

# Source data for *municipium Aelium Mogionibus* (Környe, Komárom-Esztergom County, Hungary)

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## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER



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### ABSTRACT

Archaeological excavations and inscriptions discovered on site point towards the existence of an Early Imperial Period urban settlement under the area of the present-day village Környe (Komárom-Esztergom County), established in the *civitas Azaliorum* region, most probably on the territory of the Mogiones tribe. On some of the inscriptions possibly related to the name of the Early Imperial Era settlement, unearthed on site and in the immediate neighbourhood, a striking abbreviation, MOG appears. According to the Inotapusza (Bakonycsernye) diploma and a Roman urban laterculus, there stood in Pannonia an urban settlement known by the name of Mogionibus as well. The results of the excavations conducted in Környe in the period 1939–2016, local inscriptions and a newly published milestone discovered in Tata (Komárom-Esztergom County) are all witnesses to the existence of a municipium named rather Mogionibus such as Mogionensium on the territory of the present village of Környe. The municipium existed between the reigns of Hadrian and Gallienus. Before 214, it belonged to the urban network of Pannonia Superior, while after 214, to that of Pannonia Inferior.

### KEYWORDS

municipium, Környe, Mogiones, Mogionibus, Pannonia, excavations, inscriptions

### INTRODUCTION

Archaeological excavations and inscriptions discovered on site point towards the existence of an Early Imperial Period urban settlement under the area of the present-day village Környe (Komárom-Esztergom County), established in the *civitas Azaliorum* region, most probably on the territory of the Mogiones tribe. During the Early Imperial Period, after the division of Pannonia, but beginning with the year 107 at the latest, the territory belonged to Pannonia Superior until the year 214, and became part of Pannonia Inferior as of 214. During the Late Imperial Period, the territory belonged to Valeria ripensis. An inner military fortress was built above the ruins of the urb destroyed during the third century, most probably referred to as Vincentia.<sup>1</sup>

There is a detailed inventory of rich Roman era legacy, including buildings, roads, inscriptional stone monuments, vessels, ceramics, coins, of the ditch surrounding the Roman settlement and probable aqueducts authored by Mátyás Bél during the first third of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup> In an archaeological sense, between the years 1939 and 2016, two road surfaces, a

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<sup>1</sup>Cf. Fitz (1993–1995) 971–977; Szabó (2000) 85–109; FPA 2, 178–179; FPA 4, 168–169; Kovács (2015) 287–288; Szabó (2018) 129–210: Not. Dign. XXXIII.59.

<sup>2</sup>Bél Not. Hung. ms. p. 104–106, 15. = 354–356, 15.

series of stone-based buildings, a great number of varied, imported and locally manufactured ceramic objects, pottery furnaces, inscriptions and two impressed bricks alluding to a possible brick manufacture<sup>3</sup> were discovered and made public. On-site excavations were conducted in the area by Aladár Radnóti ([HNM](#), 1939–), András Mócsy ([HNM](#), 1953–) and Ádám Szabó ([HNM](#), 2002–). Local sepulchral monuments of the era are limited at present to a few excavated tombs and sarcophagi,<sup>4</sup> and to second century chariot burials.<sup>5</sup> Even without further source data, the sum of archaeological phenomena points to the existence of a complex and considerably large civilian settlement.<sup>6</sup>

## INSCRIPTIONS

On some of the inscriptions possibly related to the name of the Early Imperial Era settlement, unearthed on site and in the immediate neighbourhood, a striking abbreviation, MOG appears. Previously, the literature read these in the context of the already known Balaton Uplands settlement Mogetianae.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, according to the Inotapuszta (Bakonycsernye) diploma and a Roman urban laterculus, there stood in Pannonia an urban settlement known by the name of Mogionibus as well. The military diploma was issued for C(aius) Iul(ius) Aelia (tribu) Passar, Mogionibus.<sup>8</sup> The same person is featured on the laterculus, along other persons from Pannonia.<sup>9</sup> The laterculus provides the origin as Mog., earlier interpreted as Mog(etianae). Still, under the light of the diploma, the abbreviation of the settlement name on the inscribed tile will also morph into Mog(ionibus).<sup>10</sup> The origin of the donor features on the diploma in its form inflected from the noun Mogio (Sg.) / Mogiones (Pl.), which, in case of this document type, can only be a town name. The settlement name might also be Mogio<sup>11</sup> or Mogionensium, but the formal city name, with reference to the urban rank and designating the group of all the inhabitants

