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## Series Editor Preface

Landforms and landscapes vary enormously across the Earth, from high mountains to endless plains. At a smaller scale, nature often surprises us by creating shapes which look improbable. Many physical landscapes are so immensely beautiful that they receive the highest possible recognition—they hold the status of World Heritage properties. Apart from often being immensely scenic, landscapes tell stories which not uncommonly can be traced back in time to tens of million years and include unique events. In addition, many landscapes owe their appearance and harmony not solely to natural forces. For centuries, and even millennia, they have been shaped by humans who have modified hillslopes, river courses and coastlines, and erected structures which often blend with the natural landforms to form inseparable entities.

These landscapes are studied by geomorphology—‘the science of scenery’—a part of Earth Sciences that focuses on landforms, their assemblages, surface and subsurface processes that moulded them in the past and that change them today. To show the importance of geomorphology in understanding the landscape, and to present the beauty and diversity of the geomorphological sceneries across the world, we have launched a book series, *World Geomorphological Landscapes*. It aims to be a scientific library of monographs that present and explain physical landscapes, focusing on both representative and uniquely spectacular examples. Each book will contain details on geomorphology of a particular country or a geographically coherent region. This volume presents the geomorphology of Hungary—a country that may seem small but presents a remarkable diversity of landscapes, from vast plains to spectacular karst plateaus and ruined volcanic landforms. Nearly 30 case studies introduce the finest examples of geomorphology in Hungary, providing guidance to geoscientists as to where to go to enjoy the very best scenery.

*The World Geomorphological Landscapes* series is produced under the scientific patronage of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG)—a society that brings together geomorphologists from all around the world. The IAG was established in 1989 and is an independent scientific association affiliated to the International Geographical Union (IGU) and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Among its main aims are to promote geomorphology and to foster dissemination of geomorphological knowledge. I believe that this lavishly illustrated series, which sticks to the scientific rigour, is the most appropriate means to fulfil these aims and to serve the geoscientific community. To this end, my immense thanks go to Prof. Dénes Lóczy—a long-standing supporter of the IAG activities and its past Secretary—for adding to his agenda the hard task of editing this volume and successfully coordinating the large team of authors. I hope he is as pleased with the final outcome as I am. I also acknowledge the excellent work of all individual authors who accepted to share their expert knowledge of the country with the global geomorphological community.

Piotr Migoń



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