

Agriculture, Crop Processing, and Social Relations in Middle Bronze Age Hungary

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The Százhalombatta Project is part of three case studies building the 'Emergence of European Communities'. The main goal of Százhalombatta Project, running since 1998, is the complete re-evaluation of the Middle Bronze Age tell settlement at Százhalombatta-Földvár (2000-1400 BC). More detailed, the primary objective is to study how the inner space of domestic structures was used and organised at the site. With the aid of systematic sampling, spatial variability of cereal processing and food processing could be detected. Flotation samples were taken from contexts representing the general accumulation of domestic waste from outside the houses (31 samples), as well as from the houses' insides (33 samples). The macro-remains revealed differences in how space was organised indoors and outdoors, both vertically and horizontally. Similarities in plant processing were also demonstrated between the phases of the houses. The outside areas contained waste remains of cereal processing. Inside the houses, the stages of cereal processing were carried out in different areas: the find assemblages show that the main cereal cleaning surface was located in the central and southern areas of the houses – which is also the place where the "final" cereal cleaning was carried out. However, only the primary products (the cleaned grains) were taken to the areas with hearths or baking ovens for further food processing.

In the spectrum of cultivated crops from the 100 sampled pits at Százhalombatta-Földvár, einkorn (*Triticum monococcum*) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were the dominating crops, while Emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), spelt (*T. spelta*), bread/hard wheat (*T. aestivum/durum*) and broomcorn millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) were subdominant. Naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum*) and rye (*Secale cereale*) are represented by single finds. Some of the chaff finds clearly indicate the presence of "new type" hulled wheat. The pulses lentil (*Lens culinaris*), pea (*Pisum sativum*) and bitter vetch (*Vicia ervilia*) seem to have been of great importance, while finds of faba bean (*V. faba*) are rare. Some seed remains of gold-of-pleasure (*Camelina sativa*) were found, and few/single finds document the presence of linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*), opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) and safflower (*Carthamus tinctoria*). The latter is the oldest find from Hungary so far.