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TARTALOM – INDEX

FROM LOCAL TO MICROREGIONAL AND BEYOND: SPATIAL STRUCTURES IN AND AROUND THE EARLY MEDIEVAL CARPATHIAN BASIN

Papers submitted to the session organised at the 28th EAA Annual Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 31 August–3 September 2022

Edited by Ivan Bugarski – Erwin Gáll – Gergely Szenthe

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A UNIQUE EARLY IRON AGE BROOCH FROM SOMLÓ HILL

Bence Soós[1] – Balázs Lukács[2] – Csilla Líbor[3]

The aim of this paper is to present an important addition to our knowledge about the Early Iron Age of Somló Hill. In early February 2023, during a metal detector survey of the hill volunteer detectorist Roland Moklovsky found a bronze brooch decorated with a small ornithoid figurine. Although the item is a stray find, its typological relations, and technical characteristics make it one of the most significant archaeological discoveries on the hill.

A tanulmány célja, hogy egy újonnan előkerült bronz fibulán keresztül bővítse a Somló-hegy kora vaskorára vonatkozó ismereteket. 2023 februárjának elején, egy fémkereső műszeres lelőhely-felderítés során Moklovsky Roland önkéntes egy kengyelén madáralakkal díszített bronz fibulát talált, mely szórvány volta ellenére az újonnan indult somlói kutatások egyik legfontosabb kora vaskori leletévé vált.

Keywords: *Hallstatt Period, Somló Hill, boat-shaped fibula*

Kulcsszavak: *Hallstatt-időszak, Somló-hegy, csónakfibula*

Introduction

In early 2023 the National Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian National Museum initiated a new research project with the aim of investigating the prehistoric, particularly Late Bronze (LBA) and Early Iron Age (EIA), inhabitation of a long-known site, the Somló-hegy (Somló Hill) in Veszprém County. Early discoveries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries strongly suggested that the 431-meter-high extinct volcanic cone had been a significant location for the Early Iron Age and Late Bronze Age communities. Numerous finds were collected during agricultural works in the vineyards on the flanks of the hill and were introduced to the scholarly community by Kálmán Darnay, Károly Kleiszl and Iván Ádám (Soós et al. 2023; Tarbay et al. 2023). Since 1930, however, no significant discoveries have been made on and around the hill, nor have systematic surveys been carried out on the environs of the site. Moreover, archaeological excavations have been confined to the medieval castle in the northern part of the hill.

The aim of our new research project is to explore the occupation of the hill in the LBA and EIA, as well as to re-evaluate the hitherto collected data and gather new information about how prehistoric communities used and interacted with the landscape on and around Somló. Since previous research explored the archaeological topography of the hill only superficially, our initial aim was to launch systematic metal detector surveys and field walking surveys on the hill to explore the dimensions of the archaeological sites and to be able to characterise them. Metal detector surveys focused on the upper zone of the hill which is covered by pasture and forest. Over the course of only one year these surveys collected more than 400 archaeological metal finds including four hoards. Recently, we summarised the first results of the last year in two papers (Soós et al. 2023; Tarbay et al. 2023).

In this paper, our aim is to present a bronze fibula unique to the EIA archaeological record of western Hungary. This brooch which is decorated with a small ornithoid figurine came to light from the

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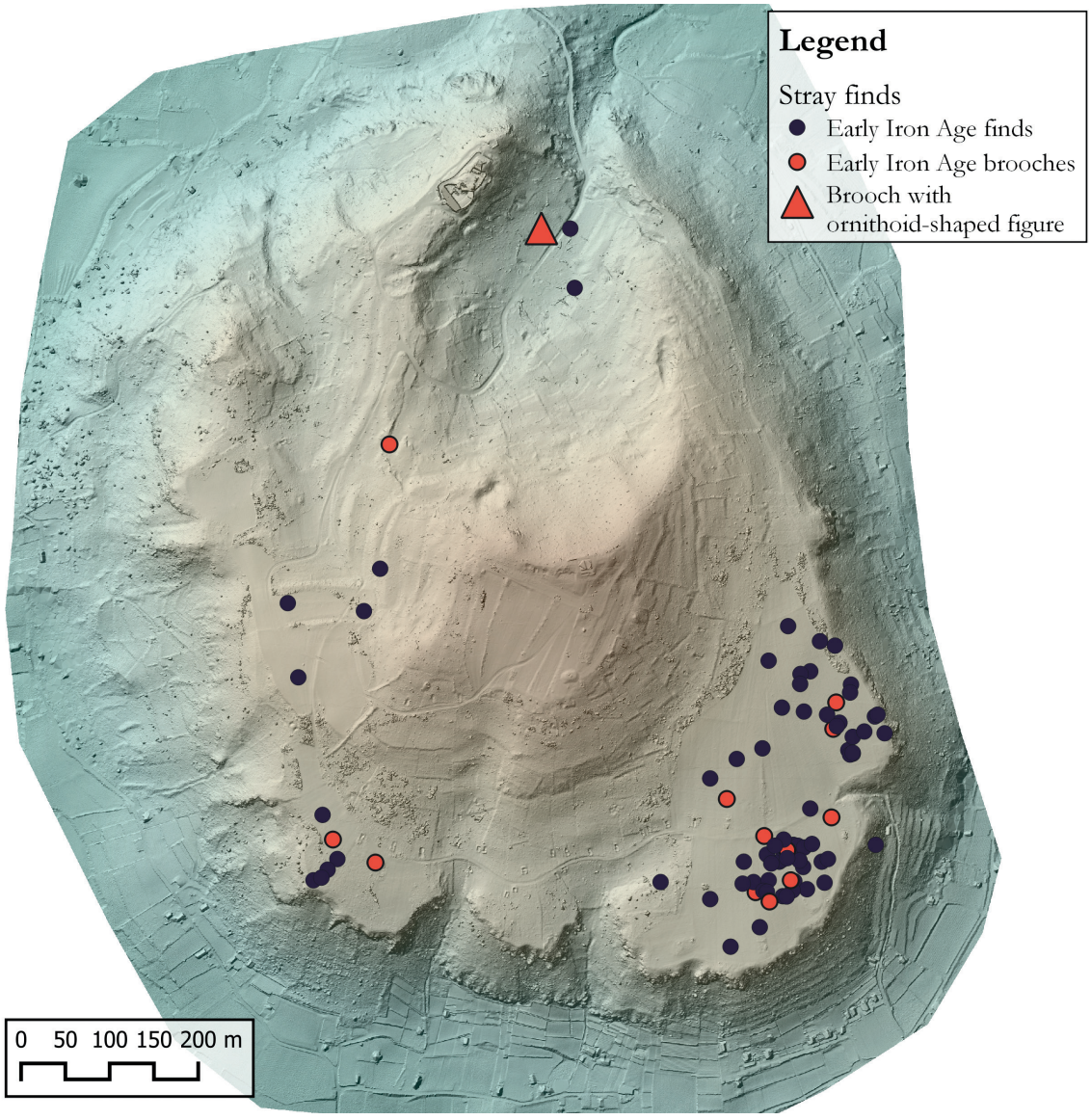

