenon and mortise junctions, not even where the distance from the bottom to the mouth of the vessel is small. Such jointing needs two iron hoops as a minimum. In the Avar Period cemeteries of Slovakia, where wooden buckets come often to light, such reinforced by a sole iron hoop are exceptional rarities.

It is by no means impossible that in these graves the mouth of some other sort of objects made of wood or of bark were reinforced by thin iron bands. Such might have been, for instance, a bark quiver, where the reinforcement of the mouth is indispensable for the insertion and

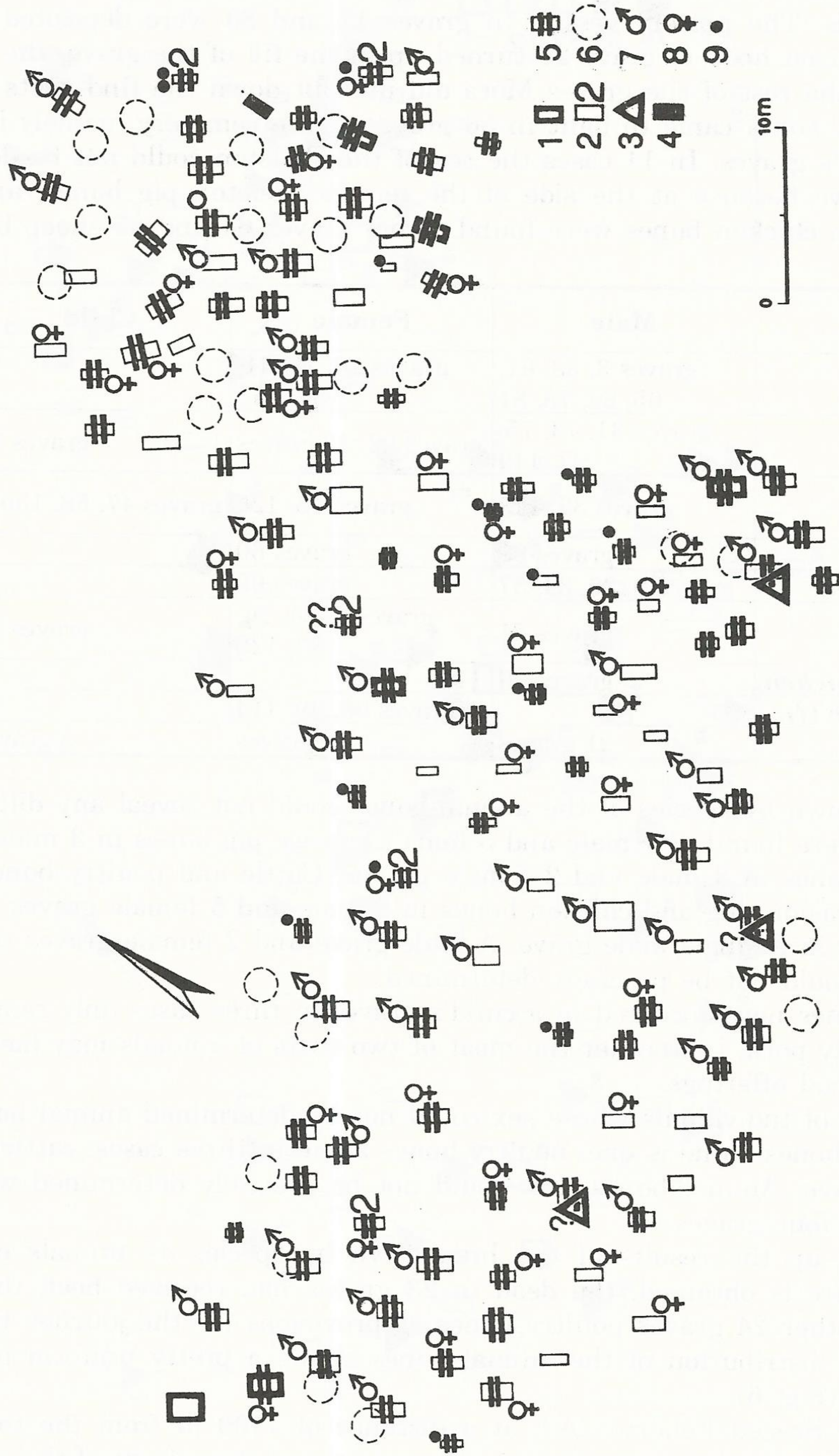


Fig. 4. Analysed cemetery plan. 1: coffin, 2: double burial, 3: horseman's grave, 4: empty grave, 5: disturbed, 6: pit of the Sarmatian Period, 7: male, 8: female, 9: child

removal of the arrows. The existence of bark quivers in the Avar Period is proved by the Tarnaméra grave 1.⁵ In this grave, however, no iron hoop was found.

Except for grave 23, in every grave containing vessels a female or a child was buried. A pottery vessel accompanied by animal bones yielded only two graves, in grave 41 cattle bones and in grave 45 chicken bones came to light. No egg was found in any grave containing vessels among the grave-goods. The pottery vessels in graves 11 and 80 were deposited near the feet of the deceased. The iron hoop of grave 23 turned up in the fill of the grave, the bronze chalice of the skeleton. For the rest of the graves Móra did not put down the find spots of the vessels.

b) *Animal bones* came to light in 56 graves of the cemetery, namely in 22 male, 19 female and 5 children's graves. In 11 cases the sex of the skeleton could not be determined. Grave 130 was listed twice because at the side of the female skeleton pig bones, and at the side of the child's skeleton chicken bones were found. From graves 64 and 65 sheep bones were recovered.

	Male	Female	Child	Sex not determined
Cattle	graves 3, 33, 61, 65, 69, 78, 81	graves 20, 37, 41, 52, 55,		
Pig	graves 31, 73, 75, 97, 119	graves 92, 13 graves	graves 91	graves 76
Chicken	graves 32, 113	graves 45, 126	graves 47, 58, 130 B	graves 10, 59, 84, 125
Cattle	graves 96	graves 60		
Cattle-Chicken	graves 9, 30, 34, 57	graves 68		graves 64, 90
Pig-Chicken	graves 71	graves 2, 24, 26, 83, 120	graves 70	graves 89
Cattle Pig-Chicken	graves 29			graves 16
Animala bone (?)		graves 98, 99, 114		graves 108, 116, 123
Total	21 graves	19 graves	5 graves	12 graves

A breakdown by species of the animal-bones could not reveal any difference of importance. Cattle bones were found in 7 male and 5 female graves, pig bones in 3 male and 2 female graves, only poultry bones in 3 male and 2 female graves. Cattle and poultry bones turned up together on a single occasion, pig and chicken bones in 2 male and 5 female graves, cattle, poultry and pig bones together in a single male grave. A male grave and 2 female graves contained the bones of animals that could not be precisely determined.

Cattle bones never occurred in a child's grave. In three cases only remains of chicken meat, in one case only pork, in another the meat of two sorts of animals may have been deposited into the grave as food offerings.

In graves of individuals whose sex could not be determined animal bones were found in 12 instances: pig bones alone is one, poultry bones alone in three cases, cattle and chicken together in a single grave. Animal bones that could not be precisely determined were found among the grave-goods of four graves.

Summing up the results of the breakdown by species of animals of the bone finds the following picture is obtained: the dead in 23 graves had received beef, those in 24 graves pig, and those in other 24 graves poultry bones as provisions for the journey into the after-life.

Thus the distribution of the animal bones shows a pretty uniform picture in the Fehértó „B” cemetery (Fig. 6).

Since the Szeged Fehértó „A”, at a distance of 1100 m from the town of Szeged equally yielded large quantities of animal bones, a comparison of these finds of the two cemeteries appears to be worth while. Whereas in the Fehértó „B” cemetery the bones of the various species of animals occur in proportions 1/3 to 1/3, in the Fehértó „A” cemetery chicken bones came to light

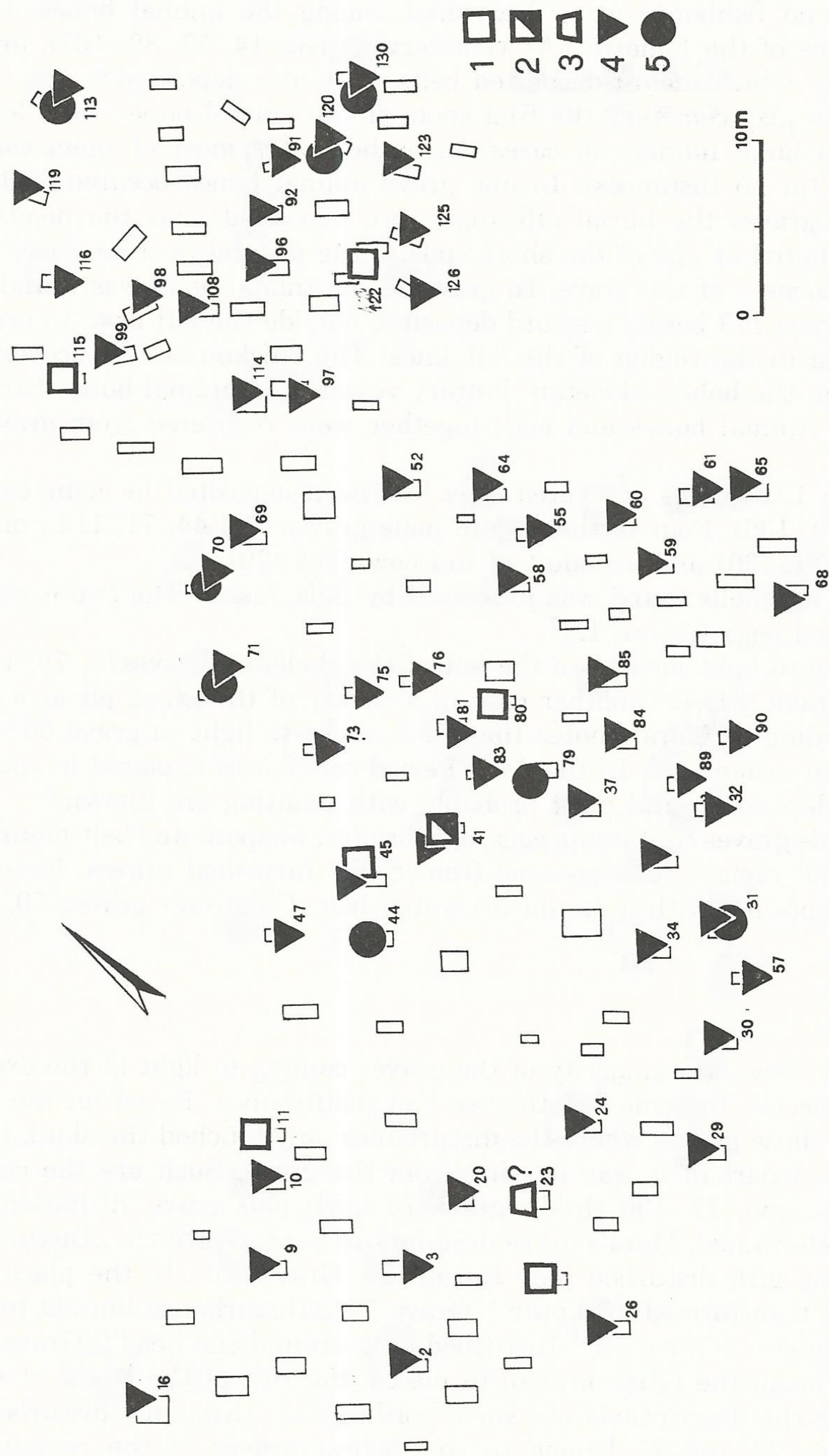


Fig. 5. Analysed cemetery plan. Finds related to burial feasts-food and drink offerings. 1: pottery vessel, 2: bronze chalice, 3: wooden bucket, 4: animal bone, 5: egg

most often (in 179 cases), followed by pig bones (92 cases) and finally, cattle bones (in 25 cases only).

A phenomenon worth attention is that though the Szeged Fehértó „B” cemetery and the settlement’s belonging to it were situated next to one of the largest lakes of the Nagyalföld (Great Hungarian Plain), no fishbones were discovered among the animal bones, but fishbones were found in four graves of the Fehértó „A” cemetery (graves 14, 57, 82, 167), and in every case in such male graves in which mount-decorated belts were also deposited.⁶

In the Fehértó „B” cemetery the find spots of the animal bones were left unmentioned by the excavator, in a large number of cases. In other cases most of them came to light in the region of the feet (in 15 instances). In one grave animal bones occurred in the position of the skull, and in four graves the burial offerings were deposited near the head. In grave 108 the animal bones were found at one of the short ends of the pit and in three cases (graves 91, 92 and 99) in one of the corners of the grave. In grave 41 an animal bone was found near the bones of the left hand, in grave 113 beside a sword deposited outside the left arm, in grave 120 the animal bone was discovered in the region of the left knee. The chicken bones recovered from grave 130 were found lying on the babe’s skeleton. Pottery vessels and animal bones turned up together in graves 41 and 45. Animal bones and eggs together were recovered from graves 31, 70, 71, 113 and 130.

c) Among the 132 graves excavated eggs had been deposited in eight cases (graves 31, 44, 70, 71, 79, 113, 120, 130). Four of them were male graves (31, 44, 71, 113), on female (120), two children’s graves (70, 130) and an adult of unknown sex (79).

A part of the eggshells found was processed by Béla Jakab. The two eggs examined (70, 79) were summer goosed eggs (*Anser*, L).⁷

The eggs came to light mostly on the left of the skeleton (graves 70, 79, 113, 120, 130), once in the fill of the grave (31), in another case in a corner of the grave pit at a place not precisely defined (71). According to Móra’s notes the egg brought to light in grave 60 was decorated with painting and incised ornaments. In the Avar Period cemeteries explored in county Csongrád four eggs with incised decoration and most probably with painting are known.⁸

In the four male graves containing eggs, also bridles, weapons and belt-mounts were discovered. Over the half of the remains of eggs came from richly furnished graves. Even the infant buried in grave 90 was deposited with a mount-decorated belt. Children’s graves 79, 120 and 130 seem to be poorish.

5. Skull robbery

As mentioned above, the majority of the graves coming to light in the excavated area of the cemetery were subjected to some or other sort of disturbance. Based on the excavation records we could set apart those graves where the disturbance only touched the skull. In such cases either the entire skull or a part of it was missing from the grave. Such are the cases of male graves 29, 75 female graves 35, 77, 130 child’s grave 70 (girl) plus grave 79 harbouring a skeleton of sex not precisely determined. Móra’s grave descriptions read: Grave 29: „Disturbed only the head”. Grave 70: „A young girl, disturbed only the head”. Grave 75: „In the place of the head many pig bones and lead transformed into pulp”. Grave 77: „Disturbance limited to the region around the head and shoulders”. Grave 79: „Disturbed only around the head”. Grave 130: „Disturbance affecting only the head, the latter broken to pieces, the rest of the bones at their own places”.

