

The International Review of Ancient Art & Archaeology

MINERVA

SEPTEMBER 1990 PUBLISHED IN GREAT BRITAIN £2.50/\$5.00 USA VOLUME 1 NUMBER 7

SEUSO TREASURE:
THE HUNGARIAN
CONNECTION

JASON & THE GOLDEN
FLEECE

ANTIQUITIES
COLLECTION OF
SHELBY WHITE &
LEON LEVY

CORINTH MUSEUM
THEFT

REDISCOVERING
POMPEII

ANTIQUITIES & HUNT
COINS SALES REPORTS

VALLEY OF THE KINGS
CONFERENCE

TEXTILES FROM PERU



Detail of a Bust of a Man, Antonine, c. 160-170 A.D., from the Shelby White and Leon Levy Collection, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



0 9502688 72122 2



page 4



page 16



page 33



page 45

4 **The Seuso Roman Silver**
The Hungarian Connection

Mihály Nagy & Endre Tóth

13 **Jason and the Golden Fleece**
Finds in Georgia show Reality behind the Myth

A.J.S. Spawforth

16 **Glories of the Past**
A Remarkable Private Collection of Antiquities

Jerry Theodorou

23 **Stolen Objects**
The Corinth Museum Theft

Stavros Aspropoulos

26 **Textiles**
Precolombian Peruvian Textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum

28 **Conference Review**
The Valley of the Kings at Highclere Castle

P.A. Clayton

33 **Auction Reports**
The Summer Antiquities Sales

J.M. Eisenberg

45 **Rediscovering Pompeii**
Computers and Archaeology

47 **Museum Acquisitions**
Iron Age Chieftain at the British Museum

Ian Stead

2 & 20 News	39	Calendar
30 Numismatic News	42	Book Reviews

NEXT MONTH

- Turkish Museums
- Egyptian Newsletter
- York Archaeological Resource Centre
- The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

Editor-in-Chief
Jerome M Eisenberg
Editors
Peter Clayton
Barri Jones
Managing Editor
Anna Lethbridge
Contributing Editors
Arnold Saslow
Stavros Aspropoulos
Mensun Bound
Publisher
David Kidd

Published in England
by the proprietor
Aurora
Publications Ltd.,
7 Davies Street,
London, W1Y 1LL
Tel: 071 495 2590
Fax: 071 491 1595

Advertisement Sales
(except US)
Martin Barton-Smith,
7 Davies St, London
W1Y 1LL
Tel: 071 495 2590
Fax: 071 491 1595

Advertisement Sales
(US)

East: Suzanne
Verdugo, Suite 2D,
153 East 57th St.,
New York, NY 10022.
Tel: (212) 355 2033
Fax: (212) 688 0412
West: Todd Barthold,
332 North Beverly
Drive, Beverly Hills,
California, 90210.
Tel: (213) 550 1198
Fax: (213) 550 1395

Trade Distribution
United Kingdom:
AGB Impres Ltd,
22-26 Farringdon
Lane, London, EC1
US & Canada:
Disticor, Toronto

Design
UP,
Kingston-on-Thames,
Surrey

Printed in England
by Simpson Drewett,
Richmond, Surrey.

Annual subscription:
UK £17.50,
Europe £20,
Rest of World
(Air) £30/US \$48
(Surface) £20/US \$32

Published monthly,
except July and
August

All rights reserved; no
part of this publication
may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval
system, or transmitted
in any form or by any
means, electronic,
mechanical, photo-
copying, recording, or
otherwise without
either the prior written
permission of the Pub-
lisher/or a licence per-
mitting restricted
copying issued by the
Copyright Licensing
Agency Ltd, 33-34
Alfred Place, London,
WC1E 7DP

ISSN 0957 7718
©1990 Aurora
Publications Ltd.

Central medallion from the great Seuso plate. The inscription reads: *H(a)ec Seuso tibi durent per saecula multa posteris ut prosint vascula digna tui* 'Let these small vessels, Seuso, last for you for many ages, so that they may be worthy of and benefit your descendants.'