Fig. 1. Distribution map of the Early Iron Age metal stray finds collected in the upper zones of Somló Hill during the first year of the research programme. The findspot of the bronze brooch under discussion is marked by the red triangle
1. kép. A kutatási program első évében gyűjtött szórvány kora vaskori fémtárgyak elterjedése a Somló felső zónájában. A madáralakos bronz fibula előkerülési helyét a piros háromszög jelöli

northern part of the hill, in a deep, basin-like valley (*Fig. 1*). Due to the forest and dense undergrowth, this part of the hill remains a less intensively investigated zone of the surveyed area. According to our present knowledge, the fibula seems to be an isolated specimen, a stray find, and no archaeological context in its vicinity is discernible.

Description of the fibula and technical observations

Despite its missing spring, pin and broken catch-plate, the brooch is relatively well-preserved (*Fig. 2*). The remaining part of the brooch is 33.16 mm long and 16.53 mm tall. It weighs 8.8 g.

As an initial step of the investigation of the fibula, we carried out plain radiographic investigations with kV and mAs values defined by our own experiences, by TW-110 X-ray device and SATURN-8000 flat panel in the Szent István Király Museum (Székesfehérvár, Hungary). These kinds of images can help reveal details about the manufacturing techniques involved in making the fibula, any repairs or modifications made over time, the composition of the metal, and potential decorative elements or inscriptions that may not be visible to the naked eye. Moreover, if we want to make sure whether the item was made of different materials, or whether there were any other types of metal decorative elements on the item, it can be checked using

this method. The fibula itself is very small, so it was relatively difficult to make precise recordings with the X-ray device that was originally used in a veterinary context. However, on the radiographs, a stain on the rear of the fibula is easily discernible which signifies material with a different density than the bronze bow of the brooch (*Fig. 3*). This stain fills a cavity of V-shaped cross section and is derived from a heavily corroded iron core. Due to its clearly distinguishable colour, this corroded iron core also is observable with a microscope (*Fig. 4. 1*). It appears that the spring and the pin of the brooch was made of an iron wire that is corroded and broken away.

There are numerous examples of EIA bimetallic fibulae in Central Europe. According to Marek Novák and his colleagues, brooches made of bronze and iron parts are typical for Moravia and well-attested in the southeast Alpine region (Novák et al. 2022, 51). In the latter region, especially, in today's Slovenia, the so-called Vače type knobbed fibulae as well as boat fibulae decorated with zigzag motifs, often have an iron spring and pin (Božič, Marić 2015, 157). Importantly, a specimen of the latter type occurred among the finds rescued during quarrying on the prominent Sághegy/Ság Hill, an analogous prehistorically occupied volcanic cone which lies only a mere 20 km west from Somló (Patek 1968, Taf. XXVIII. 14). Unfortunately, nothing is known about the circumstances of this fibula's discovery. Although its spring and pin are missing, we propose that this specimen and the brooch with duck-shaped figure from the Somló could have had a similar construction. The long, narrow, V-shaped cavity is clearly visible on the specimen from the Ság Hill (Inv. no. MNM 28/1949.78) (*Fig. 6. 2*). There are clear yellow and brown discolorations in and around a cavity signifying the remains of iron corrosion. In addition, at the lower end of the bow the cavity is closed with a piece of the corroded iron core still preserved within it.

In our view, the construction of the specimen from the Ság Hill strongly suggests that the scenario in which the bronze body of the fibula is cast around the iron wire is unlikely; it would have been easy to carry out with lost-wax casting technique, nonetheless. This half-open cavity with a V-shaped cross section serves as the most important argument against this scenario. With lost-wax casting the bronze bow could have easily enveloped the iron wire entirely. This is clearly visible in the case of a bronze brooch decorated with the figure of a mounted warrior from Tomba 14 at Imola, Ca' Borghese a bronze wire was inserted into the wax model of the fibula (Giumlia Mair, von Eles 2018, 592). Interestingly, a few bronze fibulae with ornithoid figures were found in the same grave. In the case of the fibulae under discussion from Transdanubia, however, it is more feasible that the iron wire was placed in the

Fig. 2. The boat-shaped brooch with ornithoid figure from the Somló Hill
2. kép. A Somló-hegyről származó madáralakos csónakfibula

cavity with V-shaped cross section after the bow of the fibula had been cast, and that it was subsequently closed with cold hammering.

While fixing the iron spring and pin in the bow of the fibula from the Somló with the help of lost-wax casting remains unlikely, we would argue that the craftsman opted for this technique when casting the body of the brooch. First, creating the hollow arch which forms the characteristic boat shape of the fibula is easier with lost-wax casting than any other production technique. In fact, this hollow cannot be created using different casting techniques. Another aspect of the hollow part of the boat-shaped fibulae suggests lost-wax casting. No traces of hammering are visible on the inside of either the fibula from Somló or the one from Ság Hill. Fulvia Lo Schiavo has argued that lost-wax casting was generally used to cast boat-shaped fibulae in southern Italy during the Early Iron Age (Lo Schiavo 2010, 21). Beyond its shape, however, there are further aspects which make the use of the lost-wax technique for casting this fibula highly probable. One being that there are no traces of cold hammering on its surface. In addition, characteristics of the incised decoration also suggest that the craftsperson opted for the lost-wax technique. We argue that the incised decoration was already applied to the wax model. This assumption is supported by the fluctuating width of the engraved lines and their uneven, 'wavy' edges and the excess material along them (*Fig. 5. 2–3*). If these lines had been incised after casting, with the help of either filing, engraving, or punching, they would have been more even. These irregularities seen in these lines surrounding the duck-shaped figure are also visible in the decoration on either end of the bow. These irregularities are the result of the malleability of the wax model in which the lines were engraved with the help of a wedge-shaped but slightly blunt tool.

