

DATE RECORD ON THE HISTORY OF HUNGARIAN SPELEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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In the 1977 Special Issue of "Karszt és Barlang" in the English language, *Dr Károly Bertalan* published a compilation of the important dates of cave exploration including altogether 55 events of international significance. The Hungarian version was extended by the author to 93 events.

The present compilation is based on Bertalan's Hungarian version. The dates of the eminent cave explorers' death and other events which are only interesting to Hungarians were left out. However, some additional data which promote the better understanding of the history of cave exploration in Hungary were included. In the references, Hungary invariably means the territory of the given date.

- 1037 Date of issue of St. Stephen's donation document for the Benedictine monastery of Bakonybél. It includes the name of Odvaskő, the first Hungarian toponym of speleological implication ever recorded.
- 1355 Mention of Likaskő in a document. The name refers to the mountain of Kis-Kevély whose cave was inhabited by early man.
- 1549 Several Hungarian caves are mentioned in G. Werner's 'De admirandis Hungariae aquis hypomonemation' (Basel). The first record of the Aggtelek Cave, although it is incorrectly referred to as Füleke Cave. The mistake was pointed out by Matthias Belius, and in his book published in 1742 the right name appears.
- 1558 In his work "Epitome Rerum Hungariae" (whose manuscript was written between 1489 and 1491) Ransanus mentions the Drevnyik Ice Cave.
- 1692 To serve the military operations against the Ottomans, a map is drawn showing the exact location of the Veterani Cave.
- 1719 At the request of Matthias Belius, György Buchholtz prepares a longitudinal section of the Deményfalva Cave. (According to our current knowledge, it is the first cave profile in Hungary.)
- 1723—1742 In his Latin works Matthias Belius mentions several caves in the territory of Hungary.
- 1725 F.E. Brückmann publishes a report on the "Dragon caves" of Liptó county. (The alleged dragon bones found in them were later identified as cave bear remnants.)
- 1768 József Mattenheim, a miller, discovers today's Abaliget Cave, while penetrating into a spring in the Mecsek Mountains.
- 1774 Relying on his own experience, Elek Nedetzky describes the Funaca Cave in Transylvania.
- 1788 A 17 page situations plan is made about the environs of the Veterani Cave, including cave plan, profiles and views.
- 1793 Robert Townson visits the Baradla Cave. He identifies the remnants recovered from the Deményfalva Cave as bones of *Ursus spelaeus*. His work was printed in London in 1797.
- 1794 János Farkas and József Sartory, mining-engineers, explore part of the Baradla Cave. Sartory surveys the cave and makes the first planimetric plan of it, while Farkas prepares its first description in Hungarian. (A copy of the map has survived, but the description manuscript in form is lost.)
- 1799 Stanislaw Stasić, the father of Polish geology, visits the Baradla Cave and describes it in detail in his book published in Warsaw in 1815. On the appendix geological map the location of the cave is shown.
- 1801 Keresztély Raisz, an engineer, surveys the Baradla Cave and makes its layout, plan and longitudinal profile together with a German description. The map had several editions, but it was not issued with the text until 1807.
- 1801 László Bartholomaeidesz explores the Baradla and Büdös-tó (currently: Domica) caves. In his printed work he shows the plans of the two caves in one figure with detailed descriptions and conjectures about their probable connection.
- 1808 Glinka, a Russian tsarist officer, explores the Baradla Cave and reports on his observations in his book published in Moscow in 1815. The Russian version of Raisz' map is attached.
- 1819 Vince Kölesy explores, surveys and describes in detail the Abaliget Cave. His work is published the following year in the Tudományos Gyűjtemény (Scientific Collection).
- 1821—1825 In the company of Imre Vass, Károly Markó, Sr. paints some characteristic details of the Baradla Cave.
- 1825 Imre Vass, an engineer of Gömör county, discovers the part of the Baradla Cave beyond the Vaskapu (Iron Gate) to the Szinpad (Stage). He resurveys the extended cave and provides a monograph printed in Hungarian and German which includes a cave plan, longitudinal section, and layout map in 1831.
- 1833 When extending a shaft in Hámor, natural calcareous tufa hollows were exposed and their artificial connection resulted in the present Anna Cave.