One of the most intriguing questions surrounding the Seuso Treasure, the magnificent hoard of late Roman silver disclosed earlier this year, is that of its origin. After claims by Lebanon and Yugoslavia, the spotlight now turns to Hungary, the site of 'Pelso' the Latin name for Lake Balaton, mentioned on the Seuso plate. Mihály Nagy and Endre Tóth, of the Hungarian Archaeological Museum, argue here that the treasure not only originally belonged to a family in the region of Lake Balaton, but remained in the area and was hidden there, where it was eventually discovered.

Detail of one of the sculpture-groups decorating the top of the legs of the Polgárdi tripod. A nereid holds an apple and a triton with cornucopia and rudder. The narrow face, wide eyes, full neck and constricted shoulders of the nereid contrast with the lively and well-proportioned triton. Using two styles on the same artefact is characteristic of the age of Constantine the Great.



THE SEUSO TREASURE

The Pannonian Connection?

Mihály Nagy and Endre Tóth

*In qua Pannonia est lacus maximus
que dicitur Pelsois*

*"in Pannonia there is a very large
lake called Pelso"*

Thus recorded the anonymous author of the *Ravenna Cosmography* based on the work prepared by a Goth geographer who had lived at the court of Theoderic the Great. The lake and its surroundings must have been well-known to the Goths because, as Iordanes tells us, Theoderic was born not far from Lake Balaton, and his father Theodemir ruled the part of Pannonia which was situated between the Balaton and the Danube.

Balaton, the largest lake in Pannonia (and also in Central Europe), is mentioned by several earlier authors. It had been referred to by Pliny the Elder in the first century A.D., by Aurelius Victor in the fourth century A.D., then later by Iordanes in his history of the Goths, and finally by the author of *Conversio Bagoariorum et Carantanorum*, written in the ninth century A.D., describing the conversion of the Bavarians and the Carinthians to the Christian faith.

The name Pelso originates from the period preceding the Roman conquest of Pannonia, and is in all probability of Celtic origin. It was used continuously up to the ninth century A.D., when the region of the lake constituted the easternmost border province of Charlemagne and was mentioned in a diploma. No other lake called Pelso is known in Europe or in any other territories of the Roman Empire.

The Slavic population, who settled in the marshy region at the western end of Lake Pelso in the ninth century A.D., gave the lake a new name; in their language they called it Blato, on account of its marshy environment. This name was preserved in the Hungarian Balaton and the German Plattensee.

There is no argument that the same name, Pelso,

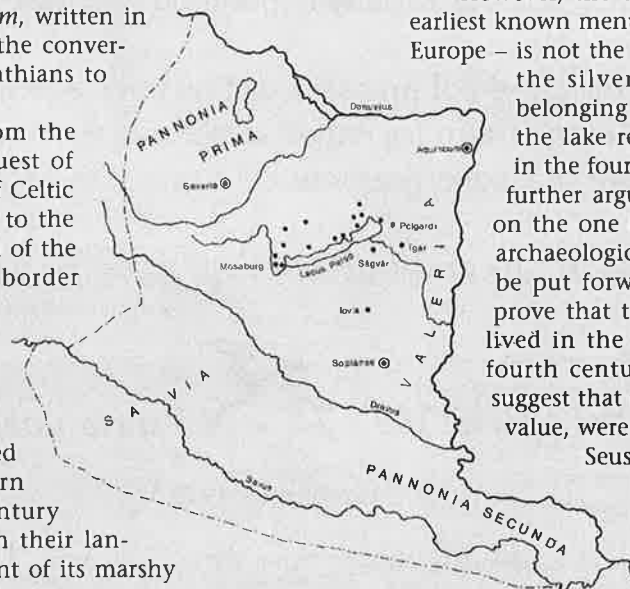
can be read on the magnificent plate which gives the Seuso treasure its name. Moreover, it is placed above a water scene inhabited by fish and surrounded by trees. This fortunate occurrence of the name can help to determine the provenance of the find: the owner of the treasure presumably lived in the vicinity of the lake named Pelso. As Kenneth Painter pointed out in his article on the Seuso treasure (*Minerva*, April 1990), the medallion in the centre of the Seuso plate differs from similar representations in being very individual. Not only is the name of the owner given in the dedication legend around the central medallion, but also the name of one of his favourite horses and that of the nearby lake which figures in the picture. Pelso occurs only on the dish which is most closely connected with the person of the owner; the central roundel depicts a family picnic on the lake, and it is also on this dish (probably from a donor of very distinguished rank) that the dedication addressed to Seuso and his descendants is to be found.