In other cases the descriptions use such wordings as „thoroughly disturbed”, „bones thrown in a heap”. Graves 29 and 75 belong to the richest graves of the cemetery. Another grave outstanding by its opulence is grave 70. The rest of the graves should be considered as being modest rather than of average wealth.⁹

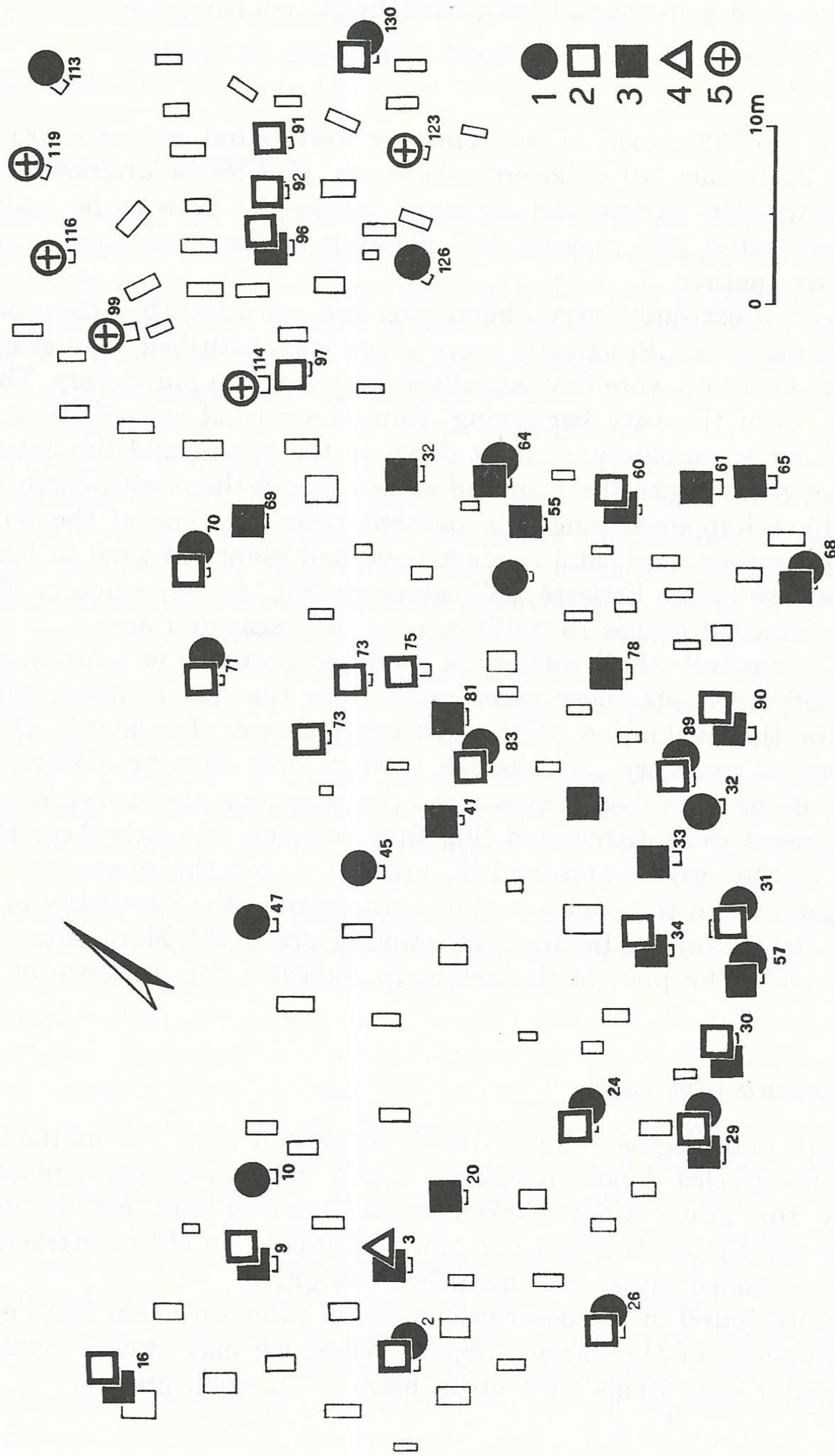


Fig. 6. Analysed cemetery plan. Animal bones. 1: chicken, 2: pig, 3: cattle, 4: horse, 5: without precise determination.

6. Orientation

The excavation records make no mention of orientation, the only information about the direction of the graves is afforded by the plan of the cemetery. The best part of the graves was most probably oriented NW-SE. As no separate records regarding this question were taken, we may assume that the dead were buried with their heads pointing NW.

7. Disturbed graves

The majority of the 132 graves of the cemetery were found disturbed (Fig. 4). Disturbances concerned 35 male, 22 female, 10 children's skeletons, plus 29 of unknown sex. To this figure another four graves (double burials and an empty grave-pit) have to be added, that is to say, among the graves excavated 100, making 75,7 per cent of the total number of the graves were disturbed in a way or another.

The disturbances of extremely large dimensions had attracted the attention of Móra, too. He worded his observations thus: „Practically every grave was disturbed. The graves, deep and wide even in their original condition were fantastically enlarged by the plunderers. This is demonstrated by the black humus from the very beginning, from the second spit of spade. The graves were turned and dug out indiscriminately, at least down to the pelvis, and the bones scattered about. It probably took a long time until the rain and snow covered them with earth again. The opinion that all this must have happened long ago, perhaps near the time of the burials, is supported also by the soil being rather hard, and it must have had plenty of time to become so”.

Concerning the case of the Fehértó „B” cemetery (Fig. 4) the cemetery plan shows that the distribution of the disturbed graves is uniform over the excavated area.

In Fehértó „B” cemetery skull robbery is rendered probable at least in seven cases. In his descriptions Móra definitely sets these cases apart from the rest of disturbed graves. A fact of major importance for the evaluation of the disturbed graves of Fehértó „B” cemetery is that among the 376 graves of cemetery „A”, distant 1100 m, only 40 were disturbed shortly after the burial. A projection of the disturbed graves upon the cemetery plan substantiates the conclusion that the disturbed graves were distributed fifty-fifty between the early Avar Period burial phase and that belonging to the „griffin-and-tendrils” horizon within the cemetery.

In the investigation into the problem of disturbed graves the possibility of later disturbances should also be paid due attention. In the description of grave 121 Móra notes: „A grave destroyed by a later dwelling pit”. The plan of the cemetery indicates the presence of a fireplace at this grave.

8. Further phenomena observed

On the cemetery plan regular circles drawn in broken lines are marked. According to the legend to the plan the circles denote fireplaces. Upon such an alleged fireplace was grave 18/a sited. Unfortunately, this grave is not marked in the cemetery plan, nor the grave-goods reached the Museum. In the description of grave 121 Móra records an object marked with such a circle that a „dwelling pit installed later” had disturbed the grave.

The contradictions found in the descriptions do not offer sufficient basis even for an attempt to determine the functions of the various objects. What we may state relying upon the plan of the cemetery is whether such items turn up in pairs or in small groups.

IV. GRAVE-GOODS

In the 132 graves excavated in the cemetery altogether 137 dead were buried. Based upon the inspection of the skeletons we may reckon with 42 male, 34 female and 16 children's graves, plus 45 skeletons whose sex could not be determined.

The number of skeletons of unknown sex is rather high. This is explained by two motives. The first is that 75 per cent of the graves had been disturbed, the second, that in the cases of unfurnished graves Móra did not note the sex of the deceased.

1. Dress and personal ornaments

(a) *Male graves.* Out of the 132 graves discovered at the site Ferenc Móra discovered finds indicating the presence of *mount-decorated belts* in twenty-two cases, that is, in 16,6 per cent of the graves (Fig. 7). Different ratios are obtained when the male graves are examined separately. According to the anthropologic sex determinations of Móra's, males were buried in 42 graves. A comparison of the 22 mount-decorated belts with the latter figure shows that 51,1 per cent of the male graves harboured dead buried with their belt on.

The belts were assigned to one of four typological groups.

1. Belts decorated with ornaments fashioned from bronze plates or repoussé mounts. 2. Rectangular belt mounts cut out of bronze plate. 3. Cast bronze belt mounts. 4. Belts that were transmitted to us only in the descriptions of the graves and cannot be assigned to any of the above three groups. Sets of belt or belt-ornaments that could not be definitely classed in any of the groups on the basis of the descriptions were discovered in graves 61, 65, 66, 71, 73, 103.

1. In the group of *belts decorated with repoussé belt ornaments* the finds of graves 29, 70, 78 and 119 belong. Out of the mounts buried in grave 78 only a bronze strap-end with rounded point and decorated with a fluted band at its upper edge was preserved. The grave was unusually deep (-300 cm) and ground water inundated the grave pit 40 cm deep. Probably this was the reason for which the excavators could not collect the other belt-ornaments because the latter were immersed in water. A bronze buckle found in the grave might have belonged to the belt. Besides the bronze buckle and strap-end, fragmentary bone fittings for different objects as a bow, purse and quiver, an iron buckle, an iron knife and small pieces of gold-leaf round the skull were found. The assignment of the belt in this group is motivated by the presence of a small strap-end, though the latter is conceivable also side-by-side with rectangular mounts cut out of bronze plate. Such assumption was confirmed by numerous analogies, too.

Another incomplete belt-set came from grave 119. Out of the belt-set only a discoid mount of gold plate decorated with a row of embossed dots around a central roundel, and two fragmentary oblong mounts perforated by two holes each were recovered. The graves was completely plundered. The belt-mounts turned up from among the bones of the trunk were thrown upon the femora. The grave contained bow plates, arrowheads, an iron knife and gold plates as accompanying finds. Similar discoid belt-mounts, likewise made of gold were excavated in the Kisköre cemetery grave 34, where, in the same grave, the analogies of the oblong gold plates were found.¹⁰ Similar belt-mounts were excavated also in other Avar cemeteries.¹¹ The cast bronze variant of our pressed belt-mounts were found among the grave-goods of the Győr cemetery, grave 119. Also here, like in the undisturbed Kisköre grave 34, four circular belt-mounts were preserved, the large strap-end is socketed, the socketed small strap-ends terminate in boar's head. Similarly in the Győr Téglavető cemetery, grave 471, together with the discoid belt-mounts of repoussé and pressed tendril-ornamented strap-ends a cast tendril-decorated large strap-ends was found. The ornamental repertoire for the decoration of the strap-ends were similar. Péter Tomka discusses both graves among the griffin-and-tendril decorated ones.¹² In spite of the complete belt-set of the Fehértó grave being uncertain we believe that the deceased buried with his gold-mounted belt might have been the head of a part of the community that used the burial place. Éva Garam holds that the man

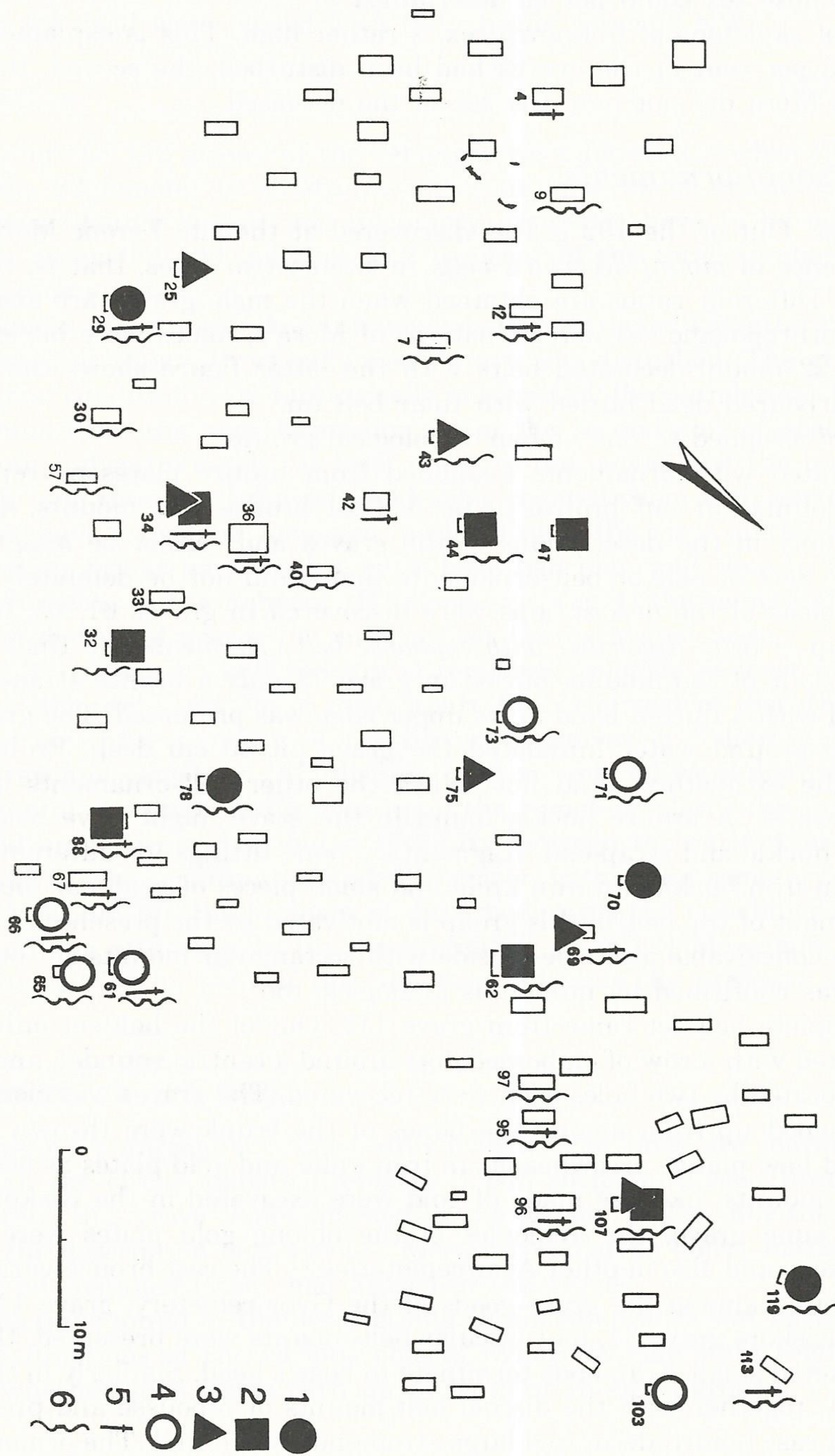


Fig. 7. Analysed cemetery plan. Mount-decorated belts. 1: repoussé belt-ornaments and mounts fashioned from metal plate, 2: belt-mounts cut out of metal plates, 3: cast bronze belt-ornaments, 4: indetermined belt-mounts, 5: sword or sabre, 6: bow.

buried in Kisköre together with a belt decorated with gold mounts was one of the heads of the community.¹³

In grave 70, according to Móra's sex determination that of a young girl, four discoid belt-mounts of gilt-silver plate were brought to light at various point of the pelvis. The grave yielded an iron arrowhead, a quite tiny iron knife, animal bones and an egg showing traces of panting and incised decoration. In the grave of the child only the skull was found disturbed. As none of the finds indicate with certeanly that the skeleton was that of a young female, in this particular case we question Móra's sex determination, and further on we discuss the skeleton as being one of a boy. The closest parallels of the mount were found in the Dunapentele grave 1908/10, where, instead of a belt, a harness was adorned by them.¹⁴ Similar mounts for belts appear among the finds of other cemeteries, too.¹⁵ As the Fehértó grave was of a child' we believe that the mounts decorating his belt were initially produced to embellish a harness. Amongh the belts adorned with plate mounts we enter into the examination of the most important belt in our opinion: the one excavated in grave 29. The quadrangular silver gilt mounts and strap-ends are decorated with raised quadrangular cells set with glass.