As for the decoration on each end of the bow of the brooch, it is likely that they were created the same way as the engraved lines around the duck-shaped figure. Hence, it is likely that a concept aiming for symmetry lies behind the decoration of the fibula. However, since the corrosion process was accompanied with volume enlargement, the decoration on the end of the bow, where the spring was once fixed became distorted (*Fig. 4. 1–2, Fig. 5. 4*).
Unfortunately, due to previous restoration processes it is hard to determine whether the decoration on the bow of the brooch from Ság Hill was already part of

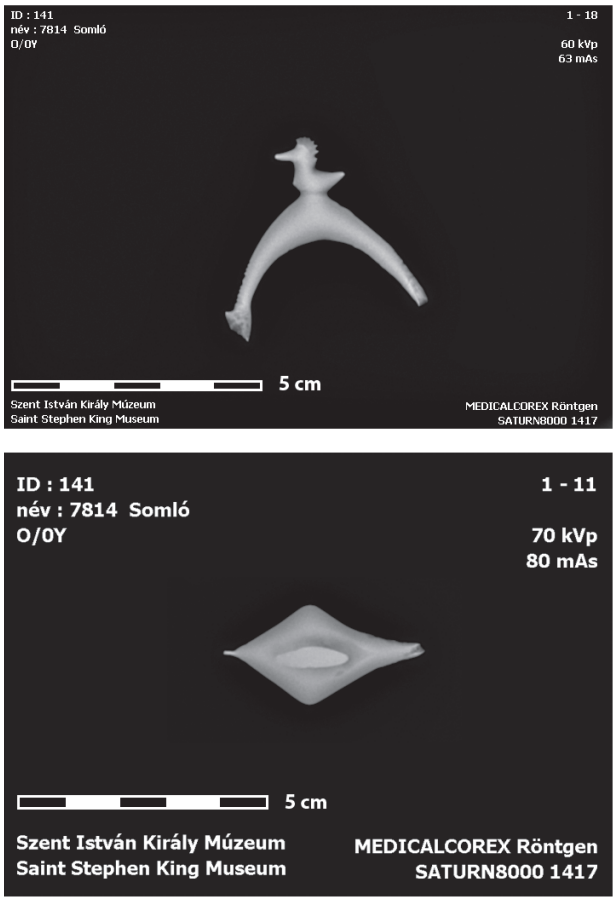

Fig. 3. X-ray image of the brooch from the Somló Hill
3. kép. A somlói fibuláról készített röntgenfelvétel

the wax model or incised after casting. Due to similar reasons, we can only formulate assumptions about the two perforations on opposite sides of the bow (*Fig. 8. 2–4*). It cannot be determined whether these were already present on the wax model or pierced in the bronze bow after it was cast. The fact that the perforation is closer to the foot of the brooch interposes the engraved lines of the decoration suggests that these perforations were made post-casting (*Fig. 8. 2, 4*). On the other hand, however, since the inner edges of the perforations are smooth, the scenario in which these holes were included into the wax model is more likely. Both perforations are funnel-shaped, and they are arranged in a horizontal line through the brooch. Such perforations are missing in the case of the fibula from Somló.
As for the duck-shaped figure on the brooch from the Somló, it does not show any traces of surface treatment (*Fig. 4. 4*). As a result, we can only assume that the craftsperson applied treatment to it after casting. Some traces of filing or sanding only appear near the base of the small figure.

Typo-chronological analysis

The most exhaustive analysis of EIA fibulae in western Hungary up to now is M. Fekete's paper (Fekete 1985). In her evaluation she considered nearly all known EIA brooches form the region and put forward their typological classification. Importantly, none of the brooches Fekete considered in her paper has similar figural decoration to our example. In her 1968 monograph, however, Erzsébet Patek published the photograph of the fragmented foot of a bronze fibula with an ornithoid figure from Sármellék-Airport site (Patek 1968, Taf. XLIX. 5). Unfortunately, nothing is known about the circumstances of its discovery. Although there is little doubt that this fibula fragment also dates to the EIA, resemblances between the two figural decorations are very limited.

We would like to address the typo-chronological evaluation of the fibula from the Somló. Since its catchplate and leg, as well as its spring and needle are broken off and missing, we can only rely on the shape of its arch and its decoration. Based on the basic shape of the arch of the fibula from the Somló, the item belongs among the so-called boat-shaped fibulae. In her typological framework, based mainly on their decorative elements, Fekete distinguishes seven types of boat-shaped/*navicella* fibulae in Transdanubia. Since the specimen from the Somló does not have a transversal rib, its closest parallels are among those assigned to Type F (Fekete 1985, 77). However, while these have two lateral knobs, such decorative elements do not appear on the brooch from the Somló. In addition, the fine lines of incisions following the rhomboid shape of the back of the fibula makes the Somló specimen different from those enumerated by Fekete in her paper. These engraved lines serve as a kind of frame surrounding the main decorative element, i.e., the ornithoid figure.