of the settlement, along with all the declinational possibilities inherent in the phrase Mogio /Mogiones, conceived as a formal variant of the settlement name suggest the variant Mogionibus in any context. Several such like settlement names are known in the territory controlled by the Roman Empire,<sup>12</sup> specifically in Pannonia there is the toponym of the not far removed Osonibus.<sup>13</sup> The results of the excavations conducted in Környe in the period 1939–2016, local inscriptions and a newly published milestone discovered in Tata (Komárom-Esztergom County) are all witnesses to the existence of a municipium named Mogionibus on the territory of the present village of Környe.<sup>14</sup>

Known elements of urban administration in local and neighbouring inscriptions:

Ordo (decurionum):

1. ordo Mogionibus, A.D. 220–222,<sup>15</sup>
2. ordo Mogionibus, A.D. 245.<sup>16</sup>

Decurio:

1. T. Aelius Maximus decurio municipi, A.D. second half of second century,<sup>17</sup>
2. C. Cassius Karinus decurio municipi, A.D. second century,<sup>18</sup>

<sup>12</sup>[Liébana \(2014\)](#) 183–184.

<sup>13</sup>[Itin. Ant.](#) 263,3–9 Savaria – Aquincum road section: A Sabaria Acinquo mpm CLXVIII: Mestrianis mpm XXX, Mogentianis mpm XXV, Caesariana mpm XXX, Osonibus mpm XXVIII, Floriana mpm XXVI, Acinquo mpm XXX. Cf. also [Graf \(1936\)](#) 127; [Kos and Kos \(2000\)](#) 301.

<sup>14</sup>[Kisné Cseh and Kovács \(2021\)](#) 57–70; [Szabó \(2018\)](#) 129–210.

<sup>15</sup>Környe: RIU 674; AE 1944, 104 (Mráv Zs.); [EDCS9900276](#): [Iul(iae) Aq [uili]ae | Sever[ae] sancti tissimae Aug(ustae) | matri castro | rum senatus | ac patriae | ordo | mun(icipii) M[ol]g(ionibus)].

<sup>16</sup>Környe: RIU S (TRH) 110; AE 2003, 1375 (Mráv Zs.); [EDCS30100965=EDCS27900186](#): [[I]mp(eratori) Cae[s]ari]] | [[M(arco) Iul(io) Phi]] | [[lippo P(io) F(elici)]] | [[Aug(usto) pont(fici)]] | [[max(im)o trib(unicia) pot(estate)]] | [[II c(o)(n)s(uli) p[ro]co(n)s(uli)]] | [[p(atri) p(atriae)]] | [[ordo Mog(ionibus)]]].

<sup>17</sup>Környe: RIU S (TRH) 111; AE 2003, 1376; [EDCS27900187](#); [Szabó \(2018\)](#) 130–201 KO4#:

[D(is)] M(anibus) || T(ito) Ael(io) Candido(?) - - ]QV[.] | [ - - avo - - e]t Ael(iae) Flavinae aviae | [et T(ito) Ael(io) - - mun(icipi)] Mog(ionibus) a(v)unculo et | [..]ia[- - patri?] et Ael(iae) Ca]ndidae matr et T(ito) Ael(io) | Candido qu(a)e[st(orio) municipi]i(?) nepoti et Ael(ius) Flavi | nus vet(eranus) ex b(ene)ficiario [l]eg(ati) [l]eg(ionis) I Adi(utricis)? e]t Iul(ia) Marcella brutis | et T(itus) Ael(ius) Maximus d(ecurio) mun(icipi)? et Aeliae Candidiana et Pul | chra nepotes eorum viv[i] fece[runt] sibi [et pa]rentibus | ka[ris]timis.