However, the citing of the lake – which is the earliest known mention of the largest lake in Central Europe – is not the only evidence that the owner of the silver dish and the dinner service belonging to it lived in a villa situated in the lake region of north-eastern Pannonia in the fourth century A.D. A whole series of further arguments based on the actual find on the one hand, and on our historical and archaeological knowledge on the other, can be put forward. These arguments not only prove that the owner of the treasure, Seuso, lived in the vicinity of Lake Balaton in the fourth century A.D., but they also strongly suggest that the silver dishes, of extraordinary value, were hidden where they were used by

Seuso and his descendants, i.e. in the Balaton region, in one of the known Roman villas (or one still awaiting excavation), or on the land of the estate belonging to it. It is incomprehensible

why the most obvious source for the origin of the Seuso treasure has not yet been raised; namely, ►

The Pannonian provinces in the 4th century A.D. Points in circle: centres of administration; points with place names: Roman sites mentioned in the text; points: villas in the Balaton region.



The Seuso Treasure

the possibility of the treasure having been hidden where it had been used, i.e. in the region of Lake Pelso. There are a number of Roman villas known to us in the Balaton (Pelso) region, among the best known being Kékkút, Orvényes, and Baláca.

As we shall see, it becomes very obvious that the suggested Lebanon origin of the treasure, or its later concealment in the sixth or seventh centuries A.D., is unacceptable. So far 14 pieces of the find, one of the largest late-antique silver treasures known, have been made public, as well as the large bronze cauldron in which the objects were hidden. This group, part of a table service, contains only the dishes used to serve food and drink and the toilet vessels required for washing hands. Unlike many of the other late antique treasures, the Seuso treasure so far published does not include the smaller objects that might be expected, such as plates, cups, cutlery, and other items like coins, broken up scrap silver ready for re-use or jewels, trappings, etc. It is possible that they have yet to be declared and are in the unpublished part of the treasure. The total number of pieces in the treasure is not known, but it may be estimated at around 40



The large bronze cauldron which held the Seuso treasure.

items by analogy with other finds. Obviously, more may come to light later, since evidence from finds of similar late Roman or early Byzantine silver treasures indicates that the smaller pieces were sometimes hidden separately from the larger ones.

A silver dish presently known only from the description of David Keys, the archaeological correspondent of *The Independent* of London (28 May 1990), is a piece of great importance. Similar to but larger than other fourth-century dishes decorated with the portraits of rulers, this one has Constantine the Great surrounded by representations of his fellow emperors. On the basis of the view published in *The Independent*, this dish was prepared for the celebration of the thirtieth year of the emperor's rule in A.D. 336. The date of the dish obviously has a bearing on dating, or at least suggesting the earliest date for the whole hoard. Obviously, a group of so many decorated pieces cannot be dated without careful examination of the individual dishes. We could come significantly closer to determining the date of manufacture and of hiding the treasure if it was possible to identify any coins which formed part of the

WANTED TO PURCHASE:

FINE ANTIQUITIES OF ALL PERIODS

We are prepared to travel world-wide to acquire select works of ancient art for our rapidly expanding clientele.

We will purchase collections of any size, act as your agent to sell your objects on commission, or exchange them for other select pieces from our extensive inventory (see our advertisement on the inside back cover).

Send photographs and full details if possible with your letter.