1835 George Hering English painter makes pictures in the Baradla

- 1835 István Fekete, an engineer, explores, surveys, and provides a detailed description of the Homoródalmás Cave. His work is published in Kolozsvár in 1836.
- 1843 In the preface to the Archives of Vereins für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde the first call for collecting all types of data on Hungarian caves appears.
- 1846 The first cave animal is caught in the Baradla.
- 1846 The first scientific presentation of the Tufna Bone Cave is published by Pál Almási Balogh.
- 1846 János Petényi Salamon conducts excavations in the hollows of the Beremend stone quarry and this marks the beginning of the paleontological research of Hungarian caves.
- 1854 János Petényi Salamon and János Kovács explore the caves in the Bihar Mountains between the Rapid and Black Körös rivers. This is the first occasion when efforts are made to explore the caves of a large area and to study them in detail.
- 1856 Adolf Schmidl investigates the Baradla. His description is published in 1857.
- 1857 Relying on his own exploration experience and available data, Antal Kiss describes the Jászó Cave.
- 1863 Adolf Schmidl's monograph on the Bihar Mountains and his description of the Abaliget Cave appear in print.
- 1864 On the basis of his investigations, János Frivaldszky publishes a treatise on the fauna of Hungarian caves.
- 1868 Flóris Rómer's "Inhabited caves in Hungary" marks the beginning of historical research in to Hungarian caves.
- 1869 The geologist József Szabó carries out research in the Ágasvár Cave of the Mátra Mountains of non-karstic origin.
- 1876 Jenő Nyáry undertakes large-scale archaeological excavations in the Baradla Cave. The results are published in an abundantly illustrated book in 1881. Its importance is underlined by the fact that it encouraged Lajos Kossuth to make detailed comments.
- 1881 Gyula Husz and János Blitz discover the Béla Cave.
- 1882 In Balatonfüred, during the course of quarrying at the foot of Tamás Hill a cave, which is now named after Lajos Lóczy is discovered.
- 1884 J. Chalupny, parson of Abaliget, explores the Abaliget Cave and makes it suitable for being visited by tourists.
- 1886 Searching for a new entrance, Kálmán Münich resurveys the Baradla Cave and designs the present Vörös-tó entrance to be opened in 1890.
- 1890 Károly Divald publishes a photoalbum of 32 of his photographs taken in the Baradla Cave.
- 1891 In Miskolc, during house foundation works, stone tools are found and identified by Ottó Herman as belonging to Ice Age man. To settle the resulting debate, Herman proposes excavation in the caves of the Bükk Mountains.
- 1900 Antal Koch publishes a review on Hungary's fossil vertebrate remnants and localities, including hosts of famous caves.
- 1900 A monograph on the bats of Hungary is published by Lajos Méhely.
- 1902 In Tapolca, when digging a well, an entrance to a cave is found and the first chambers of the present Tavas-barlang (Cave with a Lake) are explored.
- 1904 Pál Kornél Scholtz and János Bagyura reach the Pál-völgy Cave through a hollow in the Pál-völgy quarry and explore the cave to the Theatre Hall.
- 1906 As proposed by Ottó Herman, Ottokár Kadić begins his largescale excavations in the Szeleta Cave.
- 1910 At the meeting of the Board of Selected Officers of the Hungarian Geological Society, Lajos Lóczy submits a proposal on the formation of a Commission on Speleology. The Commission first meets on 28th January, under the chairmanship of Károly Siegmeth.
- 1911 Károly Jordán organised an expedition to explore the shafts of the Alsó-hegy for the Commission of Speleology.
- 1911 At the International Archaeological Congress in Tübingen Ottokár Kadić convinces the specialists that the Paleolithic artefacts found in the Szeleta Cave are authentic.