<sup>18</sup>Császár: CIL 3 15188; RIU 657; [MNM Lapidarium](#), No. 148, HD37713; [Lupa 8080](#); [Szabó \(2018\)](#) 130–201, Kieg1#: *Terrae | Matri Gene | trici C(aius) Cassius | Karinus dec(urio) mun(icipi) | Mog(ionibus) IIIvir flam(en) | pro se suisq(ue) omni | bus v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*. The recommended extention of the abbreviated town name in earlier times used to be Mog(etiana), nevertheless based on the site and the office of IIIvir, the variant Mog(ionibus) is much more plausible. The founder must have been one and the same with the owner of the brick manufacture producing the Cassi Carini impressed bricks.

<sup>3</sup>1. *Cassi. Carini* impressed brick, with a badge framed within a tabula ansata. Excavated from the wall of the inner fort. [Radnóti \(1941\)](#) 88–89 image 2/1; CIL 3 11460b, site Bakonybánk (Veszprém County). 2. *M. Voc. AMAR(- - -) or ANAR(- - -)* impressed brick, with a badge framed within a tabula ansata. Excavated from the wall of the inner fort. [Radnóti \(1941\)](#) 88–89, image 2/2, the cognomen interpreted as Amar(t ...?).

<sup>4</sup>Cf. [Szabó \(2018\)](#) 181–203. See [Alapi \(1913a\)](#) 36–40; [Alapi \(1913b\)](#), 46–49; [Harl and Lórincz \(2002\)](#) Nr. 5. and Nr. 46, cf. [Lupa](#) 4722 and 4749. In 2017, a further sarcophagus was found: <https://kornye.hu/romai-korzakofagra-bukkantak-kornyen>.

<sup>5</sup>Cf. [Radnóti \(1941\)](#) 77–105; [Bónis \(1982\)](#) 117–161.

<sup>6</sup>In detail [Szabó \(2018\)](#) 129–210.

<sup>7</sup>On the topic cf. [Kovács \(2003\)](#); [Mráv \(2003\)](#) and [Tóth \(2003\)](#). The matter is discussed in detail by [Tóth \(2006\)](#) 76–101.

<sup>8</sup>[Visy \(1999\)](#); RMD 4, 303; AE 2002, 1182; AE 2017, 36; AE 2018, 1284.

<sup>9</sup>CIL 6 32627; AE 2017, 36; AE 2018, 1284.

<sup>10</sup>Cf. also [Visy \(1999\)](#) 575–584, 816–823; [Mráv \(2003\)](#) 331–368.

<sup>11</sup>Cf. [Mráv \(2003\)](#) 331–368 and [Mráv \(2008\)](#).



3. Suriacus Secundinus decurio municipi, A.D. first half of third century,<sup>19</sup>
4. Uncertain: L. Sept(imius) Fuscinus dec(urio) mun(icipi) A.D. first quarter of third century.<sup>20</sup>

Quaestor:

1. T. Aelius Candidus quaestor(io) municipi, A.D. second half of second century.<sup>21</sup>

Quattuorvir:

1. C. Cassius Karinus IIIvir, A.D. second century (see Nr. 4),
2. Suriacus Secundinus quattuorvir(us), A.D. first half of third century (see No. 5).

[ - - - ?]

1. [? - - - municipi] Mogionibus, A.D. second half of second century (see No. 7).

Flamen

1. C. Cassius Karinus flamen, A.D. second century (see No. 4).

Tribus

1. P(ublius) Ael(ius) P(ubli) f(ilius) Serg(ia tribu) Mog(ionibus) Iustinus, A.D. second century,<sup>22</sup>

<sup>19</sup>Tokod: RIU 763; Mander (2012) 625; Prohászka (2005) 13 = AE 2005, +1197; HD038298; EDCS9900324; Lupa 3286; Szabó (2018) 120, TV3#: D(is) M(anibus) | | et perpetu(a)e sec | uritati Aeliae Vita | lin(a)e coniugi | incomparabili | qu(a)e vixit anno | s XXXIII menses V di | es XVIII Suriacus S | ecu{i}ndinus dec(urio) | m(unicipi)? M(ogionibus?) quatt(u) orviru | s(!) maritus f(aciendum) c(uravit).