The nearest analogies of these belt-ornaments are assigned to the „middle Avar” finds. Let us mention a few of them without claim to completeness.¹⁶

The evaluation of grave 29 will be discussed in full particulars in the Summary. The outstanding part he deceased had played in his life are substantiated by the fact that his was the only grave of the Fehértó „B” cemetery in which traces of two belts were found. The grave yielded three silver small strap-ends of repoussé that depart from the small strap-ends of the belt mentioned above to such measure that their belonging together is impossible.

2. *Belts adorned with mounts cut out of bronze plate* were found in graves 32, 44, 47, 62, 88. In grave 32 only found two quadrangular bronze plates have survived from the belt-set. In grave 44 four quadrangular bronze plates indicate the presence of a belt. Oblong-shaped belt-mounts with slightly incurved sides embellished the belt deposited in grave 62 and with very slightly incurved sides, yet more similar to the quadrangular mounts of the belt of grave 88. In grave 47 — child's grave — circular mounts with a rivet each were together with a horseshoe-shaped belt-hole quard cut out of bronze plate. Among the incomplete belt-sets pointed out above strap-ends were found only in graves 47 and 88: in both cases there were repoussé strap-ends. Save grave 47 every grave additionally yielded wapons, too.

As a matter of fact also the belts of graves 34 and 107 should be discussed here, as being among those embellished with bronze plate mounts, yet the belt-sets were complete with cast bronze strap-ends and mounts. Ilona Kovrig when discussing chronological group 3, in her publication about Alattyán discusses the contexts consisting of belts decorated with mounts cut of metal plate and those with strap-ends of various types.¹⁷

Éva Garam examines the belts adorned by mounts cut out of bronze plate separately among the early and late Avar graves in the material of the Kisköre cemetery.¹⁸ In her report on the Szebény I cemetery she voices the opinion that the graves containing oblong belt-mounts cut out of bronze plates and those yielding cast belt-ornaments fall close to each other in time.¹⁹ In the Fehértó „B” cemetery between the belt-sets of the last two graves (34, 107) and the preceding five graves (32, 44, 47, 62, 88) we cannot make any difference regarding chronology. The accompanying finds are similar, and their topographical position within he excavated area of the cemetery do not indicate considerable differences in time, either. Our opinion is additonally supported by the belt-set recovered from grave 2 of the Szebény I cemetery. Here the designs decorating the large strap-end on the cast bronze socketed strap-end pretty similar to the pattern brought to light in the Fehértó „B” cemetery, grave 23.

3. *Cast bronze belt-mounts* were unearthed in graves 25, 43, 69, 75, 132. Distinct units could be separated also inside this group of belt-ornaments. Grave 69 yielded a cast belt-set of bronze gilt with chequer pattern. The grave, though disturbed, contained bone fittings forbow and those for a quiver, a bone object decorated with carving an iron sword and an iron rattle. Similar

belt-set came to light in the Želovce (Zsély) cemetery, grave 335.²⁰ The two belt-sets found at different point of the Charpatian Basin show striking resemblances. The bronze buckles belonging to the belts are similar to such extent that even the small elongations of the buckle tongue are perfectly identical. The design of the belt-hole guards, the shape of the second bronze buckle, the attachment mount of the belt are identical even to the least detail. There is little risk to suppose that the two belts were manufactured in the same workshop and by the same master. Another similar belt-set, yet not identical in every detail was found in the Mödling cemetery grave 135.²¹ A strap-end and a quadrangular mount were found in the Devínska Nová Ves cemetery grave 530.²² From a plundered grave, that is to say, needing increased precaution as regards the numbers of the strap-ends came a similar belt in the Zamárdi cemetery grave 25 to light.²³ In the Üllő II cemetery, grave 94, among mounts of various types there is an openwork large strap-end showing chequer pattern.²⁴ Undisturbed were grave 94 of the Kisköre cemetery²⁵ and grave 316 of the Szeged-Fehértó „A” cemetery.²⁶ In these graves „incomplete belts”, mount-decorated belts with strap-ends missing, were deposited.

Here we risk an assumption again: with these belts occurring at no considerable frequency we might have put down two sorts of fittings of the same type of mount. In one of the cases, side-by-side with quadrangular mounts, the characteristic buckle, belt-hole guards and strap-ends made out the complete belt-set in combination, whereas in the other instance the belt was adorned only by quadrangular mounts.

In such graves weapons often came to light. It is by no means impossible that these belt-sets had been in use at the same time with the late type belt-ornaments bearing interlace pattern and repoussé mounts with glass inlay. The upper limit to their being worn is marked out by the tendril-decorated small strap-ends of the Üllő II cemetery.²⁷

In grave 43 nothing more than a belt-hole guard showing scale-like pattern was preserved. The grave had been severely disturbed. Another strongly incomplete belt-set was recovered from grave 43. The probable explanation to this condition is that the excavator of this grave was not Móra, but József Csurgó, in 1936 while the latter was ditching. The mounts came to light at the left side of the skeleton, in the region of the ilium. Among all cast belt-sets excavated in the cemetery this appears to be typologically the youngest. This assumption appears to be based upon the large strap-end and mount pendants.

Tendril-decorated complete belt-sets were discovered in graves 25 and 75. Shield-shaped mounts with hinged pendants made part of both sets. Grave 25 yielded four, grave 75 five of them.

The set of grave 75 contains quite a few elements of interest. Such is the belt-mount with ring-pendant, a rarity among cast bronze mounts. The belt-hole guards and shielded-shaped mounts were adorned with punching, like the mounts of the Kiskőrös Városalatti cemetery grave 156.²⁸ In Éva Garam's opinion the sets of patterns used are in harmony with the design of the large strap-end of the Kiskőrös-Vágóhíd cemetery grave IX unique so far.²⁹ The repoussé mounts of the Kiskőrös Városalatt cemetery grave 156 are decorated with griffins,³⁰ in compliance with those found in cast bronze griffin representations.

Grave 75 of the Fehértó „B” cemetery yielded the small discoid gold piece described by Éva Garam. The gold plate was deposited in the grave as an obol.³¹

4. According to the original excavation records in graves 61, 65, 66, 71, 73 and 103, all of them sorely disturbed, also fragments of belt-ornaments were found. From grave 61 „fragments of silver strap-end” were also rescued. Grave 65 yielded „a gilt silver strap-end”, grave 66 a complete set with the pieces thrown upon each other and a silver large strap-end, in grave 103 „fragments of a small silver plate” are recorded by Móra in his description of graves. Except for the horseshoe-shaped belt-hole guard found in grave 103, the rest of the finds were destroyed in the course of the excavations (e.g. those of grave 66) or after that. The typological grouping of these finds belonging to the three groups defined above has become beyond ascertainment.

Having surveyed the mount-decorated belts yielded by the cemetery it appears necessary to state that our typological system follows that generally adopted in literature. In most cases the researchers follow the chronological relationship of the finds while stressing the differences existing between them.³² In the Fehértó „B” cemetery to build up an accurate chronology of the belts by an intrinsic analysis is impossible. In the making of groups we only accentuate the typologic differences, which, in this cemetery, do not necessarily involve also differences in chronology. Provided the hypotheses to be presented below on the social conditions of the community can be rendered probable enough and can be substantiated with arguments, it may be surmised that the possessors of various types were living and wearing their belts in the same periods of time. It goes without saying that inside the community the belt might have shown the descentance, social conditions and wealth of the owners.

Bronze buckles were found in 13 male graves: 25, 29, 32, 36, 48, 65, 66, 69, 73, 75, 78, 97, 107. Graves 25, 69 and 75 contained two bronze buckles each. Among the bronze buckles of the male graves we additionally discuss the four buckles that came to light in graves containing skeletons of undetermined sex. Such were the buckles in graves 18, 74, 105, 125. Most frequent were those oval in shape, like the items in graves 36, 66, 69, 74, 75, 105, 107. The belt-plate of the buckle recovered from grave 36 was fashioned from two bronze bands. Grave 69 yielded a cast bronze hinged buckle, its belt-plate shows a quequer design in openwork similar to the cast belt-mount. The belt-plate of the specimen excavated in grave 107 is equally a cast piece, the stylized tendril ornament is likewise in harmony with the decoration of the mounts.

The two „Omega-shaped” cast bronze buckles (graves 29 and 78) made part of a repoussé belt-set. A trapezoidal buckle whose belt-plate was made of bronze sheet belonged to the belt of the dead in grave 73. A similar trapezoidal buckle was found in grave 97, disturbed. Oval or trapezoidal bronze buckles cast in one piece with their belt-plate were found in graves 25, 48 and 65. In grave 32 an oval bronze buckle with cast belt-plate could not be ascertained because of the fragmentary condition of the finds.

Except for that in grave 48, disturbed, the bronze buckles belonged to belts adorned with mounts.

Iron buckles were excavated in ten male graves (29, 33, 36, 65, 44, 71, 75, 78, 97, 107). In seven cases iron buckles turned up together with bronze ones (graves 29, 36, 65, 75, 78, 97, 107). Grave 33 and 71 were disturbed to such extent that „practically not even bones were left in them” says Móra in the description of the graves.

Based upon the circumstances outlined above we believe that, the wearing of two belts by those buried in male graves may be considered as being a general habit. One of the belts was fastened with a plain iron buckle, the second adorned with mounts, had a bronze fastener.

Earrings were discovered in five male graves (29, 32, 34, 62, 73): plain penannular rings made of bronze wire of circular section Fig. 8. All five graves belonged to males buried with mount-decorated belts. According to Éva Garam silver or bronze penannular earring were characteristic grave-goods in the male graves of the „middle Avar Period”.³³

Beads were found in three male graves, one in each grave (66, 75, 97). Two of the graves contained belt-sets, the third a bone stiffener from the terminal of a bow and arrowheads. The beads of graves 66 and 97 are known from the descriptions of the graves only. Grave 75 yielded a single amber bead. The depositing of a single dead into the grave is usually explained in literature by superstition.³⁴

Bar-shaped hairplait-ornaments of cast bronze were found in two male graves (81, 95). In both of them the dead was entombed together with his weapons. In the opinion of Ilona Kovrig and Éva Garam hairplait-ornaments of metal plate belong to the characteristic grave-finds of the „middle” Avar Period cemeteries.³⁵ In the Győr cemetery Péter Tomka found that cast „bar-type” hairplait-ornaments generally came to light together with cast belt-ornaments.³⁶

Purse fasteners and ornamental mounts for quivers were unearthed in four graves (8, 12, 69, 78). The belonging here of the bone item perforated by three asymmetrical holes recovered

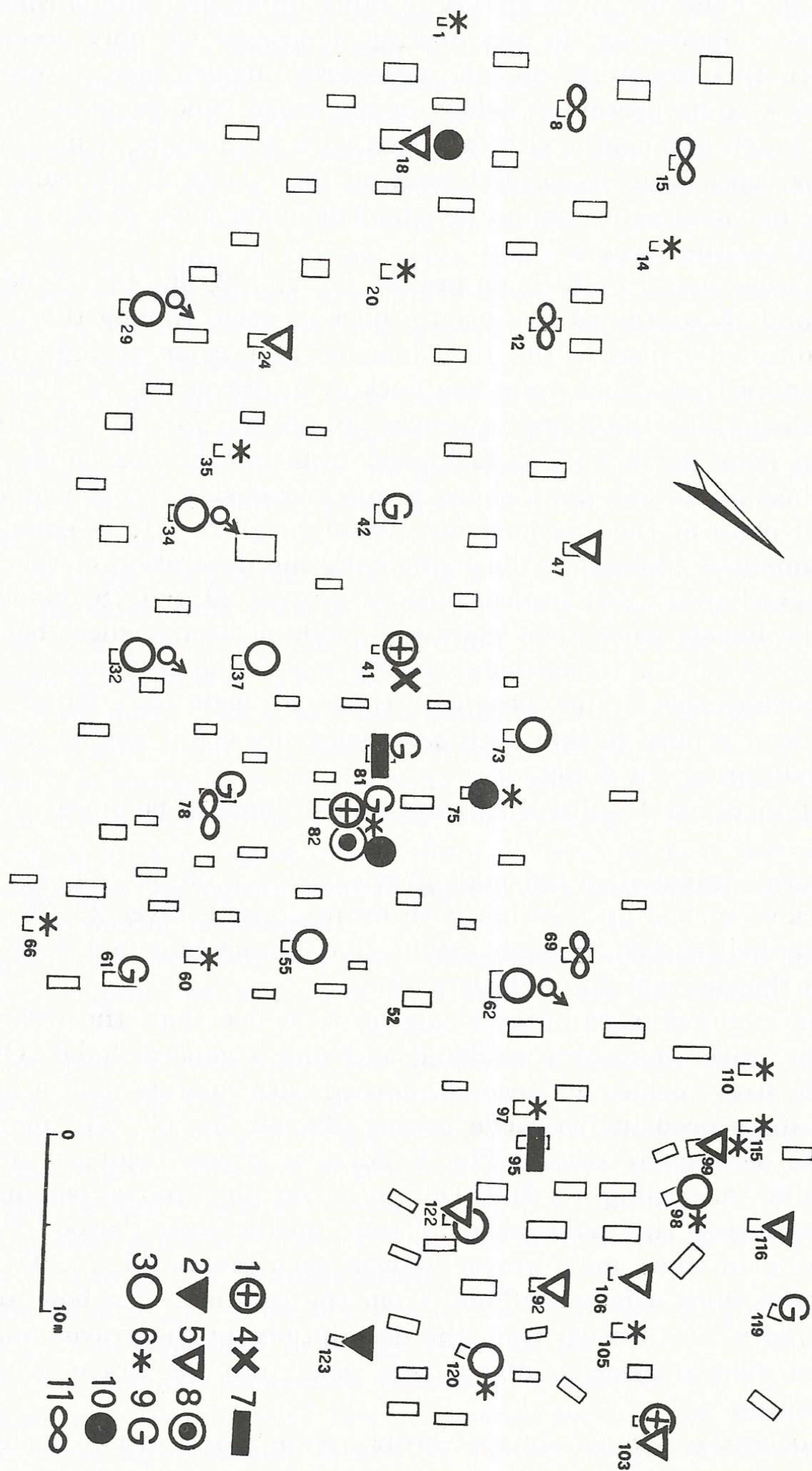


Fig. 8. Analysed cemetery plan. Jewels and personal ornaments. 1: circular earring decorated with a single glass bead or by several glass beads, 2: oval earring with longish bead-pendant, 3: penannular earrings, 4: breast-clasps, 5: melonseed-shaped glass bead, 6: other sorts of beads, 7: hairplait-ornaments, 8: mirror, 9: small gold plates, 10: coin, obol, 11: bone purse-fastener.