- 1913 The Commission on Speleology of the Hungarian Geological Society becomes an independent section and launches the publication of "Barlangkutatás — Höhlenforschung", a bilingual periodical of its own edited by Ottokár Kadić.
- 1913 Ottokár Kadić explores a hollow in the wall of the Szent István doline, Bükk Mountains, which is the first section of the István Cave.
- 1914 Making use of the legacy of Károly Siegmeth, a bibliography of Hungarian caves compiled by Henrik Horusitzky is published. This is the first systemized bibliography of this kind.
- 1919 The Pál-völgy Cave is made accessible and opened to the public.
- 1926 Date of founding of an independent Hungarian Speleological Society which includes the members of the Commission on Speleology of the Hungarian Geological Society, cave-exploring tourists and all interested people at large. Besides "Barlangkutatás", the Society institutes a new journal, called "Barlangvilág" (Cave World). (Both periodicals ceased to be published in 1944.)
- 1926 As part of the building of the Lillafüred Hotel Palace the travertine cave under the hanging gardens is supplied with electric lighting and opened to the public (Anna Cave).
- 1927 An international meeting of German and Hungarian speleologists is held in Hungary, where renowned Austrian experts also participate. Electricity illuminates the Pál-völgy Cave and the deepest shafts of Alsó-hegy are penetrated.
- 1929 The Jósvalfő exit from the Baradla Cave is completed on the basis of measurements and plan by chief engineer Péter Kaffka. Thus the cave can be traversed over its total length without need of returning to its entrance at Aggtelek.
- 1930 In the course of levelling the ground on Szemlő Hill in Buda, a cavern, the first section of the present Szemlő-hegy Cave, is found.
- 1931 Ferenc Pávay-Vajna publishes an article about the caveforming role of hot vapour and gases in the journal "Hidrológiai Közlöny" (Hydrological Bulletin), giving the foundations of the theory of cave origin by thermal water activity.
- 1932 Hubert Kessler and József Sandrik penetrate from the Aggtelek Cave via the streambed of the underground river Styx. They provide evidence of the existence of passable communication between the two caves.
- 1932 In Vienna the pioneering monograph by Endre Dudich on the biological investigations in the Aggtelek Cave is published in German.
- 1932 When building the sewage system along Törökveszi út on the Ferenc Hill, Buda, a cave-in is found and through it the Ferenc-hegy Cave explored.
- 1935 Part of the "cellar cave" under the Buda Castle (Vár-barlang) and the Cave Museum in the upper cellars are opened to public.
- 1935 Electric lighting is installed in the Baradla Cave.
- 1940 The Kecső Cave (i.e. the Baradla-Domica Cave system) and its 10 ha surface area is placed under protection. It is the first protected cave in Hungary.
- 1944 War damage is inflicted on the office of the Hungarian Speleological Society. Almost all documentation and the library is destroyed.
- 1946 István Venkovits and László Jakucs discover a cave of thermal origin with gypsum ornamentation at Sátorkőpuszta.
- 1948 Cave explorers of the BETE sport club explore the Centenary section of the Mátyás-hegy Cave.
- 1952 László Jakucs and his associates reach the Explorers' branch of the Béke Cave.
- 1954 Led by László Maucha, the cavers of the Budapest Technical University penetrate into the first section of the Vass Imre Cave and by the use of explosives, open the main passage of the cave on 18th August, 1955.
- 1954 Dénes Balázs and his associates penetrate into the Szabadság (Liberty) Cave of Égerszög.
- 1956 The exploratory audit, driven by the staff of the Research Institute of Water Resources Development, reaches the hypothetic system of caverns, subsequently named Kossuth Cave.
- 1957 Upon the initiative and under the direction of Professor Ferenc Papp a research station is established at Jósvalfő, close to the Vass Imre Cave.
- 1958 The Hungarian Speleological Society, the social base of cave exploration in Hungary, is re-founded.
- 1959 The periodical "Karszt- és Barlangkutatás" (Karst and Speleological Research) is launched to publish outstanding results from Hungary, mainly in foreign languages.
- 1959 A cave-bath is opened in the Tavas-barlang of Miskolctapolca.
- 1959 A sanatorium for the treatment of people suffering from illnesses of respiratory organs is instituted in the Béke Cave of Jósvalfő.
- 1960 A Speleobiological Laboratory is set up in the Róka-lyuk passage of the Baradla Cave, under the direction of Prof. Endre Dudich.
- 1961 The reorganized Speleological Museum re-opens in the Várbarlang.
- 1961 The first independent Nature Conservation Act is issued. It ensures protection for all of the caves in Hungary.
- 1961 Led by György Dénes, cavers of the Vörös Meteor Society of Nature-Lovers succeed in penetrating into the Meteor Cave System through the Kisvizes-töbör ponor.
- 1961 The Hungarian Speleological Society starts a new periodical "Karszt és Barlang" (Karst and Cave), which appears twice a year.
- 1962 The Society launches awards named after Ottó Herman, Ottokár Kadić and Imre Vass to honour work, research, and exploration of outstanding merit.