A fibula from Grave 7/1894 of the so-called Fondo Ripa cemetery in Verucchio resembles the decoration of the specimen from the Somló as far as the engraved fine lines framing the ornithoid figure

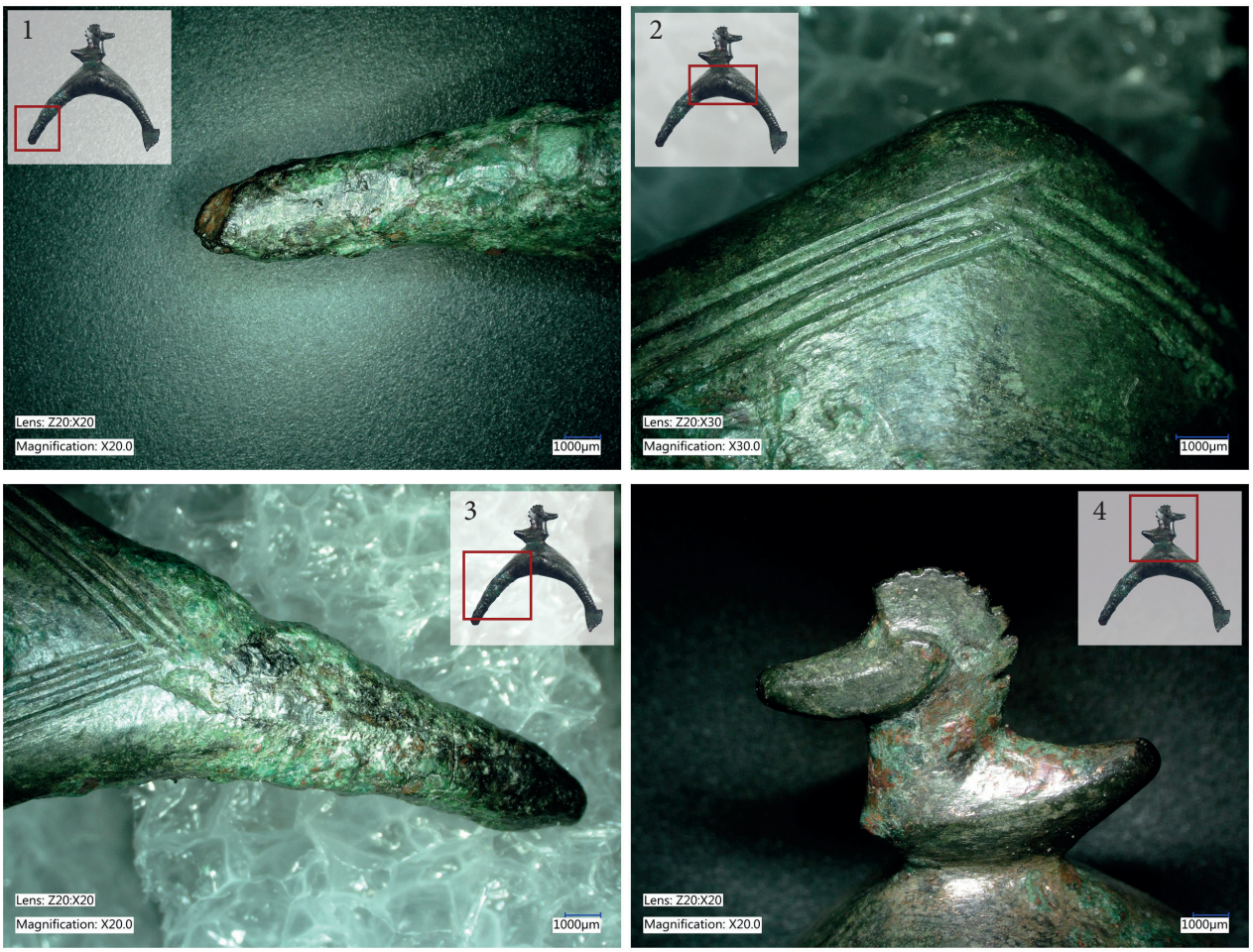

Fig. 4. Microscope images of details of the brooch from the Somló Hill
4. kép. A somlói fibula részletei mikroszkópos felvételeken

