



Hungary 4382 (2016)

One of two stamps Hungary issued to commemorate Stamp Day in 2016, held that year in Szombathely, depicts a tomb with mythological lions and griffins.

## Tombstone Lions of Szombathely, Hungary by Greg Balagian

Szombathely is the oldest Hungarian city, founded by Romans in 45 A. D. as Colonia Claudia Saveriensum (Claudius' Colony of Savarians).

The city is famous for its rich history and many incredible pieces of architecture and art such as the tombstone of Marcus Sempronius Tuditanus, a Roman politician and consul.

The tombstone is in the form of a stele decorated with bas-reliefs of six mythological felines. Symmetrical pairs of griffins back-to-back and lions facing each other are on the top, and on the very bottom of the stele are two symmetrical winged lions also facing one another.

The scene itself depicts Roman Caesar Constantinus Chlorus proclaiming a law following his victory. 🐾