from grave 12 is uncertain. The quadrangular parts of the bone purse-fastener yielded by grave 8 are decorated with intersecting loops, this motif is closely similar to the interlace pattern of belt-mounts. Analogies cast of bronze were excavated in the graves of the Csuny, Alattyán and Holiare (Alsógellér) cemeteries. In grave 630 of the Holiare cemetery a purse-fastener was accompanied by belt-mounts showing interlace pattern.³⁷ As regards the counterpart of the bone item of grave 69 in the Dunapentele grave 1908/7 Fettich holds that in the grave this item belonged to a quiver.³⁸ The bone object of grave 78 was widely known among the Avar Period finds, here we refer only to the Gáter, Nagyarsány, Jánoshida and Várpalota specimens.³⁹ In every grave pointed out above there were bone fittings for quiver. Therefore the bone items just enumerated might have belonged to the fastener of the quiver. In lack of proof brought to light by the excavations this may be surmised only, it can nevertheless not be excluded, that the fasteners had been used with leather or fabric purses.

A thin bone plate decorated with dotted circles came to light in grave 15. The back was traces slit which means that the piece had been cemented to some other object. Similar bone plates were found in the Fehértó „A” cemetery, yet there only in female graves.⁴⁰

Pieces of gold foils were recovered from graves 42, 61, 78, 81 and 119. They had probably adorned clothing, or else embellished sheets for weapons. The pieces of gold foils coming from grave 42 were backed with silver plates. No detail is given of the small pieces of gold plates excavated in grave 199.

A small round gold plate (grave obol) was found in grave 75, among the grave-goods of a male buried in a coffin. Éva Garam has discussed it among the grave obols.⁴¹ The grave yielded cast bronze-gilt belt-set, a mount with ring-pendant, arrowheads, two iron knives and iron buckles.

(b) *Female graves.* Bronze buckles were found in four female graves. Graves 6 and 55 yielded and oval-shaped, grave 11 a „Omega-shaped”, grave 106 an oblong buckle cast in one piece with its belt-plate. Iron buckles were excavated in graves 17, 41, 45, 70 and 120. The two sides of the iron buckle in grave 17 were strongly incurved (8-shaped), the rest is oval, square, oblong or oblong in shape. As regards the position of the buckles the only existing record says that in grave 70 a bronze buckle was discovered near the left hand.

Earrings penannular rings were found only in seven graves (37, 41, 55, 82, 98, 120, 123) Fig. 8. Out of the seven graves three (37, 98, 108) preserved penannular bronze earrings of circular section. In grave 82 a pair of oval gold earrings of circular section was discovered, with the clearly visible traces of pendants that cannot be determined any more. Circular earrings with glass bead-pendants, arranged about a central axis were found in grave 41, and an oval hoop of hexagonal cross-section in grave 123. The latter also shows traces of a bead pendant, as well as the traces of pseudogranulation which indicates it to be a fragment of a pair of late Avar earrings made up of oval hoops and pyramidal pendants. Among the stray finds a circular earring with „muffs” and with bead-pendant missing, plus an oval earring with „muffs” of beaded wire and fragmentary trunco-pyramidal glass bead-pendant were found. The cemetery yielded very few earrings and the limited number of them does not lend themselves to become the basis of any further conclusion of chronology.

The string of beads are the most severely incomplete finds and most difficult to evaluate of the cemetery. In our opinion only the complete strings of beads are fit to illustrate the female wear with some reliability, whereas the evaluation of a few single beads is impossible, unless the description of the grave makes explicit reference to the presence of single beads. Single beads or strings came from 13 graves. Quite sure female graves among them are 20, 24, 35, 52, 60, 82, 92, 98, 106 and 115. The beads found in graves 99, 110 and 116 will also be discussed here, namely in these cases the excavators failed to determine the sex of the skeletons. A single glass bead was recovered in each of graves 52, 82 and 116, two in grave 92. The beads found in graves 35, 110 and 115 got lost, their one-time existence being testified only in the descriptions of the graves. Strings of beads were found in graves 20, 24, 60, 99, 106. They were of three different colours. Grave 60 yielded a string of millet seed-like beads only, the latter mostly yellow or brown,

completed by several blue beads. No other than melonseed-shaped beads were found in graves 24 and 106; in grave 24 large black beads, in grave 106 large- and small sized ones in light blue were found. In graves 20 and 99 strings composed of several types of beads came to light. They were pretty colourful. Grave 20 contained brown and yellow single beads, several milletseed beads and blue, green and white cubo-octahedral, cubic and prism-shaped ones combined to make strings. Still more varicoloured is the set of grave 99. Here side-by-side with light blue melonseed beads carneol, blue and black prismatic gilt beads, gilt biconical and spherical ones, long white spindle-shaped beads had adorned the neck of the women. It may be surmised that the two trapezoidal gold plates found in the grave belonged to the necklace⁴² the items were fixed through a single hole or through two holes.

Breast-clasps. The two discoid silver ornaments of repoussé found in grave 41 in rather poor condition of preservation might belong here. As regards the ornamentation and techniques the pairs of gilt silver plates of the Kiskőrös grave 2, the pressed gold plate of the Dunapentele grave 1980/12 and the breast-clasps pressed of a bronze plate of the Nagyréde-Ragyogópart grave 3 are to be regarded as its closest parallels.⁴³ The find spots in the graves were the region of the left clavicle in all three cases. In the Fehértó „B” cemetery, grave 41 the silver ornaments came from a similar position on the right side of the skeleton. In the description of the grave Móra put it down thus: „By right shoulder bronze spoon-like silver plates”. It will be no gross error to determine the two plates as remains of a pair of breast clasps, not even if the two pieces differ by their sizes and patterns.

Recently Győző J. Szabó discussed the dating of breast-clasps in connection with the Nagyréde specimens. In our opinion the finds turned up in the Fehértó „B” cemetery substantiate his opinion both in respect of the production time and of the time of their having been deposited.⁴⁴

Gilt-bronze *ornamental mounts* of six-petalled type of repoussé came to light in grave 85. The grave had been disturbed, the plunderers did not leave anything of the grave-goods but an iron knife. Quite similar mounts came to light in Dunapentele, it is to be regretted that only as stray-finds. These objects might have had various functions: the finds include harness mounts whose upper sided are counterparts of the six-petalled metal buttons, and they occur also by themselves.⁴⁵

Finger-rings were found in graves 41 and 82. Those of grave 41 got lost. There had been a finger-ring on each hand. In grave 82 only the gold bezel of the finger-ring was preserved, decoration: hemispherical glass inlay in blue surrounded by grooved wire. A similar finger-ring was found in the Nagyréde-Ragyogópart cemetery grave 3, in whose discussion Győző J. Szabó lists further analogies. The material of grave 82 substantiates his opinion that such a bezel was characteristic for men of high social rank throughout the Avar Period.⁴⁶

Ferenc Móra excavated a *round bronze mirror* in grave 82, above the ribs of the skeleton. The decoration of the mirror consists of a raised plain border and a circle in the middle. The find is similar to the fragments of a mirror found at Nyékládháza (grave 51), yet the elements of decoration shows a different arrangement.⁴⁷ In the same cemetery there was another mirror fragment in grave 23, yet the spoke-like motif is at a variance with the Fehértó piece.⁴⁸

An unornamented fragment of a mirror was recovered from the Alattyán cemetery grave 246. This grave also yielded a plate belt-set containing mounts decorated with triangle-shaped cut-out design.⁴⁹

Pieces of *gold-leaf* came to light in grave 82. According to the description of the grave „along the right side of the grave and in the area of the right foot.” Unlike the strongly fragmentary and unshapely gold plates excavated in the male graves, the majority of the gold plates found here are oblong in shape. One of them is like a laurel leaf with the tip turned up. About their functions we do not possess any information. They could not have been sewn to anything in lack of holes, indispensable for sewing yet absent even in the non-damaged pieces. They might have been cemented to some wooden or leather object, maybe to some piece of leather garment. Another workable hypothesis might be that as the plates turned up along one of the sides of the grave.

They could have belonged to some sort of shroud. The greater part of thin gold plates similar to the Fehértó finds came from the Kiskőrös Vágóhíd cemetery.⁵⁰

A *counterfeit gold coin* was yielded by grave 82 (18. Pl. 4) containing the mirror, gold earrings and pieces of gold-foil. It was above the chest of the skeleton. Móra determined it as an imitation of the coin of Konstatinos IV, and Dezső Csallány adopted this opinion.⁵¹ Éva Garam likewise believes it to be an imitation of a coin of Konstatinos IV.⁵² In grave 18 — the sex of the skeleton could not be determined — another coin was found. In the grave report Móra does not mention it among the finds. In his series of articles „Hun sírok, hun nem azok” published between August 25th and October 20th, 1929, in the daily paper Magyar Hírlap, Móra reserves a few remarks also to the coins, thus: „Besides, in Fehértó a single coin has been recovered so far, a strongly worn-down piece, which must have been much in circulation, of the reign of the son of the Emperor Constantine the Great.⁵³ Before the printing of this article, i.e. October 13th, 1929, Móra had excavated 235 graves in the Szeged-Fehértó „A” cemetery. Among the finds he does not mention the coin of the period of the Roman Empire.

To sum up the results of the discussions we may state that the belonging of the coin to the grave and to cemetery „B” must not be considered as proved, yet, it can not be excluded, either.

After the survey of the finds excavated in the female graves we are in the position to make a few general remarks. Only two of the female graves, 41 and 82, come up to the richness of the male graves in the cemetery. Judging by the assemblage of finds including a four-sided bone needle-case, a cast bronze buckle with tendril-decorated belt-plate, and melonseed-shaped beads, grave 106 seems to belong to the chronological horizon of female graves containing finds chronologically related with the male burials of the „griffin-and-tendril group”. The rest of female graves are definitely poor in finds. Even the plainest jewels are pretty modestly represented in the graves. By all means the assemblages of finds significantly differ from those of the other cemeteries of the same period.

(c) *Children's graves.* The excavators identified 16 children's skeletons: in graves 1, 39, 45, 46, 47, 50, 51, 56, 58, 80, 87, 91, 103, 122, 130. Out of them graves 39, 50, 51, 56 and 87 were found unfurnished. In grave 58, undisturbed, only animal bones were found. All told, 60 per cent of the children's graves contained grave-goods. An incomplete belt-set including a fragmentary strap-end and two discoid mounts of repoussé and plate belt-hole guard was found in grave 47 which, in Móra's opinion, contained the skeleton of a boy of 15 years of age or so. In addition to the belt-ornaments a knife and animal bones were excavated in the grave. From chronological standpoint the belt deposited in grave 47 may be assigned to the group of belts decorated with square and oblong bronze plate mounts.

From grave 103, in addition to the belt-hole guard and belt-loop cut out of bronze plate, earrings and melonseed-shaped beads were recovered.

Graves 45 and 130 yielded an *iron buckle* each. A tiny bronze buckle came to light in grave 91.

Earrings were excavated in two graves (103, 122). Those of grave 122 are plain penannular rings of circular section. Grave 103 yielded a pair of circular earrings with pendants composed of four granules (three granules arranged in the same plane, plus a fourth one soldered to the underpart of the group). Győző J. Szabó considers that this type of pendants shows the survival in a cast form of the globe-pendants of metal plate of the early Avar earrings and the earrings with pendants made up of granules appeared in Central Europe in the second half of the VIIth century.⁵⁴

Beads were found in children's graves 1, 14, 18, 47, 103 and 122. Of the beads in grave 1 we have no other knowledge than that preserved in the description of the graves. Graves 14 and 47 contained a single glass bead each, grave 14 an amphora-shaped glass bead, grave 47 a black melonseed-shaped bead. Éva Garam has found the appearance of amphora-shaped beads, together with several other types of bead to coincide with the appearance of pressed belt-ornaments

characteristic to the middle Avar Period, but the „amphora-beads” continued in use for a longer time than the latter.⁵⁵

Graves 103 and 122 contained strings of melonseed-shaped beads. In the strings only a few single beads of different types were found. The melonseed-shaped beads fall into two groups, big light blue beads and black ones. Grave 103 yielded a string composed only of black beads, whereas the string in grave 122 combined black and blue beads.

In her analysis of the grave-goods of the Kisköre cemetery Éva Garam has proved the existence of strings composed of big and small beads burial areas dating back to the middle and late Avar Period, whereas strings composed of large sized beads only cropped up in the same period with the male graves yielding cast bronze belt-ornaments.⁵⁶

This observation may become critical in the evaluation of the strings of beads coming to light in the Fehértó „B” cemetery.

2. Tools, implements

(a) *Male graves.* In 66 graves from which 70 *iron knives* were recovered, out of which 34 came from male graves, 18 from female graves, 4 from children’s graves and further 14 from graves containing skeletons whose sex could not be determined.

Two knives in a grave occurred only in male graves (32, 57, 75). Two knives were excavated in grave 30, too, yet in this case there was a double burial (a female and child). Where two knives were deposited in a grave — provided they were in a condition fit for measuring — one of the knives was a large sized one, that is to say, not only a tool, but one that occasionally could be used as a weapon (graves 32, 57). All three graves yielding two knives were the resting places of men buried with a mount-decorated belt or else, buried with weapons.

The place where the knives were worn is impossible to determine in consequence of the insufficiency of the observations made in the course of the excavations. Only in respect of four male graves is there information relatively to the find spots of the knives (graves 57, 69, 95, 96). In three of the four cases the knives were found on the left of the skeleton, in a single case on the right of it (grave 96). The proportions are the same as with the female graves.