<sup>20</sup>Aquincum (Budapest III): CIL 3 15166; TitAq Kovács and Szabó 698; Szabó (2018) 149. Bizl: L(ucio) Sept(imio) Fusco sc(h)oł<a=E>stico | qui vixit ann(os) XVIII | L(ucius) Sept(imius) Fuscinus dec(urio) mun(icipi) | Mog(etiana) or -ionibus?) et Iulia Maximilla | parentes filio carissimo | memori(ae) dulcissimae.

<sup>21</sup>Környe: RIU S (TRH) 111; AE 2003, 1376; EDCS27900187; Szabó (2018) 130–201, KO4#: [D(is)] M(anibus) | | [T(ito) Ael(io) Candido(?)] - - - QV[.] | [- - - avo - - - e]t Ael(iae) Flavinae aviae | [et T(ito) Ael(io) - - - mun(icipi)] Mog(ionibus) a(v)unculo et | [..]ia[- - - patri?] et Ael(iae) Ca]ndidae matri et T(ito) Ael(io) | Candido qu(a)e[st(orio) municipi] (?) nepoti et Ael(ius) Flavi | nus vet(eranus) ex b(ene)ficiario | [l]eg(ati) | leg(ionis) I Adi(utricis)? e]t Iul(i) Marcella brutis | et T(itus) Ael(ius) Maximus d(e)curio mun(icipi)? et Aeliae Candidiana et Pul | chra nepotes eorum viv | i fece]runt sibi | et pa]rentibus | ka[riss]imis.

<sup>22</sup>Kovács and Lörincz (2010) 284, Nr. 9 = AE 2010, 1258, Szabó (2018) 130–201, Kieg#: Környe / Tagyospuszta (secondarily built into a Late Imperial Era tomb): D(is) M(anibus) | P(ublio) Ael(io) P(ubli) f(ilio) | Serg(ia tribu) Mog(ionibus) | Iustino | vet(erano) leg(ionis) XIII G(eminae) | Valeria Cy | rilla her(es) | marit(o) pient(issimo) | vi<x=CS>it an(nos) L.

Based on the site situated in the immediate vicinity of Környe, to the northwest from the village, but still within the administrative borders of the settlement, it is certain that Mog(ionibus) is the extension of the town name in line 3, while the earlier Mog(etiana) recommendation is in line with available data at the time of publication.

