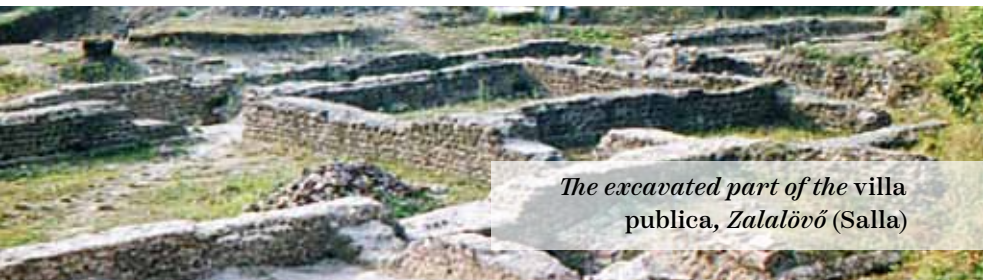




ZALAEGRSZEG



Gőcseji Museum



The excavated part of the villa publica, Zalaalövő (Salla)

The Late Roman Period of the Present Zala County

In the 4th century, the area of the present County Zala was part of the Roman province *Pannonia Prima* with its capital Savaria (today Szombathely). The economic prosperity that characterised the era and the prominent role of the Pannonian regions resulted in significant development in the province.

The Roman town Salla (Zalaalövő), which had earlier become deserted, experienced its second golden age in the 4th century. This was when the *villa publica* was built, which played an important role in the administration of the region. Significant construction was undertaken in the areas of estate centres (*villae*) in the proximity of roads connecting towns. The Keszthely–Fénépuszta inner fortress of the Western region of Lake Balaton was also built at that time. The fortress, covering an area of nearly 15 hectares, was protected by walls 2.5 meters thick and several storeys high guarded by 44 towers and gates with multiple sections. Warehouses, baths, buildings for administration and

receptions were erected inside the fortress. A large cemetery was situated to the south of the fortress. Several barbarian attacks were launched against the territory of Pannonia in the 4th–5th century. Roman rule in *Pannonia Prima* finally ended due to the attacks of the Huns and their allies.



*Glass vessels: jug, vials, and bottle, 4th century
Nagykanizsa—Inkey-chapel (Roman cemetery II.)
Thury György Museum, Nagykanizsa*



*Coin hoard, 4th century
Zalalövő
Göcseji Museum, Zalaegerszeg*



*Bronze vessel, 4th–5th century
Keszthely—Fenekpuszta
Balatoni Museum, Keszthely*