royal-athena galleries



new york - beverly hills

Established 1942

153 East 57th Street, New York, New York 10022

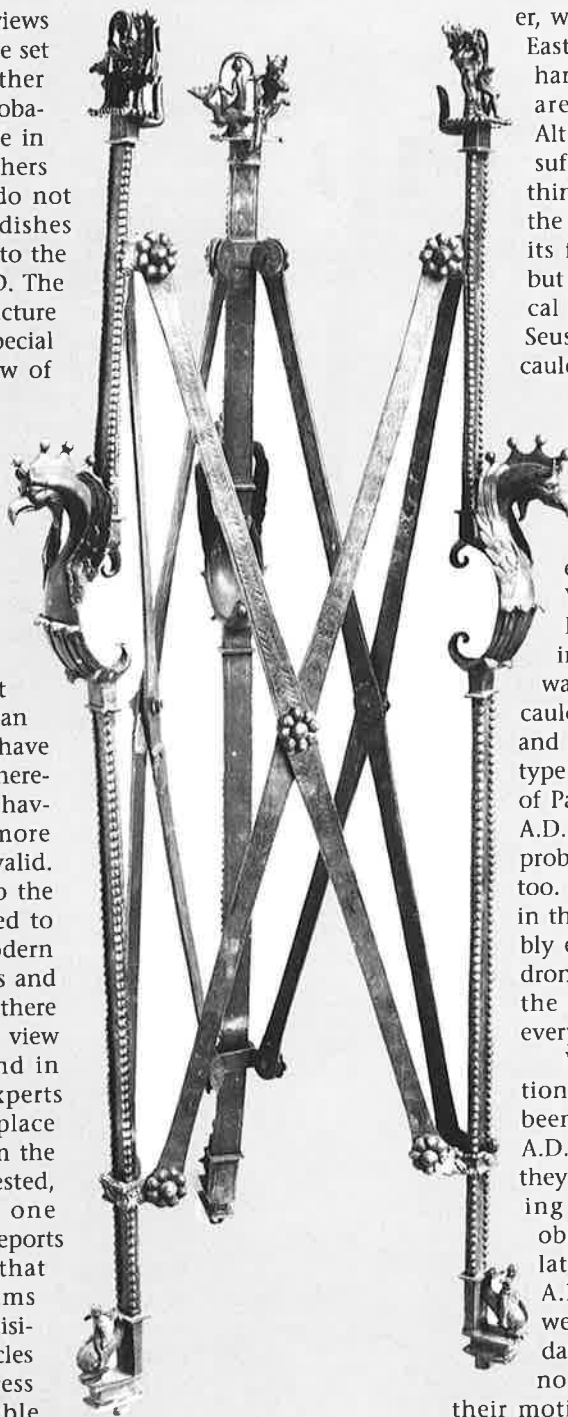
Telephone (212) 355-2034 • Fax (212) 688-0412

The Seuso Treasure

hoard. However, we agree with the views expressed so far that the pieces of the set were made over several decades rather than within a short period. In all probability, some of the pieces were made in the Constantinian period while others are later. On the other hand, we do not accept as a proven fact that the dishes include pieces which may be dated to the first decades of the fifth century A.D. The pinpointing of the period of manufacture of the objects in the treasure is of special significance from the point of view of suggesting a date when it was hidden. Valeria, the north-eastern province of Pannonia, was overrun by the Huns in the 430's A.D., as a result of the removal of the Roman population to the south-western part of the province, the Italian border, in all probability with the co-operation of Aetius. Consequently, after this time, there were hardly any wealthy families left in north-eastern Pannonia (Hungarian Transdanubia today), which could have hidden such significant treasures. Therefore the possibility of the treasure having been hidden in Yugoslavia, more exactly in western Istria, is quite valid. Dozens of ancient sources testify to the population of Pannonia having fled to Dalmatia and other regions of modern Yugoslavia, driven first by the Huns and then by the Goths. In spite of that, there is no evidence as yet to support the view that the Seuso treasure was found in Yugoslavia. Even the Yugoslav experts have been unable to agree on a place where the treasure was found. From the several possible provenances suggested, all lying a great distance from one another, and on the basis of the reports published in the press, it seems that individual republics and museums have entered the fight for the acquisition of the find. However, the articles published in the international press have not presented any acceptable arguments, let alone proof of the treasure having been excavated in the Lebanon or Yugoslavia, or even in Albania. For that reason, the suggestion that Seuso's descendants were soldiers posted to faraway provinces, or that the family fled, leaving behind its real wealth, or moved to another province, are all assumptions that only serve to complicate matters further.

The author of Sotheby's catalogue (Dr Mango) argued that the find was hidden in the sixth-seventh centuries A.D. on the grounds that the bronze cauldron (left) containing it was made in the Near East ('The type is first found in Early Byzantine vessels of the sixth-seventh centuries excavated in the Near East.')

