



Tourism and Cultural Landscapes: Towards A Sustainable Approach

12 - 16 June 2016

HUNGARIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

THE CORONATION MANTLE

One matchless treasure held by the Hungarian National Museum is the mantle that used to be worn by Hungarian monarchs at their coronation; it is a garment that was made for King Stephen I (St. Stephen of Hungary) and his wife Gisela of Bavaria in 1031.

BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Get to know relics from earlier millennia! The archaeological exhibition presents the visitors the history of the people of Hungary from the earliest times up to the Avar age.

1. THE PALAEOLITHIC AND THE MESOLITHIC

The longest period in the story of mankind in Hungary is the Old Stone Age or Palaeolithic period: it began approximately 400,000 years ago and ended 10,000 years ago. During this time, the non-living and living environment, mankind included, underwent changes as the climate repeatedly cooled and warmed. In this room, visitors may get to know the various bone implements and knapped stone tools excavated at camps periodically used by hunters..

2. THE NEOLITHIC AND THE COPPER AGE

During the New Stone Age and the Copper Age (6000–2800 BCE), the basis for subsistence already consisted of productive farming – crops and animal husbandry. People lived in lasting, permanent settlements: in villages or in farmstead-like smaller settlements. Agricultural and household implements of stone, bone, antler, and fired clay have come down to us; artefacts made from other materials can be reconstructed only indirectly. Cemeteries and idols attest to religious beliefs and ideas regarding an afterlife.

3. THE BRONZE AGE 1

In the Bronze Age, the basis of economy was the new metal itself, knowledge of the new metalworking techniques (bronze casting) and the gradual spreading of them, soil cultivation, and animal husbandry.

4. THE BRONZE AGE 2

Bronze and gold finds attest to metalworking art of a very rich and complex kind in the Carpathian Basin during the Bronze Age. Often consisting of many hundreds of bronze artefacts, hoards counting as the property of one or two persons, a family, or a community afford a sure basis for authentic reconstruction of the attire and the fighting habits of people in this period.



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5. THE IRON AGE

In the first half of the period stretching from the 8th century B.C. to the time of the Roman conquest, the lands to the east of the River Danube became part of the eastern steppe-culture area. Relics characteristic of these centuries are the Scythian golden stags that have come to light. It was at this time that Transdanubia became home to people belonging to the Central European Hallstatt culture.

6. THE ROMAN PERIOD

With the reaching of the Common Era, images of two different worlds take shape in this room. Under the name of Pannonia, the territory of Transdanubia became a strategically significant border province of the Roman Empire, with high degrees of social organisation, technical development, literacy in Latin, and classical culture. The trading aspect of the relationship is symbolised by the market scene that is presented, one which could have existed anywhere along the border (limes).

7. THE EARLY MIGRATION PERIOD: THE HUNS AND THE GERMANIC PEOPLES

In the first century and a half of the Great Migrations period, peoples arrived in the Carpathian Basin from different directions. Showing the wealth and taste of the upper strata of these barbarian societies, a good proportion of the artefacts displayed in this room consists of jewellery and power insignia artistically made from precious metals.

8. THE AVAR PERIOD

Originating in Central and Inner Asia, the Avars arrived in the Carpathian Basin in 567/568. In its early period, Avar culture bore the marks of many different cultures: Byzantine, East European and West European alike. The extraordinarily uniform 'late Avar culture' which developed in the 8th century was first and foremost a Carpathian Basin phenomenon.

9. THE KAROLING PERIOD

In the 9th century, the Carpathian Basin split into two parts. East of the River Danube lived the remaining Avars. With its centre at Mosaburg (Zalavár), the area to the west of the Danube came under the control of the Carolingian Empire. On the basis of its churches and palaces, Mosaburg (Zalavár) rightly received the title 'royal town'. Artefacts used in attire and other artefacts for use attest to the wealth and varied culture of its inhabitants.

