

Ildikó Poroszlai (1955 – 2005)

Magda Vicze Hungary

- Ildikó Poroszlai, the founder of Hungary's first archaeological park Szazhalombatta and one of the founders of EXARC died on the 18th of February 2005.



Ildikó was born in 1955 in the town Debrecen, Eastern Hungary. She died on the 18th of February 2005 leaving behind her husband András Pálóczi-Horváth and two daughters, Eszter and Anna.

Ildikó finished her high school studies in her hometown. She received ethnography and archaeology diplomas at the Eötvös Loránd Tudomány Egyetem, Budapest in 1982.

Two years later she started work in the small town Százhalombatta, 30 km away from Budapest. The job she was offered was to scientifically systematise the local archaeological and ethnographic collection. This was a good opportunity - she was quick to realise - to create a museum. "All" she had to do was to convince the administration of the town for the need of a museum. This was not an easy task, but as she was a born fighter, she looked upon this challenge as an exciting task. Within three years, in 1987 she succeeded it and the "Matrica" museum was opened in the oldest building of the town, displaying one of the most modern exhibitions of the time. To create something from nothing was what she loved most and was best at. Very soon the museum's collections became organised, catalogued and a continuous collection of materials was introduced. The museum needed more and more professional staff to fulfil all the tasks compiled by Ildi. Her main aim was

to create this museum as a centre for high standard research, education, and temporary exhibitions. In the following years Ildikó conducted several excavations, attended many international conferences, visited numerous European museums. Took major part in a two-year long travelling-exhibition around Europe introducing the archaeological remains of Bronze Age Hungary. This created further opportunities for her to study museum institutions and archaeological parks in Germany, Belgium and France. One of her visits abroad took her to Butser Ancient Farm and there she immediately realised the importance of archaeological parks and experimental archaeology. The parks are excellent tools of education. Visitors can understand and comprehend ancient life through the reconstruction of prehistoric buildings, burial customs, ovens, and environment. It was evident that experimental archaeology is one of the main backbones for both the presentation and the deeper scientific understanding and knowledge of prehistory.

Not even 9 years had passed since Ildikó had the "Matrica" museum open its doors when the whole museum staff was celebrating the inauguration of Hungary's first archaeological park. Its ambitious plan was to represent the archaeological remains of two main prehistoric phases of the area. By fortunate circumstances one

of the Iron Age barrows, when excavated revealed such outstanding archaeological and architectural remains that it gave ideal material for reconstruction. Beside an in situ presentation of the architectural and archaeological finds it was possible to represent the Iron Age burial ceremony with the help of an elaborate multi-media light show. This reconstruction is unique in Europe. The burial mound, the prehistoric building and environment reconstructions, the whole archaeological park, the museum are all physical mementos of Ildikó's energy and exceptional gift of thinking ahead of her time.

The same idea inspired her to broaden international relationships on all of her professional grounds. This included her active part in founding EXARC. She was one of the trainers and co-ordinators

of the MATRA program, which was an inter-governmental agreement between Holland and Hungary, with the aim of improving Hungarian museum management. Ildikó was an ambitious and demanding researcher and archaeologist. She started an excavation with an international team on the Százhalombatta Bronze Age tell. This excavation project, just as all her enterprises, was conducted with exceptional vitality, true sincerity, and the humour which was hers alone. But she was much more than a very successful organiser and director. She was a sincere friend with the warmest hearth, with the most understanding ear, and the utmost helpfulness. She never lost faith, hope, and belief! The "Matrica" Museum, the Archaeological Park, the excavations will never be the same without her!!

Ildikó Poroszlai's Bibliography

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Summary

Ildiko Poroszlai – Ein Nachruf

In Jahr 1984 begann Ildiko Poroszlai mit ihrer Arbeit in der kleinen Stadt Szalhombatta (Ungarn). Die Arbeit, die sie übernahm, sollte der wissenschaftlichen Systematisierung der örtlichen archäologischen und ethnographischen Sammlung dienen. Ihr wesentliches Ziel war jedoch die Entwicklung eines Museums als qualitativ hochwertiges Zentrum für Forschung, Bildung und Sonderausstellungen. Innerhalb von drei Jahren erreichte sie die Gründung des Museums „Matrica“. In den folgenden Jahren führte sie mehrere Ausgrabungen durch, nahm an vielen internationalen Konferenzen teil und besuchte zahlreiche europäische Museen. Bei einem Besuch der „Butser Ancient Farm“ in Großbritannien wurde sie zu weiteren Ideen inspiriert: Nur neun Jahre nach der Eröffnung des Museums konnte Ungarns erster archäologischer Park eingeweiht werden. Sie widmete sich ebenfalls der internationalen Kooperation, wozu auch ihre Mitgliedschaft und aktive Teilnahme bei EXARC gehörte, zu deren Gründungsmitgliedern sie zählt.

Ildiko Poroszlai

Madame Ildiko Poroszlai a débuté sa carrière dans la petite ville de Szazhalombatta en 1984. Le travail dont on la chargea consistait dans la catégorisation scientifique des collections locales, archéologique et ethnographique. Là-bas, elle a pris son objectif principal de créer le musée - un véritable centre des recherches, de l'éducation et des expositions. Au bout de trois ans, elle a réussi à ouvrir le musée „Matrica“. Dans les années suivantes, elle a dirigé plusieurs recherches archéologiques, participé à de nombreuses conférences internationales et visité un grand nombre de musées européens, entre autre Butser Ancient Farm. La visite de ce dernier lui a suggéré son pas suivant; neuf ans après l'inauguration du musée, le premier parc archéologique hongrois ouvre ses portes au public. Ildiko s'est encore consacrée à la collaboration internationale; l'appartenance et une partie active à EXARC, dont elle a été cofondatrice, en sont la preuve.