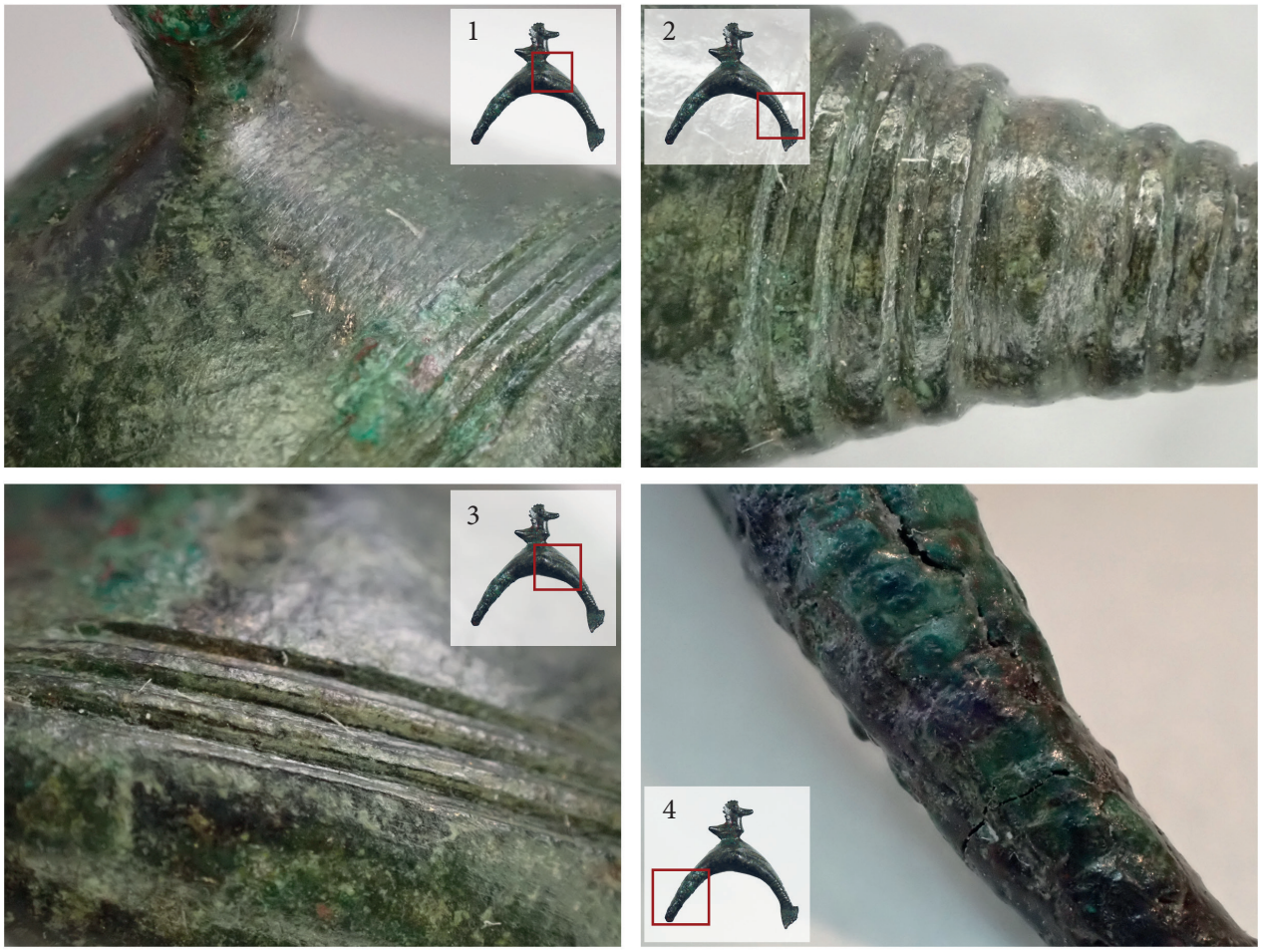

Fig. 5. Details of the decoration of the brooch from the Somló Hill
5. kép. A somlói fibula díszítéseiről készült részletfotók

are concerned (von Eles 2015b, Tav. 107. 1121). Although similar, a few dissimilarities can be enumerated. Contrary to the specimen from the Somló, the brooch from the Fondo Ripa cemetery has accentuated lateral knobs and the duck-shaped figure seems less elaborate. Nevertheless, among the six brooches with ornithoid figures P. von Eles' catalogue contains the one from Grave 7/1894 of the Fondo Ripa cemetery most closely resembles the specimen from Somló. In her typological classification of the brooches from the Villanovan period of the cemeteries surrounding Verucchio these six brooches compose Type 64. Despite their small number, these fibulae show considerable variability in the number of the ornithoid figures and the number of lateral knobs. The hitherto discovered specimens have either one or three figurines on their back. However, the fragmentary state of these brooches makes it difficult to be precise about this (von Eles 2015b, 62). According to the same author, this type of fibula appears in the Verucchio V phase (von Eles 2015a, 40).

Another notable example of fibulae with a duck-shaped figure comes from Grave 25 of the Villanova cemetery near Caselle di San Lazzaro. Among numerous and various ceramic and metal finds the grave contained a bronze brooch with rhomboid arch, lateral knobs and three ornithoid figures. Although it is not particularly similar to the brooch from the Somló, the specimen from Grave 25 is significant when it comes to determining the chronological position of such fibulae in northern Italy. Based on both the pottery forms among the grave goods and the various metal finds this burial dates to the early decades of the 7th century BC (Baldoni 1994, 264).

The chronological position of Grave 25 of the Villanova cemetery near Caselle di San Lazzaro largely corresponds to that of Grave 70 of the Benvenuti cemetery near Este which is dated to the first half of the 7th century BC (von Eles Masi 1986, 142). In contrast to the specimen from Somló Hill the fibula from Caselle di San Lazzaro has three ornithoid figures (von Eles Masi 1986, Tav. 110. 1315).

Fig. 6. Boat-shaped fibula from Ság Hill (Inv. no. MNM 28/1949.78)
6. kép. Csónakfibula a Ság-hegyről (Leltári szám MNM 28/1949.78)

Importantly, all the specimens from northern Italy von Eles Masi included in her monograph bear more than one bird figures on their arch. In addition, all bear two accentuated lateral knobs which the specimen from Somló Hill also lacks (von Eles Masi 1986, Tav. 110. 1313–1318). To sum up, analogues of the specimen suggest that the fibula could have been in use in the first half of the 7th century BC.

Discussion

Although the fibula came to light as a stray find, one must touch briefly upon its circumstances of discovery. First and foremost, the findspot. The results of the detector surveys of 2023 on the hill strongly suggest that both the LBA and EIA occupation of the Somló concentrated on the southeastern plateau (Soós et al. 2023, 127; Tarbay et al. 2023, 84). There is another noteworthy concentration of EIA finds on the southwestern plateau, where LBA finds seem to be less common. However, the bronze brooch in question was found in the northern zone of the hill in a deep, basin-like valley. Although metal finds seem to be scarce in this part of the hill, we must emphasise that due to the dense undergrowth and forest, this zone is less suited to metal detector surveys than other parts of the site.

The results of the metal detector surveys and excavations of sondages of limited scale around metal hoards suggest that there was an extensive LBA/EIA settlement on the southern plateaus of the Somló. Besides the numerous metal finds, vast amounts of pottery occur on this part of the hill. Evidence for such settlement, however, is so far missing from the northern valley. Naturally, the question arises how this part of the hill might have been used in the LBA and EIA. Unfortunately, beyond the circumstances hindering the metal detector survey in the northern valley of the hill, there is another obstacle affecting investigations here. According to the recently completed LIDAR surveys of the upper zone of the Somló, the geomorphology of the northern valley has been seriously altered by modern agricultural works. Alterations accompanying the layout of vineyard parcels have been particularly damaging (*Fig. 1*). There is little doubt that these agricultural works have substantially affected the archaeological evidence in this area. Hence, at this point we cannot evaluate how the EIA communities on the Somló could have used the northern valley. It is important to note, however, while today the road to the hilltop leads through this valley, the prehistoric way to the hilltop and the plateaus of the Somló probably ran through a ravine to the west.

Although close analogues of the brooch are yet missing from the archaeological material recovered from the Somló hilltop during last year's metal detector surveys, coeval metal finds are, nonetheless,

well-represented among them. For instance, beside the fibula with the duck-shaped figure, eight further boat-shaped brooches came to light in the upper zones of the Somló Hill (*Fig. 1*). More importantly, however, in her 1983 article about the contacts between western Hungary and Italy in the EIA, Mária Fekete highlighted that there are two *sanguisuga* brooches found on the Somló (Fekete 1983, 129–133). According to her typo-chronological argument, these brooches date to the 8th century BCE and have analogues in Central Italy. Similarly, the bow fibula with twisted arch she also mentions in her article has analogues in Central Italy (Fekete 1983, 129). The circumstances of discovery are, however, completely obscure for all three fibulae, hence, we cannot even be sure whether they, indeed, come from the Somló at all.