To find the best parallel for the cauldron, howev-



4. The Polgárdi silver tripod. Found in 1878 in the Balaton region in the vicinity of a Late Roman complex of buildings, which were in use from the end of the 3rd to the end of the 4th century A.D., and thought to be the remains of a vast villa estate. The actual find spot is a limestone-dolomite hill.

er, we do not have to go as far as the Near East; there are known examples closer to hand. Cauldrons raised from bronze sheet are also characteristically Pannonian. Although many such large cauldrons have suffered heavy corrosion because of their thin plates, there is an intact example of the same type from Pannonia. Not only is its form identical to the Seuso cauldron but their diameters are also almost identical too (its diameter is 80cm. whilst the Seuso cauldron is 83cm.). The Pannonian cauldron plays an important role in determining the place and date of the deposition of the Seuso treasure in several respects. Even this cauldron's provenance is extremely close to the possible provenance of the Seuso treasure; it was excavated in north-eastern Pannonia, in the province of Valeria, some 38km. south-west of Lake Balaton, in the village of Igar. Another interesting feature is that the cauldron was also used for hiding treasure. The Igar cauldron is well dated by the bronze vessels and the other objects discovered in it. This type of cauldron occurs in the eastern part of Pannonia as early as the second century A.D., but the basic cauldron type was, in all probability, made over much longer periods too. Whilst the valuable silver vessels could, in theory, be used over a long period, possibly even centuries, the simple bronze cauldron, which served as a container for hiding the treasure, was of a type which was in everyday use and had a short life.

We find it difficult to believe the suggestion that, although the silver vessels had been manufactured in the fourth century A.D., or possibly early in the fifth century, they were hidden some 200 years later, during which two centuries no additional objects had been added. Against such a late deposition (sixth-seventh centuries A.D.) is the strong objection that there were no objects in the group that could be dated later than the 430's A.D. There are no characteristic features on the vessels, their motifs and iconography or techniques of manufacture, that would date any of the pieces to the fifth century A.D. with any conviction. On the other hand, the bronze cauldron containing the treasure is not only a Pannonian form which is easy to date, but it is also a known type that was in use for a long time close to the region of the treasure's origin. Such considerations do not allow us to accept a date later than the 430's A.D. for the hiding of the Seuso treasure.

The name Seuso occurs on the rim of the same silver dish on which Lake Balaton, the *lacus Pelso*, is depicted. In Dr Marlia Mango's view, the name Seuso is of German origin, and its bearer may have been an officer of western 'barbarian' origin in the service of one of the late Roman emperors. Her opinion is justified and logical to a certain extent. In Pannonia, ■

The Seuso Treasure

and in other parts of the Empire, people of high rank and wealth who did not have Roman names can be found in the Roman army of the fourth century A.D. A single name, consisting of a non-Roman-sounding cognomen, might indicate that its owner was one of those men originating from territories outside the Empire, mainly Germans, who served in large numbers in the Roman army of the period, some of whom rose to high office.

If we examine the name Seuso more closely, we may come to completely different conclusions. As in many other provinces of the Empire, the number of inscriptions, and therefore of names preserved, decreased in the last century of the 400 years of Roman rule. Even so, a considerable number of Pannonian names are known to us, mostly of Latin or Greek origin. Just a few examples will illustrate this; the Christian martyrs: Quirinus, Pollio, Victorinus, Anastasia, Demetrios, Syneros, Iraeneus; bishops: Domnio, Photinos, Anemius, Cornelius, Laurentius, Eusebius, Amantius, Marcus, Maximus, Valens, Gaius, Aprianus, Agrippinus, Paulus; commoners in the province: Aelia, Calendina, Mucianus, Bassus, Leo, Caianus, Iustinus, etc. – the list could be continued at length. These names do not include a single example that may be termed as characteristically 'ethnic'. This can be unequivocally stated on the basis of research on Pannonian names, primarily on the work of Professor András Mócsy.

So who was this Seuso living in the fourth century A.D. and what name did he bear? We have to answer the question of the origin of the name, and we have to explain why a person of rank and wealth did not use a Roman name in this period and in this territory.

Amongst the personal names recorded in Pannonia in the second century A.D., there are only two similar names among the great number ending in -so: Deuso and Reuso. These two names may be of Celtic origin, but further investigation is needed to determine their origin and the ethnic attachment of those bearing them. However, despite its similar sound, the name Seuso has no connection with them but rather with Seuthes, a personal name widely spread in the North Balkans. The latter is undoubtedly of Thracian origin as is proved by provenances and linguistic data. The names Seuthes, Seutes, Seuto are known from a number of second to third century inscriptions found in the territories of Moesia Inferior and Moesia Superior, as well as in the Scythia Minor provinces. This region had a Thracian native population during the period of the Roman Empire.