The iron knives are mostly straight and single edged. Practically in every case they were kept in wooden sheath. The remnants of the wood were mostly well conserved by the iron.

Four graves (18, 69, 97 and 128) yielded *iron rings*. The sex of the skeletons in graves 18 and 128 are unknown. In graves 69 and 97 the iron rings were at the side of the male skeleton. Because of the deficiencies of the observations of the excavations the find-spots of the rings in the graves could not be determined, they were probably used for the suspension of iron knives from the belt; iron knives were unearthed in all four graves.

The excavators mention an *iron strike-a-light* and a *flint* among the grave-goods of grave 88. The shape of the iron strike-a-light is unknown, as the item got lost. Only the flint has been spared among the grave-goods. Though the description fails to say it in so many words, the iron strike-a-light and flint were discovered in the region of the pelvis on the right of the skeleton.

Among the finds from grave 32 a *disentangling hook* made of antler turned up. The upper third part of the item is rather fragmentary; it is perforated by a hole in its middle. The grave additionally contained bone fittings for a bow, arrowheads, a large-sized iron knife, a plate belt-set and a small iron buckle.

Iron bands Small pieces of iron bands of unknown function were found in graves 44 and 62. One U-shaped specimen coming from grave 44 shows remnants of wood inside, it was found „in the right corner of the grave”. The find-spots of the other pieces (grave 62) are unknown.

(b) *Female graves.* Out of the 32 female graves there were single-blade straight *iron knives* in 17. Two iron knives came to light in grave 130 (a double burial: female and babe), and one in each of the rest of the graves. The knives were kept in wooden sheaths, whose remnants were preserved by the iron. Where the lengths of the knives could be measured, they found to be

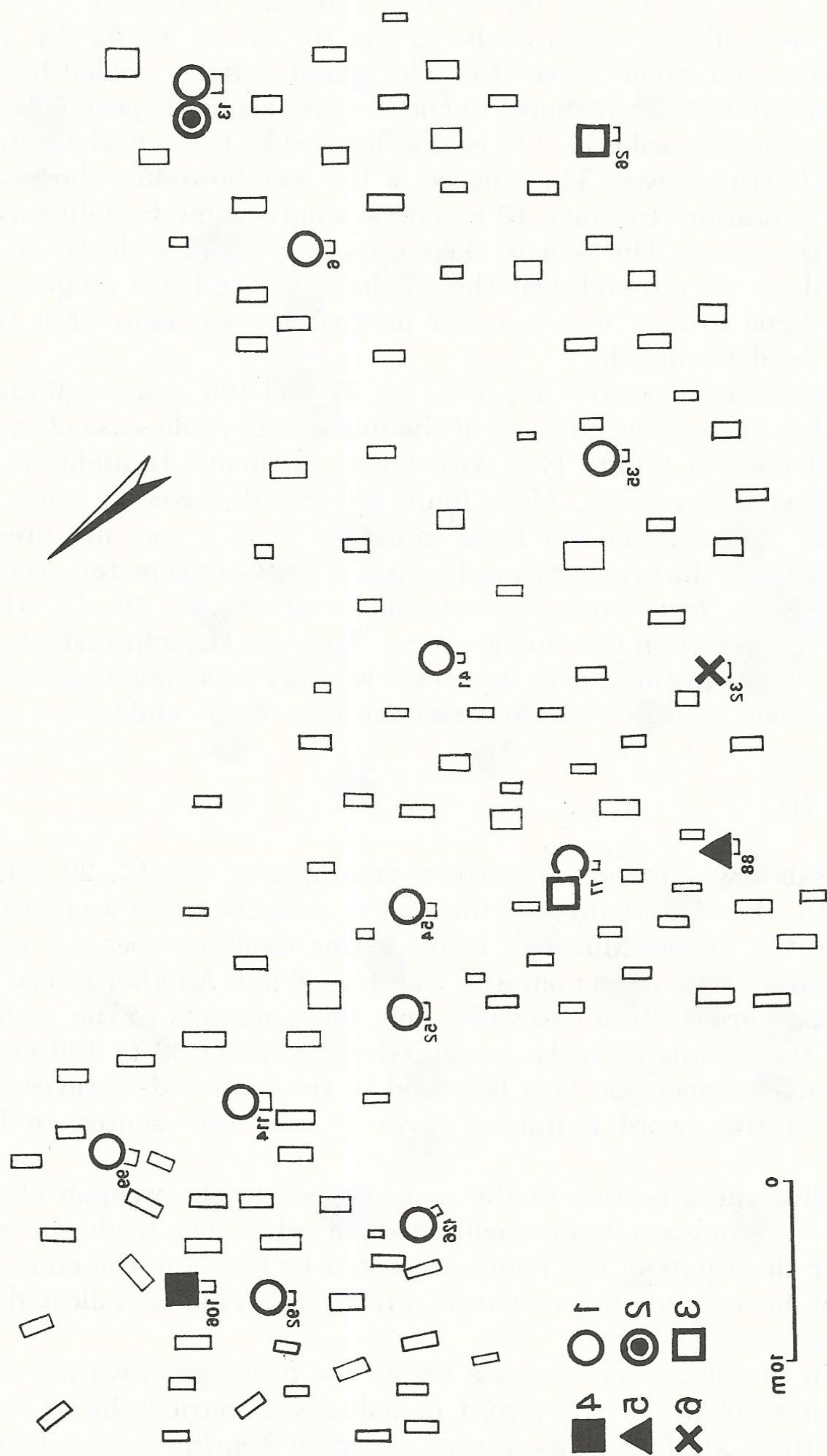


Fig. 9. Analysed cemetery plan. Tools and implements. 1: spindle-whorl, 2: disc-shaped spindle-whorl, 3: cylindrical needle-case, 4: foursided needle-case, 5: iron strike-a-light, flint, 6: disentangling hook made of anteler

shorter than the similar finds recovered from male graves. With the exception of the graves, the excavators failed to record the find spots. In grave 41 the knife was found under the bones of the left hand, in grave 70 it had been deposited near the left hand and in grave 107 near the right hand. In the graves where the sex of the skeleton could not be determined 12 iron knives were found (graves 18, 21, 38, 43, 53, 74, 79, 110, 116, 123, 127, 128).

Spindle-whorls were discovered in twelve graves (6, 13, 35, 41, 52, 54, 77, 92, 99, 113, 120, 126), a disc-shaped one in a single grave (13). The spindle-whorls yielded by graves 6, 77 and 99 are globular (somewhat flattened) in shape, the others are biconical specimens. Five spindle-whorls show decoration; those in graves 35, 77, 114 bear a fluting-like horizontal decoration, the specimens in grave 52 and 114 girth-grooves. The surface of the spindle-whorl in grave 92 shows a fluting-like vertical decoration. In grave 13 a spindle-whorl came to light from a level of 200 cm depth in the fill of the grave. The female skeleton was lying at a depth of 3110 cm. In graves 41, 52 the spindle-whorls were found near the left hand or the lower epiphyses of the radius and ulna, in grave 99 it came to light by the upper part of the left femur. For the rest of them the find-spots could not be determined.

Bone *needle-cases* were deposited in graves 26, 77 and 106; graves 26 and 77 yielded turned specimens cylindrical in shape. The surfaces of the four-sided needle-case of grave 106 is decorated with plant pattern of flat-leaf tendril type with foliate offshoots. In addition to the needle-cases, all three graves yielded iron needles. Móra found the needle cases in grave 26 at the pelvis of the skeleton, in grave 106 near the left hand in graves 77 at a spot not precisely determined.

Péter Tomka considers the prismatic needle cases of the Győr cemetery as late characteristics.⁵⁷

(c) *Children's graves.* Iron knives were found in graves 45, 46, 47, 91 and 130 B. These knives are like those discovered in the female graves. They are straight and single-edged specimens. The find spot of the knives in the graves was recorded only in a single case, namely that of grave 130 B. Here Móra found the iron knife between the legs of the child.

3. Weapons (Fig. 10.)

A sword or a sabre was found in fourteen male graves: 74, 12, 29, 34, 36, 42 (?), 61, 66, 67, 69, 88, 95, 96, 113. Dezső Csallány was the first to describe these weapons in the examination of the iron swords of the Szeged Museum. In his listing Csallány does not mention the sword of graves 42, because Móra classed it among the iron fragments. Another sword not discussed there is that of grave 88, as Ferenc Móra excavated only the remnants of the scabbard.

The lengths of the swords fit to be measured varied from 90 to 100 cm. Provided this can be established, D-shaped suspension lugs belonged to the scabbards (graves 29, 34, 113).

The bone hilt of the sword found in grave 29 was represented in literature by Dezső Csallány.⁵⁸

István Bóna called the attention of the archeologists to the weapon of grave 29 — namely that in spite of Csallány's opinion it was undoubtedly a sabre. The blade was curved very slightly, if at all. In the lower third part of the photo presented by Csallány theelman is clearly visible.⁵⁹ Another sabre might have been the weapon of grave 113. This is indicated by the presence of the D-shaped suspensions lugs.

As mentioned in the discussion of grave 88, on the basis of excavation record we may safely surmise that only the scabbard of the sword or sabre was buried in the grave. Among the finds yielded by the grave there are fragments of the iron chape bearing traces of the wooden scabbard, without part of the blade.

In five graves (29, 34, 69, 95, 96) the iron sword or sabre and in grave 88 the scabbard without sword were found on the right side of the skeleton. In a single case it was at the opposite side (113).