2. C(aius) Iulius C(ai) fil(ius) Ael(ia tribu) Passar Mogionibus, A.D. 206.<sup>23</sup>

Caput viae

1. A Mog[ionibus], A.D. second century.<sup>24</sup>

The settlement had a quattuorviral system of administration (No. 8–9). This is why, based on the abbreviation Mog., the inscriptions presented above cannot come into account in relation to the duumvirally administrated Mogetiana abbreviated most certainly as Moget.- or Moge.-,<sup>25</sup> and in one case, far removed from Környe, as M.- and they can also be counted out in relation to the even more remote Mursella.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>23</sup>Visy (1999); RMD 4, 303; AE 2002, 1182; AE 2017, +36; AE 2018, +1284: Inotapusza / Bakonycsernye: *Imp(erator) Caes(ar) divi M(arci) Antonini Pii Germ(anici) Sarm(atici) fil(ius) divi Commodi frater divi Antonini Pii nep(os) divi Hadriani pronep(os) divi Traiani Parthici abnep(os) divi Nervae adnepos L(ucius) Septimi Severus Pius Pertinax Aug(ustus) Arab(icus) Adiab(enicus) Parthic(us) max(imus) pontif(ex) max(imus) trib(unicia) pot(estate) XIII imp(erator) XIII co(n)s(ul) III p(ater) p(atria) proco(n)s(ul) et Imp(erator) Caes(ar) L(uci) Septimi Severi Pjii Pertinacis Aug(usti) Arab(icu) Adiab(enici) Parthic(i) max(im) fil(ius) divi M(arci) Antonini Pii Germ(anici) Sarm(atici) nep(os) divi Antonini Pii pronep(os) divi Hadriani abnep(os) divi Traiani Parthic(i) et divi Nervae adnepos M(arcus) Aurelius Antoninus Pius Aug(ustus) trib(unicia) pot(estate) VIII co(n)s(ul) II proc(onsul) nomina militum qui militaverunt in cohortib(us) praetori(i)s decem I II III IIII V VI VII VIII X Piis Vindicibus qui pie et fortiter militia functi sunt ius tribuimus conubi(i) dumtaxat singulis et primis uxoribus ut etiamsi peregrini iuris feminas in matrimonio suo iunxerint proinde liberos tollant ac si ex duobus civibus Romanis natos a(nte) d(iem) VIII Kal(endas) Mar(tias) M(arco) Nummio Albino et L(ucio) Fulvio Aemiliano co(n)s(ulibus) coh(ortis) X pr(aetoriae) P(iae) V(indicis) C(aio) Julio C(ai) fil(io) Ael(ia) Passari Mogionibus descript(um) et recognit(um) ex tabul(a) aer(ea) qu(a)e fix(a) est Rom(a)e in muro post templ(um) divi Aug(usti) ad Minervam // M(arci) Aureli Aquilini | C(ai) Valeri Marcellini | L(uci) Cornelii Augurini | C(ai) Fabi Septimini | M(arci) Aureli Firmini | L(uci) Tertini Vitalis | C(ai) Valeri Vitalis. in this respect cf. also CIL 6, 32627; AE 2017, 36; AE 2018, 1284: Roma: - - - - - | M(arci) Aemilius Verecundus Celei(a) | evo(catus) | M(arci) Aurelius Verus Sisc(ia) | M(arci) Aurelius Bassus Nicop(oli) | Q(uintus) Bul-cl=I>atius Felix <L=I>amb(aese) | | (centuria) Marcianni | M(arci) Aurelius Licinius Sisc(ia) | M(arci) Aurelius Lupus Sirmi(o) | C(aius) Valerius Lupus Sa<v=B>a(ria) | C(aius) Julius Acceptus Agripp(ina?) | C(aius) Iulius Albucius Cast(ris) | M(arci) Amusan(us) Hylacus Nov(i) om(ago) | M(arci) Priscinius Cantarus Trai(ana) | M(arci) Aurelius Masculinus Virun(o) | M(arci) Ingenuinius Super Nov(ioduno?) | L(uci) Verinius Supestes(!) Agrip(pina?) | M(arci) Hortensius Felix Carth(agine) | | (centuria) Agricolae | M(arci) Mamertinus Maternus Aug(usta) | C(aius) Valerius Marcellinus Savar(ia) | M(arci) Aurelius Firminus Celei(a) | C(aius) Iulius Passar Mog(ionibus) | C(aius) Valerius Vitalis Mursa | C(aius) Coponius Silvanus P(o)e<o=A>v(ione) | T(itus) Tertinius Vitalis Celei(a) | L(uci) Cornelius Augurinus Sa<v=B>a(ria) | M(arci) Aurelius Aquilinus Nov(ioduno) | [- - -] Victorius Provinus Her(aclea) | [- - -] Septimius Pia(?) | | (centuria) Verini | M(arci) Aurelius Atticianus Sol(va) | [- - -] Iulius Speratus Au[- -] | [- - -] Valerius Valens Sc | [- - -] M(arci) Aurelius Iustianus C[- - -] | [- - -] II[.].*

<sup>24</sup>Kisné Cseh and Kovács (2021) 57–70, Tata: - - - - - | A Mog[ionibus] | m(ilia) p(assuum) | X[- - ?].

<sup>25</sup>Cf. CIL 3 4338 = CIL 3 11043 = RIU 697, Brigetio (Komárom): Moge(ti)ana; CIL 3 10993 = RIU 642, Ad Status (Acs-Vaspusza, Győr-Moson-Sopron County, HU): Moget(iana).