Nonetheless, the fibula with the duck-shaped figure and the brooches enumerated by Fekete strongly suggests the presence of elite members of the EIA community of the Somló Hill who were able to obtain such items which are culturally linked to distant regions. In addition, the uniqueness of the fibula could also have lent prestige to its owner. Importantly, its uniqueness is reflected not only by its shape and plastic decoration but the bimetallic structure of the brooch. The fibula with duck-shaped figure is, at this point, the single example of such bimetallic brooches among the ones recovered from the Somló. Unfortunately, however, at this point we cannot say whether the fibula was manufactured in a workshop somewhere near the Somló or, indeed, in Italy. Future investigations into the metallurgical characteristics of the EIA metal items from the Somló and Ság Hills may help us coming up with an answer to this question. In any case, the Somló Hill would not be the first EIA prominent hilltop site to provide evidence for direct or indirect links between Verucchio and the communities in Transdanubia. In one of the tumuli in the foreground of the Szalacska hilltop settlement, the excavation in 1943 found the fragments of a composite brooch with bone elements and probably amber inlay (Fekete 1983, 133). The centre of production of such fibulae can be localized in Northern Italy, probably, Verucchio. Hence, their appearance in Szalacska and Velem could suggest a connection between these centres (Bentini et al. 2020, 391).

The above statement, namely, that there was a group associated with the Somló Hill who was able to obtain items of distant origin or, even, was able to

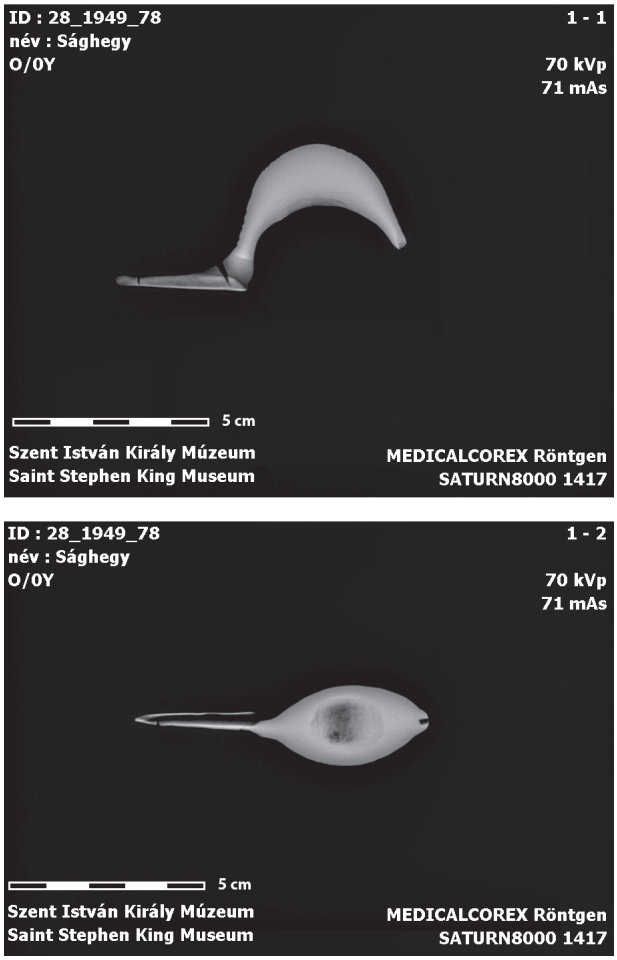

Fig. 7. X-ray image of the boat-shaped fibula from the Ság Hill
7. kép. A Ság-hegyi fibuláról készített röntgenfelvétel

maintain social contacts with distant communities is not a new one. However, the material on which this assumption is based comes from burial contexts. There are two groups of tumuli near the Somló Hill. The tumulus cemetery near Doba is situated to the north of the hill. Already in 1880 Károly Kleiszl investigated one of the tumuli. This excavation brought to light an ostentatious burial assemblage consisting of weapons, elements of horse harness, bronze vessels, and jewellery (Darnay et al. 1895). Due to the presence of an iron sword of the so-called Mindelheim type, the Doba tumulus is linked to a vast network of elite groups throughout Central Europe and beyond (Dartevelle et al. 1993). Part of this network are further burials associated with the Somló. There are two graves found on the slopes of the hill which contained items unusual for the Transdanubian setting. On the one hand, the grave found in 1880 near the so-called Séd Spring yielded a cauldron with cross-attachments of Type C according to