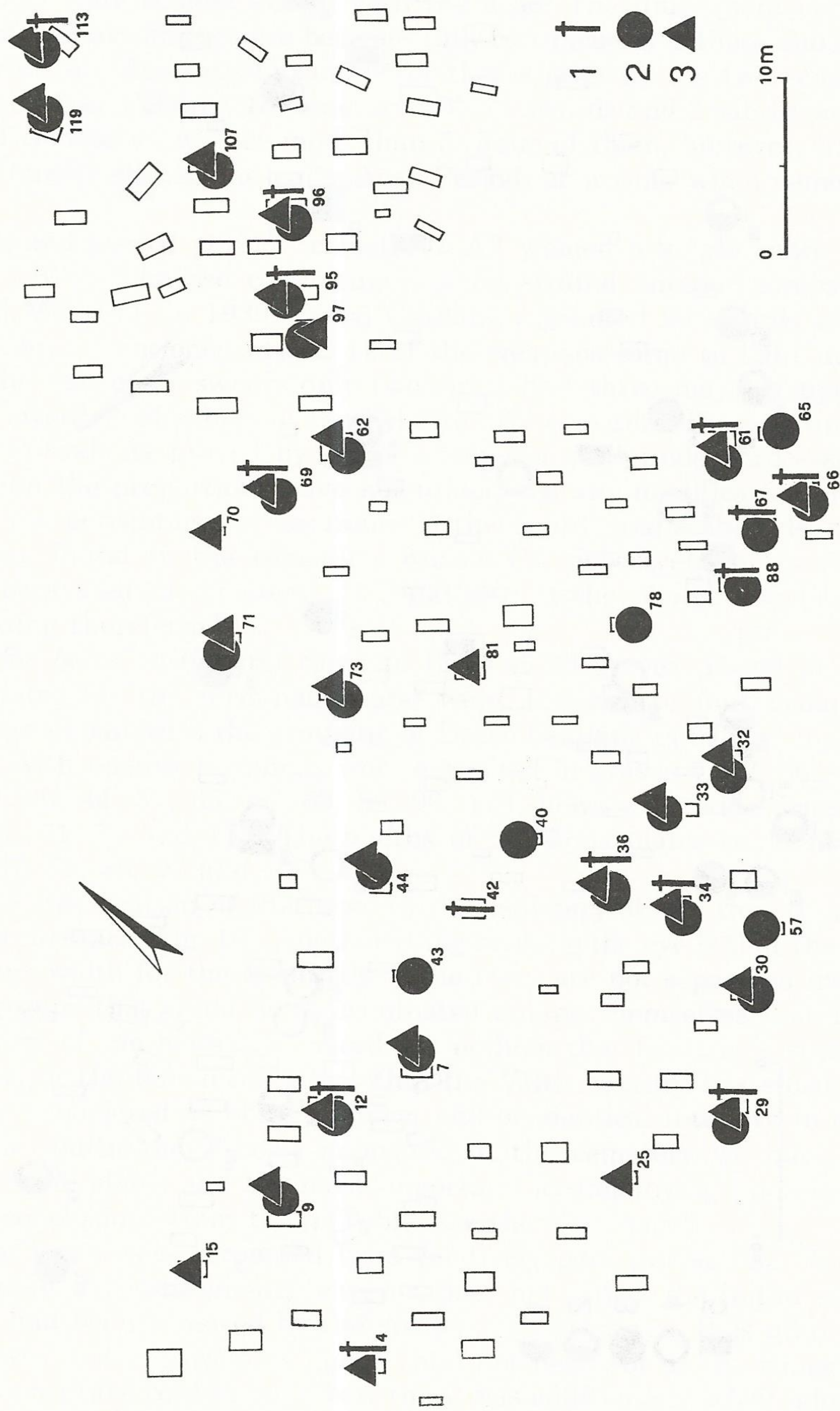


Fig. 10. Analysed cemetery plan. Weapons. 1: sword, 2: bow, 3: arrowhead

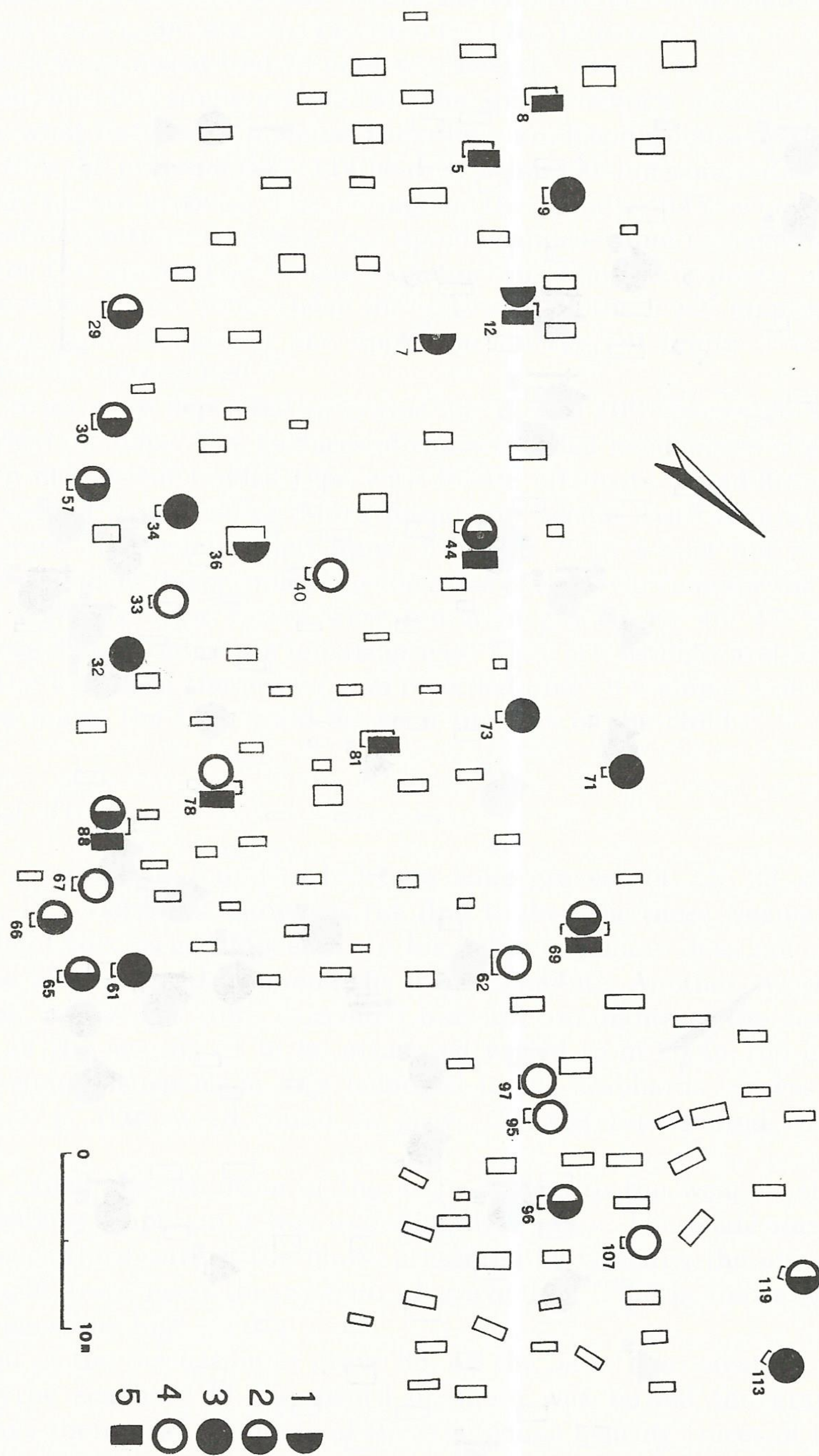


Fig. 11. Analysed cemetery plan indicating width of bow terminals and quivers. 1: bone plates of 17-23 mm width, 2: bone plates of 28-31 mm width, 3: bone plates above 31 mm width, 4: bone plates that cannot be measured, 5: ornamental bone plates for quivers

Csallány assigned the swords to groups, in the first line according to their types. This is how the swords excavated in the Fehértó „B” cemetery were classed in three groups (groups 5, 7 and 8).⁶⁰ With consideration to the accompanying finds yielded by the graves discussed above we surmise that the various types of swords and sabres were used and buried at the same, or nearly at the same period.

A phenomenon that can be observed in the cemeteries of the „griffin-and-tendrill period” is that bows and swords were seldom buried with the dead. The unfrequent occurrence of the two offensive weapons of primary importance becomes fully conspicuous in these middle Avar cemeteries or parts of cemeteries. An illustrative example for this is given by the two cemeteries of the Avar Period on the shore of lake Fehértó. In cemetery „B” 11 swords and 2 sabres were found, whereas in the 376 grave of cemetery „A” not more than 5. Four of them, however, (those in graves 16, 24, 36, 107), were buried still in the early Avar Period, at a time when cemetery „B” was not yet in use.⁶¹

In the „griffin-and-tendrill period” cemetery „A” yielded a single sabre. The richness in sword of cemetery „B” is likewise convincingly demonstrated another comparison. Among the finds of the Szeged Múzeum, in 1939, Dezső Csallány presented 33 swords of the Avar Period, inclusive the two sabres mentioned above. 12 of the weapons came to light in the Fehértó „B” cemetery. Among the rest of 21 swords only two, or at best three may be supposed to be of the same period as the swords and sabres of the Fehértó „B” cemetery, the rest undoubtedly belongs to the Early Avar Period. As proved by other cemeteries now under processing in the Szeged Móra Ferenc Museum the proportions have not undergone any modification of importance since 1939.⁶² Similar to the percentages of occurrence of the swords and scabbards, many bone fittings for reflex bows were found in the cemetery. Károly Cs. Sebestyén in his fundamental paper describes 24 bows excavated in cemetery „B”, and also in the photos and plates presents bone plates for bows coming therefrom.⁶³

Bone fittings for bows (stiffeners) came to light in 28 graves. Based on their measurable widths the bone plates for the terminals (ears) were assigned to four groups (Fig. 11). This classification is in agreement with the grouping of Dezső Csallány published in 1939 and repeated in 1946–48.⁶⁴ Bows with narrow terminals were deposited in graves 7, 12, 36; such of 28–31 mm width in graves 29, 30, 44, 57, 65, 66, 69, 88, 96, 119; bows with wide arms came to light in graves 9, 32, 34, 61, 71, 73 and 113. The widths of the bone plates could not be measured in graves 33, 40, 62, 67, 78, 95, 97 and 107.

A survey of the distribution of the bows in the cemetery shows that they came to light in a roughly uniform occurrence (Fig. 10). Another thing striking the eye is that the graves containing bone plates of various width for the terminals of the bows are not separated inside the cemetery, they do not form groups that could be discriminated among themselves. Lately Győző J. Szabó studied the chronology of the bows and voiced the opinion that Csallány’s statement concerning the gradual widening of the bow-terminals within the VIIth century has stood the test. Yet this process must not be considered as being uniform and of identical intensity in every respect.⁶⁵

Considering the multitude of bows excavated in the cemetery we have listed the graves yielding reinforcing bone plates and the most important accompanying finds in a table and have attempted to draw conclusions from them. (Table: see the next page!)

1. Remnants of bows were recovered from relatively poor graves (e.g. 7, 30, 57) and from the richest graves alike. This statement, however, does not reflect the initial state, as we cannot know, what objects had been removed by the spoilers of the graves. It is quite possible that the furniture of the graves now regarded as „poor” had not been set at the times of the burials.

2. Almost in every grave containing a bow there was additionally a belt adorned with mounts deposited yet no bow was there in every grave of a male buried with a belt (e.g. graves 25, 75).

3. Side-by-side with the bows also arrowheads came to light, their numbers varying from one to seven. The arrowheads were trilateral without exception.

4. In five cases the arrows were kept in quivers adorned by carved bone plates.

Bow	Belt ornaments	Buckle	Sword	Arrow	Quiver	Knife	Earrings	Disentangling hook	Animal bones	Disturbed
7	.			2		1				Db
12			1	4	1	1 long				Db
36		1 bronze, 1 iron	1	6		1				
29	repoussé set with glass	2 iron	1	3		1 long	1		pig, cattle, chicken	Db
30				1					chicken, cattle	Db
44	plate	4 iron		1	1					Db
57						2 (1 long)			chicken, cattle	Db
65	fragments	1 bronze, 1 iron				1			sheep, cattle	Db
66	fragments	1 bronze	1	1		1				Db
69	cast	1 bronze	1	4	1	1			cattle	Db
88	repoussé		1		1	1				Db
96			1	1		1			pig, cattle	Db
119	repoussé			2		1			pig	Db
9				2		1			chicken, cattle	Db
32	plate			2		2 (1 long)	1	1	chicken	Db
34	plate + cast		1	4			1		chicken + cattle	Db
61	fragments		1	1		1			cattle	Db
71	fragments	1 iron		1					pig, cattle	Db
73		1 bronze		2		1	1		pig	Db
113			1	4		1			chicken	Db

5. In the graves containing bows and arrows relatively often (in 10 cases), single-edged straight iron swords with or without guards were excavated (graves 12, 29, 36, 66, 69, 88, 96, 34, 61, 113).

6. Practically every grave contained a single iron knife, or two of them. In graves yielding two knives one of the latter is rather long (graves 32, 57).

The accompanying finds in graves furnished with bows with narrows or with broad terminals seem not to differ essentially from each other. A chronological system can not be outlined here. In the graves of the members of the community probably such weapons were buried as had been used by their owners while alive, in a period of time when all three types were in use. Since the publication of Csallány's communications literature has told two variants of bows apart: bows of broad and of narrows terminals.

We believe that the bone stiffeners of bow-terminals bone plates of 28–31 mm had not been developed as a consequence of the widening of narrow type. They cannot be considered as predecessors of broad stiffeners for the terminals either. They form an individual group of bow types. This opinion is also substantiated by the statement of Győző J. Szabó, according to which in the ensembles of finds assigned to the middle Avar Period a single bow-plate broader than 32 mm had cropped up in grave 413 of the Alattyán cemetery.⁶⁶ Yet the bone plates for the terminals found here are related not with the broad type, but with the bone plates of 28–31 mm widths. Besides, the said grave containing finds being most characteristic for the burials with belt-sets including late type ornaments of repoussé.⁶⁷

The fact that the bow-terminals go widening within the early Avar Period cannot be contested. The process can be verified by three bows with narrow terminals excavated in the Fehértó „B” cemetery (graves 7, 12, 36). The terminals of these three bows had been reinforced with bone plates agreeing in their principal features (their lengths are nearly identical and their upper edges meet making an angle). The examination of the bone fittings found in grave 36 suggested that one of the terminals of the bow had been reinforced with such widening bone plates whereas the other terminal had been covered still with the conventional quite narrow bone plates, of 20 mm width. This additionally demonstrated that in the last third part of the early Avar Period quite narrow pieces and such going widening were likewise used, and what is more, the same bow had not necessarily had terminals of the same width and length.

From this group, general in the early Avar Period and not unknown later, either. (cf. the bow of the horseman's grave of Ivánca⁶⁸ differ from the bows belonging to the second group. The bone stiffeners for the terminals, as a rule, are longer than those belonging to the first group. One of their characteristic features is that their upper are slightly rounded, instead of making an angle. In some cases, they are perforated by a hole or by two holes near the upper edges. Apparently, this also was used to reinforce the fixing of the item (e.g. graves 29, 36, 65 and 119). The bone plates for bows with narrows terminals were never perforated.

Finally, the third variant is characterized by broad bone plates, of widths above 31 mm. Their main distinctive mark, in addition to their widths seems to us to be their upper end closing from the top of the reinforcing plate by a wide, non-broken arch.

Undoubtedly, the two bows described last are nearer to each other typologically than those of the second and third groups. They appear to be three variants of reflex bows, in use in a certain part of the Avar Period simultaneously. Then, side-by-side with the bows with broad terminals characteristic for the „griffin-and-tendrils period”, bows with broad terminals (above 31 mm) those of narrow ears (17–23 mm) occurring in the early Avar Period are found under the same conditions as the bows reinforced with bone plates of 28–31 mm width, considered in our opinion as making a separate group with the bone plates of 28–31 mm width.

The answer to the question, who had used which weapon — or which was to be buried together with the owner, apparently depended on the traditions of the community and on which of the weapons was considered as having proved to be best.

Arrowheads were deposited in 29 graves. The arrowheads were trilateral without exception. The numbers of arrowheads vary from one to seven in a grave. Seven arrowheads were excavated in grave 95, six in grave 36, four in graves 12, 33, 69 and 113. In the rest of the graves one to three arrowheads had been buried. The graves that contained seven or six arrowheads were not richer than those yielding less arrowheads than that.

Among the numbers of arrowheads, their topographical position within the cemetery and the abundance of grave-goods we could not discover any interconnection.

Quivers decorated with carved bone plates were found in 8 graves (5, 8, 12, 44, 69, 78, 81, 88). Based on the pictures of the items, Ilona Kovrig determined the richly carved objects as being ornamental pieces for the mouth and neck of the quiver.⁶⁹

Quivers were buried together with bows based on pictures and arrows in graves 12, 44 and 69, in graves 78 and 88 quivers were associated with bows, in grave 81 the quiver-mount was found together with arrowheads. Grave 8 yielded a purse-closing bone plate, in grave 5 the ornamental bone plates were found without any other grave-goods (Fig. 11).

The excavators failed to note the find spots of the carved bone plates in the graves. We only possess indirect information in respect of grave 69. Namely here the arrowheads and the quiver mounts came to light in the region of the left hand and the ilium.

The repertory of designs for the decoration of the quiver mounts is unusually uniform and we daresay plain. This holds primarily true in respect to the narrow bone mounts: tendrils with foliate offshoots (some of them with tendrils with leaf-like „half-palmettes”): graves 8, 12, 44, 69, 78 and 88. The broad bone plates, however, are all different. A particularly fine work is the bone carving of the quiver rescued in grave 5.⁷⁰

On the broad bone plate, strap-ends and belt mounts of grave 12 the interlace pattern often occurring on strap-ends and belt-mounts is presented. The same is seen in the broad plate of grave 69. In grave 44 a beautifully carved tendril, in grave 88 a mount that cannot be precisely determined adorn the broad bone plate.

No carved ornamental plates for quivers belonging to the „griffin-and-tendril group” were discovered together with a cast belt-set, yet in grave 81 a cast gilt bronze hairplait ornament of „bar-type” was found. Ferenc Móra took an in-situ photo of the quiver of grave 12 (Fig.). The broad bone plate was fitted perpendicularly to the narrower ones of various decorations and widths. Under the broad bone plate, in two rows slightly obliquely under each other the unadorned oblong plates showing slightly convex surface came to light (Pl. 3, 8–18). We cannot locate the long bone plates (Pl. 3, 2–3, 5): a possible application of these plates might have been to reinforce the vertical edge of the part opening on the back of the piece.

A similar quiver was discovered only in the Ivánca horseman’s grave.⁷¹ A bow with narrow terminals was deposited in both graves. Among the published Avar finds 38 quivers adorned with bone plates are recorded, as a rule, one or two in each cemetery. (In the Győr cemetery of 889 graves not more than in the 132 graves of the Fehértó „B” burial place.) As far as we can assess them, the quiver mounts gathered for analogies are all in harmony with the carved specimens unearthed in the Fehértó „B” cemetery. The collection of pattern is uniform: foliate tendril motifs, several variants of tendril decoration and „half-palmette”. We agree with Gyula Török who considers the Fehértó find to be younger by a century or thereabouts than the Móra find.⁷² On the basis of their accompanying finds and analogies we date the Fehértó quivers back to the years after 670.⁷³

The cemetery plan (Fig. 11) shows that no quiver adorned with bone plates was excavated in the NE parts of the cemetery, in spite of the single gold-mounted belt (grave 119) having been found in this group of graves.

