

A polgárdi mészkőbányák története

History of limestone quarries in Polgárdi, Hungary

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Abstract

The geological research of the Paleozoic limestone on Somlyó Hill and Szár Hill began in 1870. There are still open questions due to the uncertainty of the relative position and the age of some of the formations. Many drillings and several rather old quarries used since the Roman times promoted the increase of the geological knowledge of the area. Quarrying gained industrial significance in the beginning of the 20th century. At present the large quarry plays an important role in providing the surrounding area with limestone products.

The Paleozoic “mountain” range consists of two parts: Somlyó Hill (226 m) and Szár Hill (228 m). It is situated between Polgárdi town and Szabadbattyán village, southwest of Székesfehérvár. Kőszárhegy village lies on the southern foot of the Szár Hill. The Somlyó Hill has already been quarried down almost fully, at present the quarrying is in progress in the western part of the Szár Hill. The area of the Somlyó Hill belongs to Polgárdi town, whereas the quarries of the Szár Hill are situated in the territory of Kőszárhegy (Figs. 1–2).

The oldest archaeological finds of the surrounding area are known from the Somlyó Hill, these are Neolithic tools. Archaeologists of the Hungarian National Museum created a comparative raw material collection (Lithotheca) from rock samples suitable for making stone tools. The crystalline limestone, marble and skarn specimens of Polgárdi are also parts of the collection, but no tools made of these rocks have been found yet by archaeologists.

There were important Roman settlements near Tác and Szabadbattyán villages but on the Somlyó and Szár Hills only a military establishment existed. Many Roman coins and a silver quadripus (four-legged stand) were found in the area. The Seuso treasure (silver tableware) must come from the same place.

The Somlyó Hill is very rich in archaeological finds, especially in medieval ones. A church, a cemetery and a village are known from the 9th-11th century. Written sources also prove the existence of a medieval village called Bökénysomlyó. This village and further estates called Bathyan and Polgárdi belonged to the Bökény family. In 1382 King Sigismund confiscated these estates because of disloyalty. Later, in 1398 the King donated the settlements to György Kővágóörsi who changed his surname to Batthyány after the village. Since the 16th century wine production has had significant role on the Somlyó Hill. The area of the Szár Hill belonged to Szabadbattyán village until 1931 when Kőszárhegy (on the foot of the Szár Hill) was detached from Szabadbattyán. In the first half of the 20th century the quarries provided jobs for the inhabitants. The number of quarrymen culminated in the 1970s when about 150 people worked in the quarries. Then the number of workers decreased gradually, at present down to 65 people have employment in the Somlyó Hill quarry.

On the Somlyó Hill the quarrying began in the early 18th century. In the 1910s three quarries operated there (Fig. 3), then the separate quarries merged into a single one, as the quarrying advanced towards the Szár Hill. The quarry owner was the Count Batthyány family until the nationalisation in 1950. In the middle of the 1950s the large quarry spreading from Somlyó Hill reached the western part of the Szár Hill. There are many disused quarries (Fig. 4) on the Szár Hill. In the beginning of the 20th century each of these

quarries was run by a different owner. Some of these two hundred years old quarries are swallowed up by the large one.

Large-scale production began in 1908 when a crusher (in the Somlyó Hill mine) and a limekiln (in the Batthyány industrial plant) were built. The quarrying work was done by simple tools until 1958 when machinery was introduced. In 1972 a major reconstruction began with the construction of the big separator.

Transport within the quarries was done by mine cars till 1972. In the beginning of the 20th century the cars were run on a slope, then through a tunnel built by prisoners of war during the First World War. Since 1972 the limestone has been transported to the crusher and the separator by conveyor belts.

The limestone has been used for road construction in the surrounding area from the beginning of the production. Before the Second World War a limekiln also operated in the industrial zone close to the quarry (Figs. 5–6). Since 1950, when the iron works were built in Dunaújváros, crushed limestone has been transported in large quantities (about 700,000 t in the 1970s) for flux. In the 1990s due to changes in metallurgical technology and the decrease of the iron demands the output of the quarry fell down to about 250,000 t.

Összefoglalás

A Polgárdi és Kőszárhegy területén elhelyezkedő, paleozoós kristályos mészkövet szolgáltató kőbányák története valószínűleg a római időkbe nyúlik vissza, amikor egy őrállomás működött a területen, bár a Somlyó- és a Szár-hegy környezetében napvilágot látott számos régészeti lelet arról tanúskodik, hogy a terület már a neolitikum óta lakott.

A bányáknak az iparban betöltött szerepe a XX. század elejétől vált jelentőssé. A XX. század elején egy kőfejtő működött a Somlyó-hegyen, mely a gróf Batthyány-család birtokán helyezkedett el, és nyolc kisebb a szomszédos Szár-hegyen. Utóbbiak közül csak egy volt a Batthyányak tulajdonában.

A Somlyó-hegyen a kőbányászat északkelet felé terjeszkedett, majd az 1950-es évek második felében elérte a Szár-hegyet, amelynek letermeléséhez nagy lendületet adott a gépesítés, illetve a géppark felújítása. A korábbi szár-hegyi bányák közül legtovább a termelőszövetkezeti bánya működött, ám itt nem került sor modernizációra. Később ezt is magába olvasztotta a Somlyó-hegy felől terjeszkedő nagy bánya. A gépesítésnek köszönhetően a termelési eredmények nagymértékben megnövekedtek. A legintenzívebb bányászat az 1970–80-as években zajlott, majd az 1990-es évektől visszaesés következett be.

A mészkövet kezdettől fogva főleg útépitési célokra használták fel. A háború előtt mészégető is működött a Batthyány ipartelepen. A kőbánya jelenleg a környék építőipari mészkőtermékekkel való ellátásában játszik fontos szerepet.