The bearers of the highest rank of the name Seuthes were the kings of the Odrysai, the strongest Thracian alliance of tribes (see e.g. Livy 42, 51, 10). The name has also survived as an element of a geographical name in Seuthopolis, the royal capital founded by Seuthes III, so the name is well attested. Its widespread popularity is also indicated by its use in the sixth century A.D. – if we accept that the Sethos mentioned by Menander Protector (Frg. 63.30), the commander of the garrison of Singidunum in A.D.579–580, had a name of Thracian origin. The long use of Thracian names in the



The Hippolytus Ewer from the Seuso Treasure.

Roman Empire is not surprising since the Thracians, especially the Northern Balkan Bessi, were amongst the people most difficult to 'Romanize'. Hence Thracian names are frequently encountered in the Balkan provinces and also in the related evidence from Pannonia. From the second century A.D. we know of a man named Seutes of Bessian origin who lived in Aquincum, the centre of eastern Pannonia. (L. Valerius Seutes dome Bessus, *AnEpigr.* 1933, 10). The name Seuthes also appears in the form of Seutho. As a parallel to the ending of the name Seuso, several Thracian-Illyrian personal names ending in -so/-zo may be cited (e.g. Diso, Dizo), or the name of the dynasty of the Geta kings, Coso.

Is it possible to connect the name Seuthes (and its versions) with Seuso, the one-time owner of the treasure, and if so, how? How could a Thracian name appear in north-eastern Pannonia in the fourth century A.D.? These questions need thorough investigation because Pannonia had no Thracian population. The small number of Thracians in Pannonia mainly served as soldiers in auxiliary units and that is how they came to the province for intermittent periods. However, this statement holds true only for the first three centuries of the Empire. In A.D.295 the Carpi people living on the south-eastern

border of the Carpathians were forced to escape from the Goths coming from the direction of the Black Sea and, as was then customary, they asked to be allowed into, and settle in, the Roman Empire, and they were given permission. They were probably settled in their new domicile in several groups rather than in one large block. A significant number settled in north-eastern Pannonia. The Carpi also settled in the wider region of Sopianae which was the civic administration centre of Valeria (see Ammianus Marcellinus, XXVIII, 1.5.). Archaeological evidence of Carpic settlers has been excavated in north-eastern Pannonia; cremation graves were found in the territory of the Sopianae (Pécs) and Iovia (Alsóhetény), and a Carpic settlement was excavated west of Ságvár.

The Carpi were a people with a Thracian-Dacian culture. Since they lived outside the Empire they did not practise the custom of setting up inscriptions and thus their personal names are not known to us. Nevertheless, on account of their ethnic-cultural attachment, it can hardly be denied that their personal names were more or less identical with those of other peoples of Thracian origin; at most there may have been dialect versions within the forms of names. It may be such dialect difference that we see in the form of Seuso, which may be the Carpic version of the north Balkan Thracian Seuthes-Seutho. The development of the sounds -th- into -s- is easy to interpret linguistically.

On the basis of the above we believe that the owner of the silver treasure, Seuso, bore a Thracian

