

Abstract for 2009 FIEC /Berlin

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b) Preferred panel:

6. Turning Points in the Reception of Classical Antiquity

c) Title of paper:

**Felix Milleker's Contributions to the Study of the Antiquities of Banat between the 1880's and 1940's**

c) Length of paper:

20 minutes

d) Outline of content:

This paper describes the contributions of the historian and archaeologist Felix Milleker (1858-1942) to the study of antiquities of his native Banat, in southern Pannonia, formerly in Austria-Hungary. From the beginning of his scholarly work in the 1880's until the very end of his life, he published over 200 titles, including 70 books, on the history, archaeology and ethnography of Banat. In the 1880's he also founded the museums in both Bela Crkva (then Weisskirchen) and Vršac, where he remained director for a very long time.

In 1881 Milleker published his first work on Roman antiquities in the periodical *Történelmi és régészeti értesítő* in Temesvar. Until the 1920's he continued publishing in this periodical dozens of papers on ancient history, archaeology, epigraphy and numismatics of Banat, including his studies on paleo-linguistics, paleo-ethnography and Roman mining. His study *Dél-Magyarország római régiségleletei* (*Roman Antiquities of Southern Hungary*, 1892) is of lasting value, and was used as the source-book for large-scale rescue-excavations before the two power-plant dams were built in the 1970's and 1980's across the Danube between Serbia and Rumania.

In his magnum opus *Délmagyarország régiségleletei a honfoglalás előtti időkből* (*The Antiquarian Finds from Southern Hungary... I-III*, Temesvar 1897-1906), Milleker described all the known ancient monuments and finds from Banat. This corpus introduced Southern Pannonia into the study of ancient

history and archaeology of Europe, and still provides valuable data for modern researches in these fields.

For his outstanding work Milleker received several prestigious awards, such as the “St. Savvas” of Serbia, and the medals of the Deutsches Ausland-Institut in Stuttgart and the Deutsche Akademie in Munich.