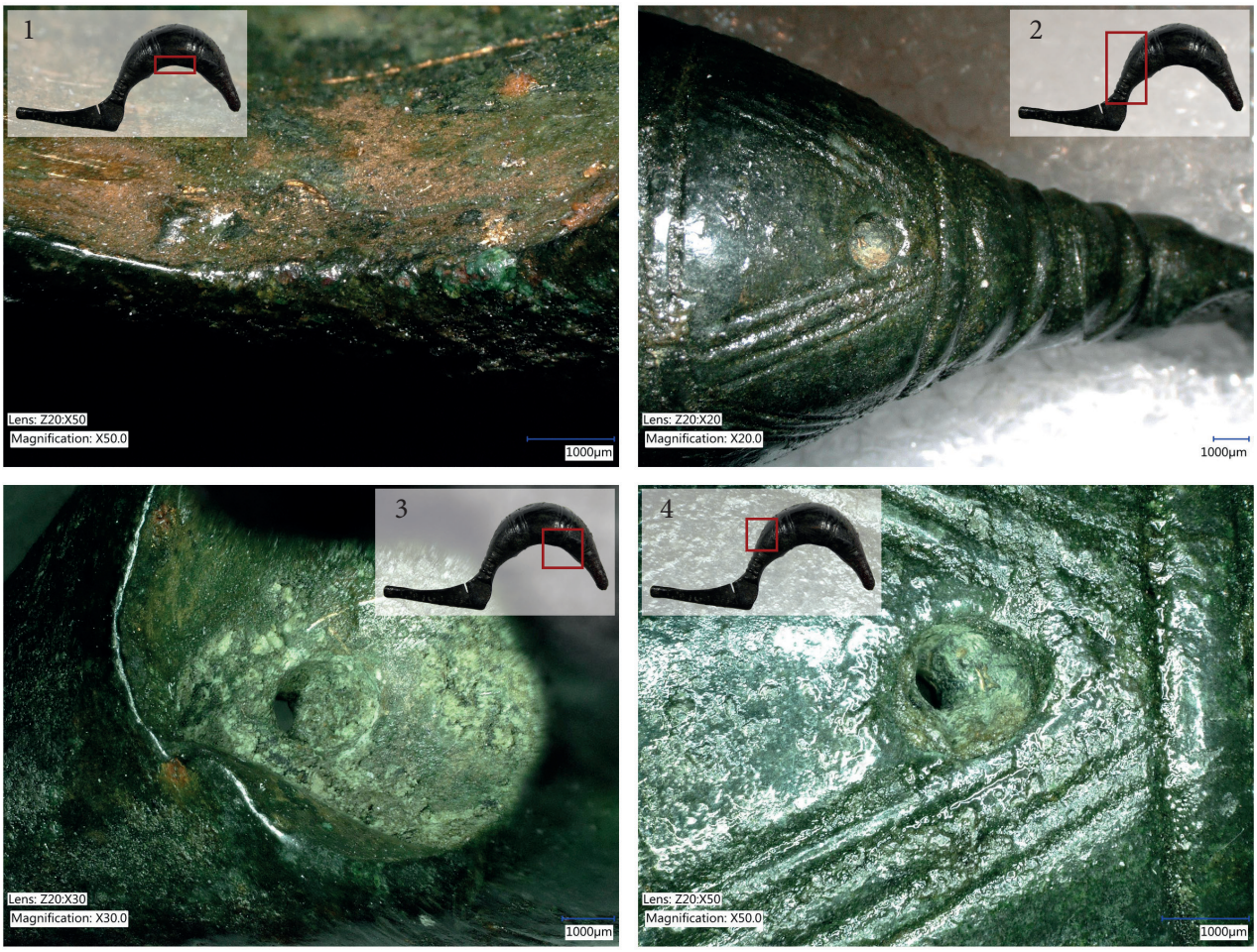

Fig. 8. Microscope images of details of the boat-shaped fibula from the Ság Hill
8. kép. A Ság-hegyi fibula részletei mikroszkópos felvételeken

von Merhart's typological framework (Ádám 1880). Such cauldrons occur frequently in northern Italy and in Slovenia. Markus Egg suggests that these vessels could have been manufactured in the Caput Adriae region (Egg 2021, 30–31). On the other hand, there is a grave found at an inaccurately defined place near Doba. Next to the deceased a Hallstatt sword of the Mindelheim type and horse harness of the Mindelheim type came to light (Darnay et al. 1895, 318). Both graves contained an inhumation and both graves contained the remains of horses. These reflect burial customs unusual for the EIA communities in Transdanubia. According to Carola Metzner-Nebelsick, these suggests that members of the elite around the Somló could either have come from the western Hallstatt regions or had exceptionally strong social links with those communities (Metzner-Nebelsick 2017, 361). Probably the most notable example of the wide-ranging contacts of the local elite is the burial assemblage in Tumulus 1 near Somlóvásárhely. Among the grave goods recovered from the tumulus in 1928 there were the remains of a four-wheeled wagon and an iron sword (Horváth 1969, 111–112). Again, these elements of the burial assemblage are uncommon in the eastern Hallstatt zone and suggest links towards the western Hallstatt areas (Metzner-Nebelsick 2017, 360; Egg 1996, 348). The Somlóvásárhely tumulus yielded another item of significance when mapping the long-ranging contacts of the EIA elite around the Somló Hill. Gyula Rhé's excavation in 1928 uncovered a large bronze phalera in a burial chamber built of basalt blocks from Somló (Horváth 1969, 112). Attila Horváth had already pointed out that analogues of this bronze disc come from the Balkans (Horváth 1969, 116) and later Markus Egg argued that this bronze phalera could either be an import from the Greek lands or a product manufactured after models from ancient Greece (Egg 1996, 329).

Let us now briefly turn to the chronological position of the EIA graves associated with Somló. As for Tumulus 1 near Somlóvásárhely, both Markus

Egg and Carola Metzner-Nebelsick proposed to date the burial assemblage to Ha C1, although the latter author specifically suggests Ha C1b (Egg 1996, 352; Metzner-Nebelsick 2017, Fig. 2). In absolute terms the tumulus could have been built in the late 8th century BCE. Similarly, the grave with the horse harness of the Mindelheim type and the iron sword (sometimes misleadingly referred to as Doba 1) dates to the Ha C1 (Metzner-Nebelsick 2017, Fig. 2). In contrast to this barrow, the tumulus excavated near Doba (at the site Doba, Török-dombok) is thought to be younger. Scholars tend to agree that the grave dates to the Ha C2 period (Egg 2016, Tab. 3; Metzner-Nebelsick 2017, Fig. 2). Unfortunately, the least well-documented burial is the grave found near the Séd Spring whose inventory includes a cauldron with cruciform attachments and a bronze hatchet. Since bronze cauldrons with cross-shaped attachments belonging to Type C, according to von Merhart's typological framework date to a relatively wide interval, Anita Kozubová suggested that the bronze hatchet found with this bronze vessel could serve as an anchor for determining the chronological position of the burial. According to her, the grave probably dates to the Ha D1 period (Kozubová 2019, 72). Hence, based on the burials, it is fair to assume that the Somló was an important centre of power in the EIA.