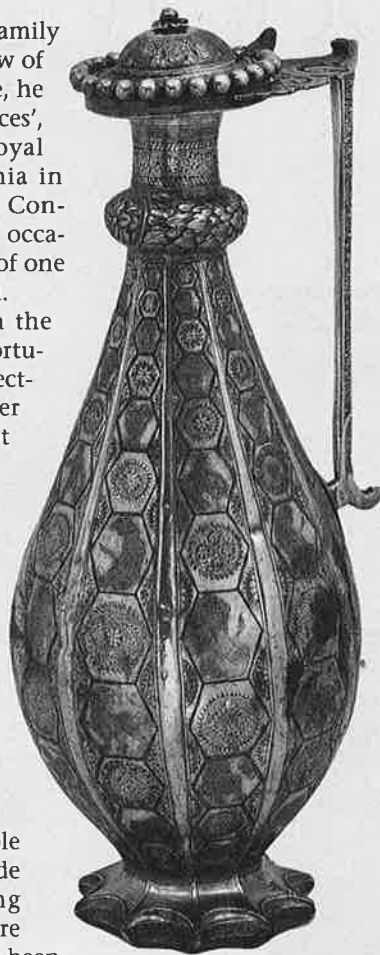
The Seuso Treasure

name and he or his father and his family moved to Pannonia in A.D.295. In view of the name and the value of the treasure, he was probably one of the leaders, 'princes', of the Carpic migrants. His later loyal behaviour and activities in Pannonia in support of the emperors, including Constantine the Great – perhaps on the occasion of an imperial visit to Pannonia of one of them – occasioned their gifts as well.

It may also be conjectured from the contemporary sources which have fortunately survived – appropriately connected to the Pelso inscription and water depiction on the Seuso plate – what task was actually given to Seuso (or perhaps his father leading the Carpi who first settled down here) in Pannonia. It is known from Aurelius Victor that the Emperor Galerius *agrum satis reipublicae commendantem caesis immanibus silvis atque emissis in Danuvium lacu Pelsoe apud Pannonios fecisset* (Caes. 40,9-10). 'So Galerius had forests felled and marshlands drained in Pannonia, and in the course of the latter activities he connected the Balaton and the Danube in order to gain arable land'. Since he was only able to provide the large number of people settling there with boggy lands, the Carpi were the most suitable as a people who had been defeated and recently settled. This had previously occurred in Pannonian history when *colonia Emona* was established. Here the emperor Tiberius allocated a marshy region for the settlers, but they were legionary veterans and almost rioted against him. The Carpi, as a defeated people, had no choice where to go. Thus, we do not consider it impossible that the Carpi were used for the work mentioned by Aurelius Victor, and were led by Seuso, or perhaps his father.

If it is also remembered that the area of the drained marshland around Lake Balaton is located in the vicinity of the most important crossroads in inner eastern Pannonia, it becomes understandable why the loyalty of the Carpi and their leaders settled there was important to Rome in a period full of risk and war. The region also played an important role in the period of the Great Migration. Later still it was in this area that Székesfehérvár, the seat of the Hungarian rulers and subsequently the capital of the country, was established. Thus we believe that there is a sufficient cause and effect relationship between the sources and the archaeological evidence to account for the name of Seuso, his Carpic origin and presence in Pannonia in the fourth century A.D.

Not all our arguments regarding the personal identity of Seuso are exhausted. There is another important and outstanding find which may also argue for Seuso having lived in the Balaton region and his descendants having hidden the treasure there. More than a hundred years ago, in 1878, a silver tripod (see p.7) was excavated on a hill of vine-



The Animal Jug
from the Seuso
Treasure.

yards of a village called Polgárdi. This tripod is a noted treasure of the Hungarian National Museum. Although the tripod deserves wider recognition since it is unique among late Roman silver plate, it is known only to a few students of late antique silverwork. Soon after its excavation J. Hampel published it in 1880, and Bunnell Lewis described it in 1893. A detailed account of it was published in 1931 by Gizella Erdélyi. According to earlier research, the silver tripod was made in the middle of the fourth century A.D., perhaps in the eastern part of the Empire. We believe that it might be possible to connect the Polgárdi tripod with the Seuso treasure. As previously mentioned, the three-legged stand is of silver, making it unique since silver tripods from the Roman period are only known from the early first century A.D. Hildesheim treasure. The Polgárdi tripod differs from the bronze tripods in an unusual way. On account of its being silver, its date, style, the significantly larger dimensions than the tripods, as well as its provenance, it stands far closer to the Seuso treasure. Although these objects are of the same period, bearing the general traits of the art of the Empire, there are some conspicuous parallels. On the tripod we may observe an exaggerated use of bead decoration (see p.11), typical of the period, just as on some pieces in the Seuso treasure, especially on the handle of the Hippolytus Ewer (far left). The large, beaded decoration on the rivets of the hinged hold-fast of the tripod is reminiscent of the domed lid of the Animal Jug (left). Also conspicuous are the small beads on the dorsal crest of the griffins of the tripod, revealing a very close kinship with the form of the feet of the Seuso situlae. On account of the similarities in the decoration, special attention should be paid to the provenance of the tripod, situated in the Balaton region, some 15km. from the lake on the edge of the former marshes. The actual provenance is a limestone-dolomite hill used as a quarry in Roman times, in which natural caves and larger fissures can be found.

