

**Z. Czajlik, A. Bődöcs (eds.), *Aerial Archaeology and Remote Sensing from the Baltic to the Adriatic. Selected Papers of the Annual Conference of the Aerial Archaeology Research Group, 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, Budapest, Hungary. Institute of Archaeological Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Eötvös Lorand University, Budapest, 2013. ISBN 978-963-7343-95-7***

**T**he volume groups 14 articles, separated into two sections: 1. Methodology (Aerial archaeology; Remote sensing); 2. Case studies (Prehistory; Roman period; Middle Ages).

The *Foreword* (p. 7) is written by Oscar Aldred, the chairman of the well prestigious AARG (Aerial Archaeology Research Group).<sup>1</sup> The editorial preface (p. 9) is signed by the two editors of the volumes, our colleagues Zoltán Czajlik and András Bődöcs.

The first contribution of the volume is the article of R. Goguy and Al. Cordier, entitled *Les techniques de la photographie aérienne en France et dans de Bassin des Carpates: photographie oblique en couleurs et en infra-rouge, photographie verticale* (p. 11). The authors have debated about the essential contribution of the oblique aerial photography for the identification and the mapping of new settlements, especially in countries from the former Eastern Europe. The map with the sites discovered in Hungary from 1993 to 1997 is suggestive and it outlines again the role of this method for archaeology.

V. Glavaš and R. Palmer have collaborated and they published the study *Aerial field reconnaissance of Velebit mountain* (p. 19–23). After this investigation using aerial photographs, the authors have succeeded to discover new sites. The traces are formed by drystone walls and collapsed walls. Most of these sites are prehistoric settlements. Data were then processed in ArcGIS and all the traces recorded were georeferenced.

B. Hall and Z. Czajlik have questioned themselves *Where are all the tumuli? Problems of interpretation in aerial archaeology* (p. 25–30). They have explained how different methods, such as the aerial photography, the magnetometer and geophysical surveys and the Airborne laser Scanning, can help the archaeologists to identify the location of tumuli.

L. Banaszek applied ALS to study the landscapes around Polanów, in Poland (*Lidarchaeology. Airborne laser Scanning of the forested landscapes around Polanów – Pomerania, Poland*, p. 31–36). A total surface of circa 135 km<sup>2</sup> was scanned. After this, the specialists have generated digital terrain models of 0.5 m spatial resolution. The method led to the discovery of barrows.

D. Mlekuž has tried to analyze the traces of the former sunken lanes using LIDAR images (*Roads to nowhere? Disentangling meshworks of Holloways*, p. 37–41). C. Sobczak has investigated using airborne laser scanning a region situated in the north-eastern part of Poland, inhabited in the past by Baltic tribes (*An Experimental Application of Airborne Laser Scanning for Landscape Archaeology in Northeastern Poland*, p. 43–48). G. Bertók and C. Gáti have published a contribution where they presented several important discoveries

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.univie.ac.at/aarg>.

regarding a county from the south-western Hungary, Baranya (*Circles in the Field through Circles in the Air: Late Neolithic Earthworks and Settlements in County Baranya, Hungary*, p. 49–53). Since 2005, after six to ten aerial flights every year, combined with the analysis of available satellite images, the authors succeeded to identify almost 250 new archaeological sites. Once again, the usefulness of aerial reconnaissance was proved.

L. Reményi, Á. Pető, Á. Kenéz, and S. Baklanov have investigated the Bronze Age settlement of Perkáta-Forrás-dűlő (*Archaeological and pedological investigations at the fortified Bronze Age settlement of Perkáta-Forrás-dűlő*, p. 55–57). The authors have succeeded to investigate an area of circa 300 km<sup>2</sup>, where around fifty Bronze Age settlements were discovered.

András Bődőcs has published a study about the traces of the former Roman centuriation in Szombathely (County Vas, western Hungary) (*Borders. The problems of the aerial archaeological research of a Roman limitation in Pannonia*, p. 59–66). The author mentioned that the study is the result of a research project, whose goal was to study the *centuriatio* of Savaria. Florin Fodorean (*Roman Potaissa and its surroundings. A view from above*, p. 67–70) presented several discoveries identified on aerial vertical photographs around the city of Potaissa (today Turda, Cluj County).

L. Rupnik and Z. Czajlik have contributed for this volume with an article about the legionary fortress from Brigetio (today Komárom/Szőny) (*Aerial archaeological survey of the legionary camp and military town at Brigetio*, p. 71–78). The fort was excavated during the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but obviously not entirely. Remote sensing techniques, combined with aerial photography reconnaissance are discussed in this study.

M. Szabó has contributed with an important study regarding the discovery and mapping of several Roman villas using

modern, non-invasive methods (*Using remote sensing and non-invasive archaeological methods in the research of Roman villas and the ancient landscape of Pannonia*, p. 79–84). In 1994 a collection of aerial photographs was created in Pécs (Aerial Archaeological Archives). The study presents several important discoveries based on aerial photographs: the villa from Tokod (Komárom-Esztergom County), the Roman villa close to the late fort of Alsóhetény (Tolna County), the villa near Cserdi.

Z. Miklós has investigated several earthen forts of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (*Aerial archaeological investigation of Árpáadian Age earthen forts and castles in Hungary – 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries*). These are located in various regions of Hungary. The author of the study has provided several examples of aerial photographs where such fortified forts were identified. At page 124–125 two plates with six aerial coloured photographs are provided. These are very suggestive and they prove once again the importance of aerial reconnaissance for the identification of archaeological sites. As the author explained in the study, he succeeded to fly in winter, early spring and summer, therefore he had the chance to identify frost, soil and crop marks.

The last article of the volume is the contribution of A. Sófalvi about some ramparts from Harghita County, in the Perşani Mountains. Using aerial photographs and dendro-chronological analyses, the author has succeeded to date these ramparts. Some of them were built during the 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, other during the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and other in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The volume represents a very useful contribution for those interested in aerial archaeology and the results of these methods for the identification and mapping of new archaeological sites in the central and eastern European countries.