Large-sized („long”) knives were unearthed in graves 12, 29, 32, 57, 67, 88 and 113. Their lengths vary from 24 to 29 cm; together with their handles all of them are longer than 30 cm. Their primary function apparently was to be used as tools, yet, considering their sizes, occasionally they might have been turned into weapons.

In every grave where this sort of knives were found the dead was given a reflex bow furnished with bone stiffeners. In graves 29, 32 and 88 mouth-decorated belts were deposited.

In addition to the large sized-knife smaller knives were discovered in graves 32 and 57. Ilona Kovrig dates the long knives back to the late Avar Period.⁷⁴

4. Harness

An iron stirrup with circular loop was found in grave 23, such with slightly curved foot-rest with midrib and oblong loop in grave 31. Both graves were found disturbed and plundered. In the excavated area of the cemetery, as stray finds a pair of stirrups with circular loops and the fragments of three stirrups with foot-rests showing midrib were recorded.

5. Pottery and metal vessels, wooden bucket

(a) *Pottery vessels* were buried only in female and children's graves (11, 22, 45, 80, 115, 122). The vessels of graves 11, 80 and 122 were hand-made. Grave 115 yielded a yellow bottle made on a kick-wheel.⁷⁵ The rest of the vessels are only mentioned in the descriptions of the graves, they do not exist any more.

In graves 11 and 80 the vessels were deposited near the feet, in grave 112 beside the head of the dead. The rest of the find spots could not be determined.

The graves containing pottery vessels were poorly furnished. All told, a bronze buckle, an iron buckle, earrings and beads came to light together with the pottery.

Animal bones together with a vessel were found only in grave 45.

(b) In grave 41, near the right clavicle of the female skeleton an ill-preserved bronze plate *chalice* (chalice-type stemmed beaker) came to light. Lately Éva Garam having summed up the metal vessels of the Avar Period in her paper on „Investigation into the finds of the Avar Period” classes the chalices into two subgroups.⁷⁶ The chalice in discussion is put into the subgroup of chalices with semispherical foot. Most important among the analogies are the two chalices excavated in the Želovce cemetery. In grave 257 the chalice belonged to the grave-goods of a female, in grave 818 a glass-ornamental belt-set similar to that found in our grave 29, and a small round gold plate came to light.⁷⁷

(c) *Iron hoops* indicating the presence of wooden buckets were found in grave 23. Except for this grave, iron hoops were recovered invariably in female or children's graves.

V. Summary

We wish to perform the evaluation of the cemetery from three points of view interrelated with each other. 1. We make an attempt to determine the chronological pattern of the cemetery, 2. to circumscribe the position of the cemetery in the Avar society, and 3. to examine the mutual rapports of the Fehértó „A” and „B” cemeteries situated close to each other. In the course of the descriptions of the cemetery-material a sketchy picture has been outlined showing that the finds excavated roughly point into two directions. A part of the finds is near to the cemeteries of the middle Avar Period, whereas another part of them appears to be kindred with the „griffin-and-tendrill group”.

1. For the *absolute dating* of the chronological horizons within the cemetery safe bases appear to be at hand: the coin-associated burial finds in grave 82 including a coin of Konstantinos IV Pogonatos, and the small round obol of grave 75. This item and similar objects were presented first by István Bóna,⁷⁸ then by Éva Garam⁷⁹ as having been in use primarily in the middle Avar Period. The obol of grave 75 and that in the Mártély grave 1 and Kisköre 41 indicate the presence during the „griffin-and-tendrill period”. The belt-set of grave 29, together with those adorned with

glass or stone, are the heirloom of a population that arrived in the Charpatian Basin together, or nearly at the same time, with the Tótipuszta prince.

The probable analogy of the quiver reinforced with bone plates of grave 12 was found in the Ivánca horseman's grave.⁸⁰

The type of the chalice of grave 41 emerges among the finds of the middle Avar Period.⁸¹

The breast-clasps of grave 41 point at the same direction.

We should date the appearance of one of the groups of bone-reinforced quivers among the finds of this period anyway. This dating appears to be supported by the interlace pattern of on the broad bone plates excavated in graves 12 and 69, often occurring as decoration of belt-ornaments.

The majority of the boes with terminals reinforced with bone plates of 28–31 mm width came to light together with other grave-goods characteristic for the middle Avar Period.⁸² We hold this to be an individual type, distinguished both from the specimens with narrow terminals, the only type characteristic for the early Avar Period, side-by-side with the „griffin-and-tendrill group” finds.

Belt-ornaments characteristic for the „griffin-and-tendrill” period were yielded by two graves (25, 27). The belt-set of grave 75 including cast belt-ornaments and those of bronze plate (tendrill-decorated cast strap-end and mounts with hinged pendants, plate mount with ring-pendant, mounts of repoussé showing plan ornaments again a punched background), namely the joint occurrence of cast and plate belt-ornaments likewise underline this duality.

Together with the cast belt-sets only arrowheads were found. The depositing of weapons in the graves was in the downgrade to a significant extent in the „griffin-and-tendrill period”.

The characteristic weapon of this period is the bow with broad terminals (graves 9, 32, 34, 61, 71, 73, 113).

Based on literature we may consider „bar-type” hairplait-ornaments as late characteristic features.⁸³

The yellow pottery bottle recovered from grave 115 is a typical vessel of the „griffin-and-tendrill period”.⁸⁴

Big black and blue melonseed-shaped glass beads were found in the Kisköre cemetery only in the area used as burial ground in „griffin-and-tendrill period”.⁸⁵

The characteristics listed above define the chronological limits marking out the period of existence of the community which first inaugurated, then used the cemetery. The latter was frequented in the middle Avar Period and in the „griffin-and-tendrill period” following the former.

In the Fehértó „B” cemetery no phenomenon concerning the distribution of the burial-finds within the cemetery similar to those of the yielding by Kisköre burials could be detected. A trait of likeness between the two cemeteries is the identity of the orientation of the graves. For the Kisköre cemetery Éva Garam demonstrated that the finds excavated fall into two groups separated in time inside the cemetery, and in chronologic sequence, too.⁸⁶

According to information in hand such assignment into separate groups is impossible in the Szeged Fehértó „B” cemetery, though related to the Kisköre burial place. Here graves containing quite different finds were situated very close to each other (e.g. graves 25 and 29, 81 and 82), whereas graves yielding similar finds sometimes were found at the opposite limits of the excavated area (e.g. graves 29 and 119, or 25 and 75). This last statement is of importance, for it proves that dead buried with similar grave-goods were deposited roughly at the same periods of time.

Based in those said above the earliest burials seem to belong to a period that started with the appearance of the new population in 670–680.⁸⁷

The latest burial phase can be estimated very approximately. Considering the social conditions of the community — this point will still be discussed in detail — the burial ground must have been used by one maybe by two generations.

2. *The place of the cemetery in the society of the Avar Period.* In examination of the social conditions of a community using a cemetery the criterium of outstanding importance and characteristic for the entire community should first be explored. In the case of the Fehértó „B”

cemetery this critical feature is the numerous weapons found in the graves. Éva Garam has examined the percentages of the weapons among the grave-goods of the male graves of the middle Avar Period. She has established that, among the middle Avar Period cemeteries weapons occurred in the lowest proportions in the Alattyán cemetery (11,5%), and the highest in the Kiskőrös Vágóhíd (32%) and Kisköre cemeteries (36%).

In the Szeged-Fehértó „B” cemetery 14 single-edged straight iron swords, in 27 graves reflex bows reinforced with bone plates, in 8 graves quivers decorated with carved bone plates and in 29 graves arrowheads were found. These weapons often came to light in the same graves. 89 per cent of the male graves of the cemetery was furnished with weapons. This proportion is high enough unequivocally to determine the social role of the community using the site as burial place. The members of the community must have been the military escort of a leader of the Avar Period. In literature the similarity of the Szeged-Átokháza finds and those of grave 29 of the Szeged-Fehértó „B” cemetery has been known for long.⁸⁸ Dezső Csallány underlines the territorial, popular and chronological interconnections of the two assemblages of finds and believes both of them to be characteristic for warriors. Further on, however, Csallány does not enter into the examination of the rest of the graves containing arms in the cemetery. He points out the common and the different features of the two graves in detail. In each of these graves two mount-decorated belts were deposited and a bow with bone stiffeners, three arrowheads, a sabre, an oval iron buckle and an iron knife in addition. The two graves differ by the Átokháza dead having been buried isolated, separated from the community in which he had lived, whereas grave 29 is the richest grave of the Fehértó „B” cemetery. The most important difference between the two is that the Átokháza finds include a silver rhyton and a stemmed goblet.

Gold rhytons had turned up only as mortuary gifts for princely burials so far.

Considering the grave-goods, the Átokháza finds could not come from a princely grave, yet the silver rhyton, a badge of a high position, the isolated burial, the sabre, the stemmed goblet and two gilt metal-mounted-belts for warriors emphasize the outstanding role their owner had played. We might be right in the assumption to take him as a leader of a territorial unit not more closely defined. Maybe a *tarkan*? Based on the weapons among the grave-goods of those entombed in the Szeged-Fehértó „B” cemetery we may assume that it was the burial place of a military community, whose commander might have been the man buried in grave 29 of the cemetery. In the organization of the community the leading role was played not by blood relationship but by military considerations. This might be at the origin of the multifariousness of the material of the finds, of the contradictory variety of the finds bursting the limits of the existing chronological system. We consider the settlement of the Fehértó „B” cemetery as being a military community in connection with the Átokháza grave.

The main difficulty in our surmise is the rather long distance, about 30 km, between the two burial places. Yet, if we consider that the Átokháza man was buried in an isolated grave, far away from the community in which he had lived and also that the settlement of the Avar Period at the shore of Fehértó could not be located so far — we should perhaps look for it somewhat farther away from the lake shore — the distance by itself does not exclude the interconnections of the two sites, as it could be covered in a day's time, even on foot.

3. In the examination of *the mutual relations of the Szeged Fehértó cemeteries „A” and „B”*, of course, first a comparison of the features typical for the „griffin-and-tendrill period” of both cemeteries should be performed. The early Avar Period burial place within the cemetery „A” could be investigated into the population of the „griffin-and-tendrill period”.

(1) Coffin burials are characteristic for both cemeteries, in spite of the fact that the excavators observed coffins in a few cases only.

(2) In both cemeteries there were graves in whose four corners small-sized pits occurred.

(3) For both cemeteries the custom of placing food among the grave-goods is of interest, though the distribution „per capita” of the bones shows significant departures. This was, however, no question of burial rite but in the first line a problem of economical life.

(4) For both cemeteries the sporadic performance of burials of horsemen is characteristic.

For the chronological pattern of the two cemeteries information may be drawn from the relations of grave 167 of cemetery „A” with grave 29 of cemetery „B”.

The shield-shaped belt-mounts made of silver of poor quality found in grave 167 have no closer parallels among the Avar Period finds. Their decoration is similar to that of the repoussé gilt-bronze mount found at Mezőkomárom, to that of the Akalán gold mounts and to the design of the Kiev matrice for pressed foils. The difference between them is that the Fehértó pieces bear no fluted borders, unlike the rest of the finds. Should any connection between the two types be possible, the Fehértó belt is a simplified variant of the belt of princely persons or of the members of the escort. Éva Garam in her study of the archeological and historical problems of the princely burials of the middle Avar Period has made the following statement: „The middle Avar archeological finds appearing at the Middle Danube in the last third part of the VIIth century cannot be connected exclusively to Kuber and his people, neither in respect of the regions of their distribution, nor as regards the variety of the material. Together with Kuber and his family and people wearing belts decorated with double-shield-shaped mounts (some of the most important sites: Tótipusztá, Mezőkomárom, Dunapentele), or nearly at the same time with them must have arrived other peoples wearing belts adorned with stone-decorated (their main finds having come from Igar, Želovce, Szeged-Átokháza and also the owners of belts decorated with pressed round or square-shaped mounts.

The differences of the mounts may be surmised to point to other groups of people, be they even kindred ones. From these fact established follows the close chronological relationship of the grave 167 of cemetery „A” and grave 29 of cemetery „B”.

(5) A true replica of the cast openwork belt-ornaments showing checker design coming to light in the Fehértó „B” cemetery, grave 69, was recovered from grave 316 of cemetery „A”.

(6) A chronological relationship can be proved to exist among the tendril-decorated belt-sets excavated in the two cemeteries.

(7) In cemetery „A” weapons as grave-goods are seldom met with, and only in the graves of the wealthiest occur here and there. Yet, not a single bow has been found, nor a sword came to light in either of the two male graves where the dead had worn mount-decorated belts. The harmony is completed by the addition of four battle-axes.

The Fehértó „A” cemetery was the burial place of a typical rural community carrying on miscellaneous economy, or else, we may consider it as a cemetery of common people.

The picture of the three provenances if a *hypothesis* that may lead to a better knowledge of the social conditions prevailing in the late Avar Period.

Anyway, the Szeged Fehértó „B” cemetery offers such assemblages of finds, which, concurrently with other contexts may serve as a starting point to ascertain the finer details of the chronology of the Avar Period finds.