Finally, it cannot be ignored that the Seuso treasure, one of the largest silver dinner services of the late Roman Empire, and the richly decorated silver tripod, unique finds from the late Roman Empire, complement each other. The tripod on which silver plate is placed is a necessary accessory of a dinner service – as may be seen in the centre of the medallion on the Seuso plate. In his quoted study, Kenneth Painter referred to the surprising circumstance that one of the servant girls in the relief scene on the toilet box is bringing her mistress a toilet box just like the one on which this representation occurs. If we accept the unity of form, function and decoration of the Seuso plate, it becomes even more probable that the plate itself, and the tripod belonging to it, might very well have been represented on a plate placed on a tripod when it was being used. It cannot be proved that the Seuso plate itself is depicted in the central medallion of the plate, but it is certain that the rim of the plate represented in the middle tondo is decorated with a row of beads just like the beaded rim of the Seuso plate. The tripod represented in the medallion allows us to assume that a tripod of similar high finish also comprised part of the



An Important Roman Bronze Life-size Head of Augustus

Found during foundation excavations for the English Church of All Saints on the Via del Babuino in the Campus Martius, Rome, on September 15, 1880. Sold by the antiquarian Giuseppe Scalabrini to Don Marcello Massarenti. Two other bronze heads were given by Scalabrini to the Capitoline Museums and three additional fragmentary heads, now in the Walters Gallery, were sold by Massarenti to Henry Walters in 1902. The whereabouts of our Augustus head were unknown until it recently was acquired by the French collector Roger Videau. It was first published by Rodolfo Lanciani in *Notizie degli scavi di Antichita*, 1880, 466.

Ca. 20 B.C.-20 A.D. 12 7/8" (32.7 cm.)

Royal-Athena now sells more select works of ancient art than any other gallery, having quadrupled its sales over the past two years. We attribute this rapid growth to our thirty years of internationally acknowledged expertise and connoisseurship, the desire to exhibit the widest range of ancient works of art, currently over 3000 objects, at competitive prices and in an open and friendly atmosphere. We are currently selling to over 650 collectors, colleagues and museums in 18 countries. Whether you are interested in a Greek terracotta head for \$200 or a masterwork bronze for \$2,000,000, we would be pleased to add your name to our rapidly growing list of clients.

Send for our FREE full-color 20-page brochure. The following publications are also available:

- ART OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, Vol. IV (1985),
679 objects, 192 color plates \$15.00
- THE AGE OF CLEOPATRA (1988),
150 objects, 29 color plates 2.00
- GODS & MORTALS: Bronzes of the Ancient World
(1989), 180 objects, 49 color plates 4.00

GREEK, ETRUSCAN, ROMAN, EGYPTIAN & NEAR EASTERN ANTIQUITIES
EUROPEAN SCULPTURE THROUGH 1800 • OLD MASTER PRINTS & DRAWINGS
ISLAMIC, SOUTHEAST ASIAN & ORIENTAL WORKS OF ART
PRE-COLUMBIAN & TRIBAL ART • GREEK, ROMAN & BYZANTINE COINS

royal-athena galleries



new york - beverly hills

Established 1942

153 East 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10022
Tel.: (212) 355-2034 Fax: (212) 688-0412
Monday-Saturday, 10 to 6

36, Place des Antiquaires, 125 East 57th St.,
New York, N.Y. 10022 Tel.: (212) 593-1193
Monday-Saturday, 11 to 6

332 North Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, Ca. 90210
Tel.: (213) 550-1199 Fax: (213) 550-1395
Monday-Saturday, 10 to 6

Royal-Athena at B.A. Seaby Ltd.
7 Davies Street, London W1Y 1LL, England
Tel.: (44) 071-495-2590 Monday-Friday, 9:30 to 5
(Send for a free copy of "Antiquities Forum")



*Marble Seated Female Figure, Aegean Neolithic, c. 5000 – 3500 B.C.,
from the Shelby White and Leon Levy Collection, at the Metropolitan
Museum of Art, New York*