10. HUNGARIAN CONQUEST PERIOD

Arriving in the Carpathian Basin in 895, the Hungarians took possession of the whole of this geographical unity and then settled its lowland areas. Their adventurous campaigns brought significant material wealth to their tribal-clan aristocracy, but also kept Byzantine and German conquerors away from their country, which was then being set up.





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THE HISTORY OF HUNGARY, PART ONE

In the first half of the historical exhibition, visitors can follow the main events of Hungarian history in the medieval period, by way of outstanding artefacts from the time.

1. THE AGE OF THE ÁRPÁD HOUSE

This room presents the first three centuries of the Kingdom of Hungary, namely the period during which the country was ruled by monarchs drawn from the House of Árpád. Many of the objects displayed here can be linked to rulers of significance, e.g. King St. Stephen, the founder of the state; King St. Ladislaus; and King Béla IV. From the historical standpoint, the most important artefacts on show are the funerary insignia of King Béla III, although these are, perhaps, not the most spectacular. The room also presents artefacts connected with the different layers of the feudal society then under consolidation, namely the secular and ecclesiastical aristocracy, the soldiers, and the peasantry. In addition, visitors can see objects from towns which developed during this period, as well as artefacts linked with the Cumans, a people who settled in Hungary after the Tatar invasion of 1241–42.

2. THE AGE OF THE ANJOU KINGS

The reigns of King Charles Robert and King Louis I (the Great) were favourable with regard to development of the economy and growth of the towns. The richness of secular treasures is shown by a few artefacts only; these are treasure trove and grave goods consisting first and foremost of embellishments for attire.

3. THE AGE OF SIGISMUND OF LUXEMBOURG AND JÁNOS HUNYADI

During the 50-year reign of Sigismund of Luxemburg (r. 1387–1437), royal palaces were built in Hungary one after another (Visegrád, Buda, Pozsony [Bratislava, Slovakia]). The outstanding relics in the Late Gothic style that are shown are first and foremost church fittings, altar vessels, and clothing. In the period which followed the death of Sigismund, the organising of the struggles against the Ottomans fell to János Hunyadi, who was elected regent of Hungary.

4. VILLAGES AND TOWNS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 15TH CENTURY AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 16TH CENTURY

With the help of artefacts which have survived from day-to-day life in villages and towns, the room presents changes that took place at this time in Hungary's network of settlements and in the lifestyles of the inhabitants there. Heating facilities in village dwelling-houses became more efficient and convenient; this is shown by the spread of stoves. More and more liturgical artefacts were made for the churches of townsmen in this period and these artefacts were of an increasingly good standard.



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5. THE AGES OF MATTHIAS HUNYADI, THE RULE OF THE JAGIELLO KINGS IN HUNGARY

This room presents the last half century of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary. Now sharing a border with the Ottoman Empire and threatened by it, the realm was bound to Christian Europe by a thousand ties as regards politics and culture. The court of Matthias Hunyadi (r. 1458–1490) was characterised by the coexistence of Italian Renaissance and Central European Late Gothic stylistic trends. This can be observed on two seats from the very same church.

6. HUNGARY SPLIT INTO THREE PARTS. THE OTTOMAN OCCUPATION

Following the Battle of Mohács in 1526, Hungary split into three parts. This room presents artefacts, among them numerous treasure troves, from that part which came under Ottoman rule. We evoke the battles along the borders, but also show characteristics of Ottoman weapons and of Ottoman art. In addition, we display here inlay-decorated stalls that were commissioned by the Báthori family for a church at Nyírbátor.

7. TRANSYLVANIA AND ROYAL HUNGARY

The artefacts displayed on the right-hand side of this room evoke the Principality of Transylvania, which, although a vassal of the Ottoman Empire, preserved its independence in domestic policy and was often a counterweight to the power of Habsburg rulers. Highlights of this room are gala attire once belonging to Catherine of Brandenburg (the spouse of Prince Gabriel Bethlen) and the Late Renaissance sarcophagus of György Apafi. On the left-hand side of the room, Royal Hungary (i.e. Habsburg-ruled Hungary) is presented: the show-cases highlight the successes of the Counter-Reformation, the significant mining operations in Upper Hungary, guild-based trades, and the craftsmanship of the Habaners.