NOTES

- ¹ Csallány (1956) *Arch. Denkmäler* p. 192.
- ² Tomka (1977-78) *Arrabona* p. 98, Note 18; author's own explanations pp. 53-54, 74-76.
- ³ Tomka, *op. cit.* pp. 74-76.
- ⁴ Üllő grave 76: Horváth (1935) *Üllő und Kiskőrös* pp. 16-17; Kiskőrös Városalatt graves 139, 192: *ibid.* pp. 46-47, 50, 52; Alattyán graves 68, 75, 143; Kovrig (1963) *Alattyán* pp. 15, 20; Dormánd-IIanyi-puszta grave 28: Szabó (1965) *EMÉ* p. 39; Kisköre graves 28, 39, 65, 66, 89, 95, 97, 107, 118, 182; Garam (1979) *Kisköre* pp. 13, 15, 19, 20, 23-24, 26, 34.
- ⁵ Szabó (1965) *EMÉ* pp. 31-37, Fig. 4.
- ⁶ Cf. Fehértó cemetery „A”, in this volume pp....
- ⁷ Jakab (1974) *Állattani Közl.* pp. 27-31; *idem* (1974-75) *MFMÉ* pp. 327-342.
- ⁸ Móra (1932) *Ethnographia* p. 62; Szentés-Kaján graves 138, 340; Korek (1943) *Dolg.* pp. 19, 40, 94; Pusztamérges cemetery „B”, stray finds. For the latter piece of information I am indebted to Béla Kürti.
- ⁹ Further details on custom of skull robbery: Hoppál-Törő (1975) *Orvostörténeti Közl.* p. 19.
- ¹⁰ Garam (1975) *Kisköre* p. 15. Pl. 9, 27-41.
- ¹¹ Üllő grave 112: Horváth (1935) *Üllő und Kiskőrös* pp. 18, 20, Pl. 6, 13; Győr grave 324: Fettich (1943) *Győr* p. 26, Pl. VIII, 8; Nové Zámky grave 197: Čilinská (1966) *Nové Zámky* pp. 41-42, Pl. XXXIX, 1-5; Šturovo grave 49: Točík (1968) *Šturovo* pp. 22-23, Pl. XXI, 6-8; Želovce grave 175, 262, 328: Čilinska (1973) *Želovce* pp. 66-67, 82, 94-95, Pl. XXXI, 4-9, XLIII, 19-23, LVI 1-15; Káptalatói grave 28: Bakay (1973) *SomMK* p. 24, Pl. XXXVIII, 17-19.
- ¹² Tomka (1971) *Arrabona* p. 73.
- ¹³ Gara (1979) *Kisköre* p. 85.
- ¹⁴ Fettich in Marosi-Fettich (1936) *Dunapentele* pp. 13-14, Pl. IV? 8-37.
- ¹⁵ Csuny grave 126: Hampel (1905) *Altherthümer* vol. II. p. 158, vol. III. Pl. 133, 11-12; Regöly, stray grave: *ibid.* vol. II. p. 229, vol. III. Pl. 182, 11; Devínska Nová Ves grave 524: Eisner (1952) *Devínska Nová Ves* pp. 119-120. Pl. 54, 7; Üllő II grave 73: Cs. Sós (1955) *Acta Arch. Hung.* p. 199, Pl. LXIV, 1-3 (again as an adornment of a child's grave); Holiare grave 256: Točík (1968) *Holiare* p. 49, Pl. LIV, 3.
- ¹⁶ Jutas grave 144: Rhé-Fettich (1931) *Jutas und Öskü* Pl. VII, 1-9; Szentés-Kaján graves 77, 277; Korek (1943) *Dolg.* pp. 12, 22, 33, 104-105. Pl. VII, 9-12, XXVII, 11-17; Szeged-Baktó grave 16: Szádeczky<0150>Kardoss (1948) *ATIÉ* pp. 6-7, Pl. II, 3-7; Alattyán grave 185: Kovrig (1963) *Alattyán* p. 24, Pl. XV, 29, LI, 2; Mödling grave 35: Daim (1977) *Katalog* p. 9.
- ¹⁷ Kovrig *op. cit.* pp. 148-153.
- ¹⁸ Garam (1979) *Kisköre* pp. 57-58.
- ¹⁹ Garam (1975) *Szebény* p. 97; *idem* (1979) *Kisköre* p. 60.
- ²⁰ Čilinská (1973) *Želovce* pp. 96-97, Pl. LVII, 2-18, 27.
- ²¹ Daim (1977) *Katalog* op. 11, 45.
- ²² Eisner (1952) *Devínska Nová Ves* p. 121, Pl. 69, 1-2.
- ²³ Bakay (1973) *SomMK*. p. 5, Pl. VIII, 21-24.
- ²⁴ Cs. Sós (1955) *Acta Arch. Hung.* p. 201, Pl. LXVI, 10.
- ²⁵ Garam (1979) *Kisköre* p. 23, Pl. 17, 3-6.
- ²⁶ Cf. Fehértó cemetery „A” in this volume pp....
- ²⁷ Cs. Sós *op. cit.* p. 201, Pl. LXVI, 4-16. Among the belt-ornaments of the grave there are cast bronze small strap-ends typical pieces of the griffin-decorated belt-sets.
- ²⁸ Horváth (1935) *Üllő und Kiskőrös* pp. 47-50, Pl. XXX, 1-2, 9-1.
- ²⁹ László (1953) *Études* pp. 30-31, Pl. VIII, 1 a-b
- ³⁰ Horváth *op. cit.* pp. 47, 50, Pl. XXXI, 5-8. the decoration of the small strap-end, a S-shaped tendril ornament is often found on the strap-ends and on the front plates of belt-loops. We believe that in this set the same duality may be observed as in the case of grave 75 of the Fehértó „B” cemetery.
- ³¹ Garam (1978) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 210-215.
- ³² Cf. Garam (1975) *Szebény* p. 99: „.... but 90 per cent of graves with mounts belong to the Late Avar Period. The graves containing the earliest, oblong griffin-decorated mounts cut from plates, broad mounts, like shields with their points upwards decorated with tendrils, and mounts of elongated shield-shape with incised-punched decoration can be related on the basis of the mounts and of the accompanying finds and can be placed in a chronological order on the basis of their parallels”. *Idem* (1979) *Kisköre* p. 74: „Die Gürtelverzierungen können nach ihrer Form, der Bearbeitungstechnik und ihrer Verzierung in vier größere Gruppen eingeteilt werden. Dabei wurden auch die Angaben anderer Gräberfelder und die Beobachtungen anderer Forscher beachtet und selbstverständlich wurden auch die Schlußfolgerungen, die sich aus der Lage der mit beschlagverierten Gürteln versehenen Gräber innerhalb des Gräberfeldes un Kisköre ergeben, nicht außer acht gelassen. Die Gruppierung bedeutet auch gleichzeitig eine chronologische Einstuffung, die mit dem allgemeinen chronologische Bild, das sich bisher bezüglich der gegossenen Gürtelverzierungen ergeben hat, übereinstimmt (darüber hat I. Kovrig ausführlich in ihrem zusammenfassenden Werk geschrieben), da diese chronologische Reihenfolge auch durch die bei der Untersuchung ähnlicher Funde im Gräberfeld von Kisköre gemachten Beobachtungen unterstützt wird.”
- ³³ Garam (1979) *Kisköre* p. 54.
- ³⁴ Kovrig (1957) *FA* p. 123.
- ³⁵ Kovrig (1963) *Alattyán* pp. 139-140; Garam *op. cit.* pp. 54-55.

- ³⁶ Tomka (1971) *Arrabona* pp. 87, 96–97.
- ³⁷ Csuny grave 34: Hampel (1905) *Alterthümer* vol II. p. 146, vol. III. Pl. 124, 5; Alattyán grave 413: Kovrig *op. cit.* pp. 39–40, Pl. XXVII, 51–51a; Holiare grave 630: Točík (1968) *Holiare* pp. 96–97, Pl. LXXVII, 8.
- ³⁸ Fettich in Marosi–Fettich (1936) *Dunapentele* pp. 11–12.
- ³⁹ Gátér grave 11: Kada (1906) *Arch. Ért.* p. 368; Nagyharsány grave 10: Papp (1963) *JPMÉ* p. 119, Pl. III, 17; Jánoshida grave 26: Erdélyi (1968) *Jánoshida* pp. 10–11, Pl. XII, 3; Várpalota–Gimnázium grave 192: Erdélyi–Németh (1969) *VMMK* p. 185, Pl. XI, 4.
- ⁴⁰ Cf. Fehértó cemetery „A” in this volume p....
- ⁴¹ Garam (1978) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 210–216.
- ⁴² Papp (1962) *JPMÉ* pp. 186, 192, Pl. XXII, 13.
- ⁴³ Dunapentele grave 12: Fettich in Marosi–Fettich *op. cit.* pp. 16–19, Pl. V? 25–26; Kiskörös–Városalatt grave 2: Horváth *op. cit.* p. 35, Pl. XXIII, 1–2; Nagyréde–Ragyogópart grave 2: Szabó (1968) *EMÉ* pp. 32–35, Pl. VI, 3a–c.
- ⁴⁴ Szabó *op. cit.* p. 48.
- ⁴⁵ Fettich in Marosi–Fettich *op. cit.* pp. 17–18, Pl. VIII, 1–4, 5–10, 12.
- ⁴⁶ Szabó *op. cit.* pp. 50–51.
- ⁴⁷ K. Végh (1964–65) *HOMÉ* p. 184, Pl. VIII, 17.
- ⁴⁸ K. Végh *op. cit.* p. 191, Pl. V? 13. The shape of the hanger turned up together with the bronze mirror (pl. V, 18) is the same as that of the piece found in grave 69 of the Fehértó „B” cemetery. Further finds in the grave were a bronze buckle, an iron buckle, a bronze ring, an iron knife, a three-edged iron arrowhead, two plain bronze rings and iron fragments.
- ⁴⁹ Kovrig *op. cit.* pp. 28–29, Pl. XX, 10. The plain non-adorned bronze mirror fragment was in the grave of a man wearing a belt adorned with mounts cut out of bronze plate. From the four fragments pointed out above the dates of three could be determined. All of them could be classed in the period characterized by the late type plate belt mounts with belts set with glass.
- ⁵⁰ László (1953) *Études* pp. 25–36, grave IV: Pl. III, 11 a–d; grave VII: Pl. III, 14 a–d; grave VIII: Pl. VI, 26–28; grave IX: Pl. VIII, 6–8; grave X: Pl. VIII, 2–4; grave XI: Pl. VIII, 9–10; grave XVIII: Pl. X, 13 a–m; grave XLII: Pl. XX, 10–13; grave XLIV: Pl. XV, 21–29; grave XLVI: Pl. XVI, 4–7; grave XLVIII: Pl. XVII, 2; grave LIII: Pl. XVIII, 1–4; grave LVI: Pl. XVII, 15–20; grave LVIII: Pl. XIX, 3 and 6 <0150> 8; grave LX: Pl. XIX, 17 <0150> 22; grave LXI: Pl. XX, 1 <0150> 8; grave LXIX: Pl. XX, 14; grave LXXI: Pl. XX, 25 <0150> 26.
- ⁵¹ Csallány (1946–48) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 354, 359; idem (1952) *Acta Arch. Hung.* p. 238; idem (1956) *Arch. Denkmäler* p. 192.
- ⁵² Garam (1978) *Arch. Ért.* p. 221.
- ⁵³ Móra (1960) *Utazás a földalatti Magyarországon* (A Trip to Subterranean Hungary) p. 364.
- ⁵⁴ Szabó (1968) *EMÉ* pp. 45–46; idem (1975) *Pilismarót* pp. 266–267.
- ⁵⁵ Garam (1979) *Kisköre* p. 67.
- ⁵⁶ Garam *op. cit.* pp. 67, 80–81, Fig. 23.
- ⁵⁷ Tomka (1971) *Arrabona* pp. 83, 96–97.
- ⁵⁸ Csallány (1946–48) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 352–353, 360, Pl. LXXVI, 2.
- ⁵⁹ idem, *ibid* Pl. LXXVI, 2.
- ⁶⁰ Csallány (1939) *FA* pp. 138, 165.
- ⁶¹ Cf. Fehértó cemetery „A” in this volume p....
- ⁶² For this information I am indebted to Béla Kürti Jr.
- ⁶³ Cs. Sebestyén (1930) *Dolg.* pp. 187–188, 209–210, Fig. 3, 5–6.
- ⁶⁴ Csallány (1939) *FA* pp. 148–150, 172–174; idem (1946–48) *Arch. Ért.* p. 51–52.
- ⁶⁵ Szabó (1968) *EMÉ* pp. 51–52.
- ⁶⁶ Szabó *op. cit.* p. 52.
- ⁶⁷ Kovrig *op. cit.* pp. 39–40, Pl. XXVIII, 22–51.
- ⁶⁸ Bóna (1970) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 251–255, Fig. 9, 1–3.
- ⁶⁹ Kovrig (1946–48) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 341–343, 348. The determination has been substantiated by the decoration of the Mór quiver: Török (1954) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 54–60, Fig. 5.
- ⁷⁰ The broad bone plate, slightly curved, of grave 5 is mentioned in Gyula László’s work „Art of the Period of the Great Migration in Hungary”, Budapest (1974), in a photo. Here, however, the site of the find is given as Dunapentele, and as deposited the Hungarian National Museum. In fact of item came from grave 5 of the Szeged–Fehértó „B” cemetery and actually it is in the custody of the Szeged Móra Ferenc Museum under inventory No 53. 3. 4.
- ⁷¹ Bóna (1970) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 251, 255, 253, Fig. 9, 8, 10.
- ⁷² Török *op. cit.* pp. 59–60.
- ⁷³ The quiver in grave 12 was processed by Béla Kürti Jr.: *Acta Iuvenum JATE BTK* pp 1–28. The author has not entered into the analysis of the cemetery as a whole, and so he could come to the conclusion that grave 12 might have been dated to the early Avar Period. This dating, however, is untenable on archeological grounds, as the whole of the Fehértó cemetery cannot be dated earlier than circa 670–680, on the one hand, and, except for a few items older in fact, the analogies of the quivers adorned with bone mounts did not come from ages earlier than the emerging of the late type belt-mounts of repoussé, on the other. Indeed single pieces of them were buried in the periods when belt-ornaments belonging to the „griffin-and-tendril group” were in general use.
- ⁷⁴ Kovrig (1963) *Alattyán* p. 140.
- ⁷⁵ Garam (1969) in her study published in *Arch. Ért.* does not mention it.

- ⁷⁶ Garam (1976) *FA* pp. 143–145.
- ⁷⁷ Čilinská (1973) *Želovce* pp. 81, 179–180; grave 257: Pl. XLII, 25–29, grave 818: Pl. CXXX, 1–19.
- ⁷⁸ Bóna (1970) *Arch. Ért.* p. 259 and footnote 136.
- ⁷⁹ Garam (1978) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 206–216.
- ⁸⁰ Bóna (1970) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 251–55, Fig. 9, 7–10.
- ⁸¹ Garam (1976) *FA* pp. 142–147.
- ⁸² Szabó (1968) *EMÉ* p. 52.
- ⁸³ For the time called middle Avar Period oblong hairplait-ornaments of repoussé are characteristic. This is situated by Horváth (1935) *Üllő und Kiskőrös* pp. 64–66; Kovrig (1963) *Alattyán* p. 140; Bóna (1970) *Arch. Ért.* p. 250, 263; Tomka (1971) *Arrabona* p. 87; Garam (1979) *Kiskőrös* pp. 54–55. It should be noted here that cast „bar-type” hairplait-ornaments, for instance, in Győr, came to light only together with cast bronze belt-ornaments. Cf. Tomka *op. cit.* pp. 87. 96–97.
- ⁸⁴ Garam (1969) *Arch. Ért.* p. 239.
- ⁸⁵ Garam (1979) *Kisköre* p. 80.
- ⁸⁶ Idem, *ibid.* pp. 85–92.
- ⁸⁷ Bóna (1970) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 259–260, 262–63.
- ⁸⁸ Csallány (1946–48) *Arch. Ért.* pp. 353–359. The same explanations were given by László Szekeres who observed similar phenomena in the Bačka Topola cemetery (1978): *Bačka-Topola* pp. 157–160.