However, before our currently ongoing research only indirect evidence for this was available. Finds supporting this assumption either came from tumuli in the surrounding landscape or from graves found on the slopes of the Somló. We believe that the bronze brooch with the duck-shaped figure is the first evidence of the presence of an EIA elite in association with the Somló Hill which is directly linked to the upper zones of the hill. This, however, does not mean that the item does not originate from a funerary context. Let us remember, for instance, that while there are extensive tumulus groups in the foreground of the Poštela hilltop settlement, the Habakuk cemetery is situated just below the hillfort's ramparts (Črešnar, Vinazza 2019, Sl. 3). Again, whether the northern valley of the Somló Hill conceals a prehistoric burial ground cannot be hypothesized at this point. Further investigations are needed, and it very well may be that viticulture has already obliterated the pertinent evidence. It is interesting to note that in the case of the cemeteries around Verucchio, P. von Eles argues that fibulae with ornithoid figures seem to be associated with female burials (von Eles 2015b, 62). Even if we leave the mortuary association out of the equation, this observation is significant. While the above enumerated items suggesting long-ranging contacts come from contexts generally seen as burials of prominent men, the examples from Verucchio suggest the brooch in question belongs to a female attire. Hence, the recently discovered fibula may allude to the presence of elite women on the Somló in the EIA. In our view, this is hardly surprising given the fact that from a chronological point of view the fibula with the duck-shaped figure is by and large coeval with the burial in the large tumulus at Doba, Török-dombok, if we are correctly assume that the fibula was used during the first half of the 7th century BC.

Conclusion

Somló Hill has been long known as an important centre of power in the western part of the Carpathian Basin. However, evidence for this mainly came from nearby tumuli, e.g. Tumulus 1 near Somlóvásárhely and the burial mounds near Doba. The EIA archaeological record from the upper zones of the volcanic cone was either nearly non-existent or dubious regarding to finds' location and circumstances of discovery. The ongoing research project of the National Institute of Archaeology brought to light numerous pieces of evidence of the EIA use of the upper zone and plateaus of the Somló. Among these the small bronze brooch decorated with a duck-shaped figure stands out for its uniqueness in the EIA archaeological record of western Hungary, and even beyond. Based on its analogues in northern Italy, especially in the cemeteries of Verucchio, the bronze fibula could have been in use in the first half of the 7th century BC, at a time when Tumulus 1 near Doba was probably built. Beyond its stylistic uniqueness, the delicate craftsmanship this piece of attire represents, and the technological characteristics of its production also underline its exceptional character. Although at this point we cannot be sure whether the piece was manufactured in Transdanubia or in a region more distant from Somló, this remarkable fibula suggests the presence of a prominent EIA community on the hill whose members were capable of appreciating the style of the brooch that was common in a distant region rather than within the communities in Transdanubia.

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EGY KÜLÖNLEGES KORA VASKORI FIBULA A SOMLÓ-HEGYRŐL

Összefoglalás

2023. januárjában a Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Nemzeti Régészeti Intézetének munkatársai vezetésével egy új kutatási program indult, melynek célja a Somló-hegy (Veszprém vármegye) és a környező vidékek késő bronzkorára és kora vaskorára vonatkozó régészeti adatok szisztematikus bővítése és elemzése. A kutatás kezdeti szakaszában szisztematikus fémkereső műszeres önkéntesek bevonásával került sor a hegy felső zónájában a késő bronzkori és kora vaskori topográfiai viszonyok tisztázására. 2023. február 5-én Moklovsky Roland önkéntes a hegy északi völgyében egy bronz csónakfibula töredékére bukkant, ami kacsa alakú plasztikus díszítése révén egyedi leletnek tekinthető a dunántúli kora vaskori leletanyagban.

Bár töredékesen került elő, a bronz fibula a tipológiai egyediségén túl készítéstechnológiai szempontból is figyelemreméltó tárgy. A fibuláról készített röntgenfelvételen kirajzolódik egy sötétebb elszíneződés a tárgy hiányzó rugója felőli szárában, ami egy hosszanti üreget, illetve az azt kitöltő, a fibula testének nyersanyagától eltérő sűrűségű anyagot jelez. A szár letört végén a barna elszíneződés alapján az üreget kitöltő anyagot vas korrózióként lehet azonosítani. Párhuzamok alapján a fibulát vas rugóval és tűvel látták el, ezt rögzítették a V-keresztmetszetű üregben. Hasonló technológiával alakítottak ki egy a Ság-hegyről származó csónakfibulát is.

Megfigyeléseink alapján a Somló-hegyről származó fibulát minden bizonnyal viaszveszejtéses eljárással öntötték. Egyik érvünk, hogy a csónakfibulák jellegzetes alakját kölcsönző üreg kialakítása más technikával nem lehetséges, másrészt a hideg formázásra utaló eszköznyomok teljes mértékben hiányoznak a fibula felszínéről. A madár alakú díszítést keretező vonalköteg-díszítés valószínűleg már a viaszmodellen kialakításra került a mikroszkópos vizsgálat során tett megfigyelések alapján.

Bár mindkét esetben töredékes darabokról van szó, a somlói fibula közel pontos párhuzama a Verucchio melletti Fondo Ripa temető 1894/7. Sírjából előkerült egyik fibulában ismerhető fel (von Eles 2015b, Tav. 107. 1121). A Verucchio környéki temetőkből több, Villanova időszakra keltezhető, madáralakos fibula is előkerült, melyek a Verucchio esetében kialakított relatív kronológiai rendszer

szerint a Verucchio V fázisra keltezhetők (von Eles 2015a, 40). Az Estehez közeli Caselle di San Lazzaro temető 25. sírjából egy három madáralakkal díszített csónakfibula került elő, amely bár nem állítható pontos párhuzamként a somlói fibula mellé, pontosan keltezhető kontextusból származik. A Kr. e. 7. század első felére keltezhető síregyüttes (Baldoni 1994, 264) jelölheti ki az egyedinek tekinthető somlói tárgy kronológiai pozícióját is.

Arról, hogy a Somlót miként használták a kora vaskori közösségek a Kr. e. 7. században, csak közvetett információk állnak rendelkezésre. A Somlóvásárhely és Doba mellett feltárt kora vaskori halomsírok arra utalnak, hogy a Somló fontos hatalmi központ lehetett a Ha C időszakban (Metzner-Nebelsick 2017, 361), azonban a halomsírokból megismert elit jelenlétét a hegy felső zónáiban eddig nem lehetett leletekkel bizonyítani. A cikkben bemutatott észak-itáliai kapcsolatrendszerbe illeszkedő bronz fibula egy olyan előkelő női viselet részét képezhette, amely párhuzamba állítható a Somló környezetéből ismert elit temetkezések leletanyagával. Szórvány jellege miatt azonban nyitott kérdés kell, hogy maradjon, vajon a Somló platóin feltételezett kora vaskori település leletanyagához kapcsolódik vagy temetkezés mellékleteként került a földbe.