Sample Pages
ON THE EARLIER OCCURRENCES OF THE
*cm*-TYPE NETS AND WALLPAPER PATTERNS
IN ORNAMENTAL ARTS OF CENTRAL EURASIA

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Abstract: The *cm*-type wallpaper pattern has a rich occurrence in the old Hungarian art in the archaeology of the Carpathian Basin in the Árpád Age of 9th-10th centuries AD. Several earlier occurrences of this structure have been studied here since the archaeological finds of Urtaru from the 9th-7th centuries BC, through the tomb finds of Zwiyyah from the 7th centuries BC, from Scythian-Hun kurgans of Pazyryk 5th centuries BC, Chinese stone sculpture from the 1st centuries BC, the Sasanian stone reliefs of Firuzabad from the 3rd-4th centuries AD till the Central Asian murals of Bactrian-Choresmian-Sogdian art from the 6th-7th centuries AD. We show some younger occurrences of this structure from the Romanesque architectural and ornamental art of Hungary in the 11th-12th centuries AD, too. We compare these earlier and some younger occurrences of the *cm*-type structure and sketch their distribution in the Central Eurasian ornamental arts.

INTRODUCTION

Ornamental artworks from various cultural communities of Eurasia show that recognition and design of patterns follow some systematic way of development. Ornamental works contain an important aspect, which is inherent both in natural and in artificial products: the larger material structures are built up of smaller, frequently congruent units. This is a common structural background of natural and technological materials systems. This background is a constraint for pattern formation and the recognition of this idea helped in forming new artistic wallpaper types. Not only the
Figure 4: Cut cm-type patterns and centralized sabretach plates in the ornamental art of Old-Hungarians
Figure 3: Om-type patterns with palmette motifs are the favourite adornations of the sabretach plates in the ornamental art of Old-Hungarians from the migration and conquest ages (9th-10th centuries AD).