8. THE EXPULSION OF THE OTTOMANS

Near to the entrance of this room are show-cases which display archaeological finds recovered from the border castles. The paintings hanging on the left side of the room recall 17th-century galleries of ancestors, while the show-cases beneath them present upper-class attire of the kinds depicted in the paintings. On the right-hand side of the corridor, coins minted in the 16th–17th century in Transylvania and in Hungary are exhibited, along with artefacts from the treasuries of magnate families and furniture from the time. The period of the ending of Ottoman rule in Hungary is presented by means of weapons used by the Holy League Christian alliance forces and by the Ottoman armies, and by means of the tapestry placed near to the exit door.



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The History of Hungary, Part Two



In this part of the exhibition, the leading personalities and key events in Hungary's history during the modern era are presented.

9. THE RÁKÓCZI WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 18TH CENTURY

Francis II Rákóczi, prince of Transylvania and the leader of the Hungarian independence war fought in the early 18th century, attempted to bring together every noble and non-noble inhabitant of the country. Displayed here are items of military equipment that can be linked to the struggle; among them are weapons used by the prince's forces and others used by his opponents.

10. HUNGARY IN THE 18TH CENTURY

This room presents the period of absolutism in Hungary associated with the Habsburg rulers Charles III, Maria Theresa, and Joseph II. Here the visitor can admire treasures representative of aristocratic lifestyles, significant objects made for the Roman Catholic Church and items that belonged to burghers in the towns.

11. REFORMS IN HUNGARY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Along with documents linked to political events during the Reform Age, paintings and artefacts related to the most significant personalities of the day – István Széchenyi, Chancellor Metternich, King Francis I, Palatine Joseph – faithfully present the first half of the 19th century in Hungary.

12. REVOLUTION AND WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1848-49

The printing press refers to press freedom, one of the most important achievements of the 1848 revolution. Above it, the Twelve Points, namely the demands of the revolutionaries are placed. The pictures and the velvet-upholstered ministerial chairs recall the members of the first responsible Hungarian government formed following efforts on the political level.



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13. CULTURE AND NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY AND IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

This room represents Hungarian achievements at this time in the fields of culture, education and science, along with artefacts linked with outstanding personalities and institutions representative of national culture.

14. ENDURANCE, COMPROMISE AND ECONOMIC BOOM

By means of objects recalling the post-1848–49 reprisals, the pro-Kossuth exiles, the absolutism of the Bach period, and the 1867 Compromise agreement with Austria that created the Dual Monarchy, visitors can form a picture of the economic and scientific-technological progress characteristic of this era, as well as an insight into its social tensions.

15. EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY

This room presents the history of Hungarian education and culture in the 19th century, along with artefacts from the time associated with Hungarian masters in the fields of literature, theatre, and music. Separate parts deal with the growth of education, the press, and freemasonry in Hungary.

16. FROM THE 'HAPPY TIMES OF PEACE' TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE DUAL MONARCHY (AUSTRIA–HUNGARY)

The artefacts exhibited here are intended to convey the economic and cultural flourishing that occurred in Hungary in the first decade of the 20th century but also the restrictions on democracy that existed in the country. The second half of the room presents the First World War and its consequences.

17. THE HUNGARY OF TRIANON FROM THE ELECTION OF THE REGENT TO THE LAST YEAR OF PEACE (1920–1938)

This room presents the revival of the now-truncated country and its efforts to change the peace terms it was given, during the period in its history named after Regent Miklós Horthy. The achievements of the economic, social, and cultural consolidation associated with Prime Minister István Bethlen were swept away by the world economic crisis that began in 1929.

18. EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE 1920'S AND 1930'S

The passage leading from the previous room presents changes in everyday life during this period. The classroom interior denotes the era's strategically significant elementary-school programme, as well as the reduction of illiteracy. The cinema shows the advent of 'talkies', and with them, the advent of a new means of mass entertainment and of propaganda, too. The revolutionary changes in everyday life are conveyed by artefacts and posters.



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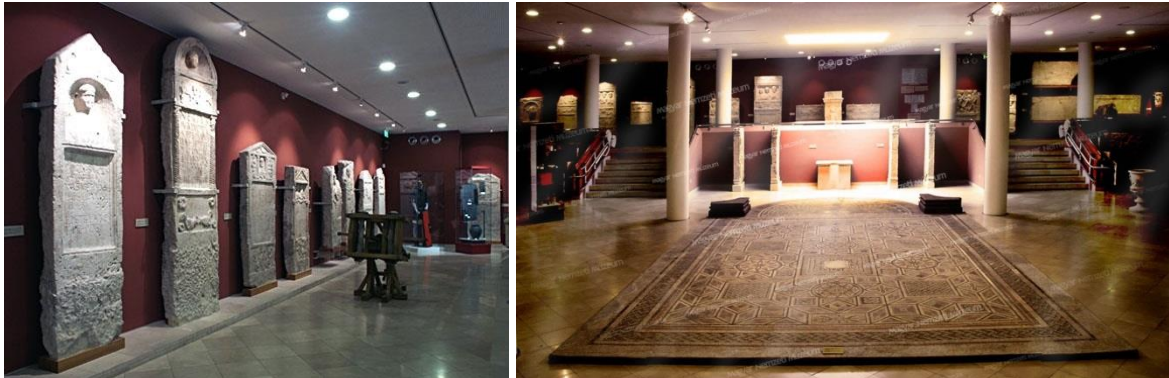
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**19. FROM THE SUCCESSES OF REVISION TO GERMAN AND RUSSIAN
OCCUPATION (1938 -1945)**

20. THE RISE AND FALL OF COMMUNISM (1945 - 1990)

Roman Lapidary



These stone relics supplement our historical and art historical knowledge relating to the Roman province of Pannonia, in a period from which few data from other sources have survived.

The Lapidarium – the Hungarian National Museum’s collection of Roman stonework – is housed in an exhibition space under the south courtyard of the Museum’s main building and in a room belonging to the system of cellars that is connected to this space.

The exhibition presents the most characteristic relic types from the collection, which is considered rich in international comparison, too.

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Scolar Hungarians



In 2004, a permanent exhibition showing the history of science opened at the Hungarian National Museum. Its most important aim was to acquaint visitors with scientific findings and achievements in Hungary from the 19th century up to the present day that count as significant on a world scale also, and to present the Hungarian scientists and thinkers responsible for them. This exhibition affords quiet pride to Hungarians while providing role models and goals in life for their children; for non-Hungarians it serves to inform and to awaken interest. At the same time, the exhibition demonstrates that in the field of science, too, the Hungarian people have achieved significant results, not only winning a place in global scientific life, but also playing a pioneering role in some areas.

Since the opening of the exhibition, many artefacts connected with the history of science have been offered to the Hungarian National Museum. Many of these are displayed as new acquisitions in the exhibition.

One such artefact is the first laser apparatus for medical use. This was developed by Professor Géza Jakó, an ear, nose, and throat specialist living in United States of America, with help from the engineer Károly Polányi.

After seeing the exhibition, György Oláh, a Nobel laureate in chemistry, gifted the Museum



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with a number of personal effects connected with the presentation of the Nobel Prize to him, along with his Hungarian decorations.

A Gömböc bearing the date of the Hungarian National Museum's foundation was presented to the Museum by the inventors of the object following their successes at the Shanghai World's Fair of 2010.

The most recent acquisition is a full-sized model of the Masat-1 satellite, the first Hungarian satellite, given to the Museum at the end of 2014 by the young team that built that device. The team also gave a copy of the commemorative postage stamp that was issued and a copy of the commemorative medal that was struck.¹

¹ Source: mnm.hu



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