- 1962 A karst water observation station is established by the Research Center in the Iván Cave, in the side of the Gellért-hegy.
- 1962 The cavers of Miskolc reach the horizontal section of the Létrástető Cave through the Szepesi shaft and explore the then deepest known cave of the country.
- 1962 The instructions for the Nature Conservation Act come into force and regulate in detail cave conservation and the granting of permissions for cave exploration.
- 1964 Led by Lajos Gyenge, the cavers of Miskolc penetrate into the István Cave System and explore it to a depth of 245 m.
- 1964 The Hungarian Post Office issues a stamp showing the Baradla Cave.



- 1965 The Minister of Health introduces the term "medicinal cave", and the Béke Cave is declared a medicinal cave.
- 1967 Led by Szabolcs Szeremley, the cavers of Miskolc explore the Szamentu Cave, entering through the Barátságkert ponor.
- 1971 An expedition organized to continue the exploration of the Vecsembükk Shaft, led by István Szenthe, reaches down to a depth of 235 m, the deepest known point in the cave.
- 1972 Students of the Tiszaföldvár Grammar School explore the Hajnóczy Cave, Bükk Mountains.
- 1972 Entering through the spring of the Hévíz Lake at a depth of 38 m, István Plózer explores a cave.
- 1974 A so-called Divers Issue of the "Karszt és Barlang" is published to summaries the history of subaquarian cave exploration and its results.
- 1974 A Finnish-type sauna is formed in the Diósgyőr—Tapolca Cave.
- 1975 The National Nature Conservation Office establishes a Speleological Institute.
- 1975 The Alba Regia Speleological Group explores the Alba Regia Cave.
- 1975 The cavers of the Bükk Mountains penetrate into the system of the Fekete (Black) and Diabáz Caves.
- 1976 In Vol. VIII. of the "Karszt és Barlangkutatás", authors and cave indices are supplied for the bibliography of Hungarian speleology, 1931—1945.
- 1977 On the occasion of the 7th International Speleological Congress a special issue of the "Karszt és Barlang" is published in the English language to summarize the results of Hungarian karst research and cave exploration.
- 1980 Attila Kiss and József Kurucz explore a new section of the Pál-völgy Cave and additional explorations extend the known length of the cave almost sixfold in just a few years.
- 1982 The subsiding water table caused by continuous water intake allows the exploration of the Lower Cave of the Baradla along a 1 km length.
- 1983 Led by Mrs. Zoltán Vidics, cavers of the FTSK sport club cross the siphon of the Danca-lyuk and explore the Danca Cave.
- 1983 The Hungarian Geographical Museum is opened in Érd, and presents the scientific exploration of major caves in Hungary.
- 1984 Cavers of the Kinizsi Sport Club of Rózsadomb, led by Péter Adamkó, penetrate into the József-hegy Cave.
- 1984 An explosion in the limestone quarry of the Szőlő-hegy of Beremend reveals a system of hollows, named after its rich mineral formations, the Beremend Crystal Cave.
- 1986 After more than 10 years of construction work, the Szemlő-hegy Cave is opened to visitors.
- 1986 A limitation on housing is imposed in the Rózsadomb area aimed at the preservation of the cave system below.
- 1986 Author subject, and regional indices are published to the 25-year bibliography of the "Karszt és Barlang".
- 1987 The first course for tourist guides in caves is organised by the Society and the Speleological Institute.
- 1987 An exhibition entitled "Human evolution in Hungary" is opened in the Hungarian National Museum and the jaws of the Subalyuk Man are presented.

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*Top: Patients in the Tapolca Hospital Cave
(by L. Szám)*

*Bottom: Cave rescue training near the
entrance of Baradla (by G. Salamon)*