<sup>26</sup>Cf. RIU S (TRH) 78 = AE 2003, 1376, Vászoly: - - - - - | [- - H]ellenic[- -] | [- - - dec(urioni)] m(unicipi) M(ogetiana)e du[um]viro - - - | [- - - vi]x[i]t a [nn(os)] - - - | - - - - -



Municipium Mogionibus could have most likely been founded according to a quattuorviral constitution at earliest by Hadrian (117–138) in the Imperial Era.<sup>27</sup> Based on the quoted inscriptions referring to the founding of the settlement and also on locally significant texts containing *tribus* designations (Sergia and Aelia) made by Hadrian, it is certain that he had founded the settlement. This town was most probably founded simultaneously with the founding of other urbs by Hadrian in Pannonia, such as Aquincum, and also the municipalities of Carnuntum and the colony of Mursa. This is to say that municipium Mogionibus came into being as part of Hadrian Pannonian urbanization policy. The *tribus* and *pseudotribus* of the town, and its body of *decuriones*, which defined itself as *ordo* in the third century, are known, three *decuriones*, a *quaestor*, two *quattuorviri* and a *flamen* are known. Judging from the function of *quaestor*, the town must have had a separate *aedilis* office, nevertheless there are no known inscriptions referring to that at present. In their totality, the related inscriptions comprise almost all the characteristics of a formal municipal administration. By evidence of the Vespasianus coin discovered in 2005 (Hegyalja Street 9), the settlement already existed in the last third of the first century, most probably with indigenous inhabitants, even though based on the Tiberius coin<sup>28</sup> recorded in the region by Mátyás Bél and also on the *gentilicium* of Passar Iulius, Romans might have already been present a bit earlier in the region, during the age of Roman occupation, anyway. A late first century or early second century inscription of specific text is known in the territory, which suggests Romanization.<sup>29</sup> Similarly, the furnace in Környe can be linked to the early second century Aquincum pottery workshop of pottery master Resatus.<sup>30</sup> Several inscriptions discovered on site and in the close neighbourhood document citizens of the settlement and their everyday life.<sup>31</sup> The territory of Mogionibus municipium bordered on a military area (*prata*) northward, on the territory of Aquincum eastward, on the territory of Mogetiana southward, and beginning with the Severan era, eastward it most probably bordered on the territory of Brigetio. A 2007 excavation (conducted in the courtyard of the Town Hall, Alkotmány Street no. 2–4) revealed, under

<sup>27</sup>Cf. Vittinghoff 1977, 3–51; Nagy M. 2003, 446 with the earlier literature.

<sup>28</sup>“Hodiedum occurunt nummi imperatorum Tiberii, Traiani, Aurelii, Domitiani, Constantini, Faustinae, Liviae et aliorum ...” – *Bél Not. Hung.* 290.

<sup>29</sup>Környe: RIU 665 (J. Fitz and A. Mócsy); FPA I, 250–251 (B. Fehér); EDCS9900269; EDH HD037789; *Lupa* 8946; Szabó (2018) 193–197, KO22#: Side A: *I D O R M | IRSAL+S | VO RET | DASENS | DINECT | [...] + [...]* Side B: *SECR | DOTA | ASA | MO | NEM | M[.]* and according to the latest probable interpretation: *I(ovi) {D} O(ptimo) {R} M(aximo) | pr(o) sal(ute) ++ S | vo(tum) ret(tulit) | Dasens | Dinect | [i f(iilius)] c(on) | | secr(avit) | dota(vit)? | Asa | mo | Nem | m[i f(iilio)?] | [sac(er)date]?.*

<sup>30</sup>Cf. Maróti (1991) 365–427 and Nagy (2017).

<sup>31</sup>Synopses: Szabó (2018) 181–203 cf. RIU 663–683 and RIU S (TRH) 106–111; see also Bokod: RIU 661; Kömlőd: RIU 662; Tatabánya-Alsógalla: RIU 696; Tatabánya: 716–721; Várgezesztes: RIU 722–723 (all of them in Komárom-Esztergom County, HU).

the late Roman Age planar strata, by the northern edge of the built Roman road, a treasure find of silver denarii placed in a broken Terra sigillata bowl. The final imprint of these coins was a mint bright Diva Mariniana denarius (RIC 6), issued between the years 253–260. According to this, the settlement perished in 260 the latest. Later than this year, there are no known Early Imperial Era archaeological finds recorded in the territory. Similar to most of the settlements in Pannonia Inferior, the one discussed here was most probably destroyed by the 258–260 military campaigns of the peoples of the neighbouring Barbaricum.<sup>32</sup> The municipium existed between the reigns of Hadrian and Gallienus. Before 214, it belonged to the urban network of Pannonia Superior, while after 214, to that of Pannonia Inferior.

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