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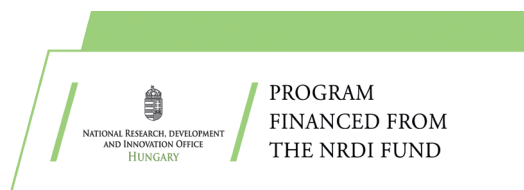
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A LATE BRONZE AGE COLLAR FROM SOMLÓ HILL. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SOMLÓ HOARD VII

János Gábor TARBAY¹  – Tamás PÉTERVÁRY²  – András KOVÁCS³  – Bence SOÓS⁴ 

An assemblage of over 5800 metal artefacts was discovered on Somló Hill during an archaeological metal detector survey in 2024. Preliminary typo-chronological examinations suggest that the new hoard most plausibly dates to the second half of the Ha B period. This report focuses on the most outstanding artefact in the assemblage, a gold-foil-covered neck collar (Halskragen). This collar is a unique piece of jewellery, not yet fully matched in style and form in Transdanubia. The closest analogues of this find are known from the hoards allegedly recovered in the 'Thaya River region', now in the collection of the Museum for Prehistory and Early History Berlin State Museums (Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin). Similar collars, looted by illegal detectorists allegedly on the hillfort 'Tabulová hora' in Moravia, are known to scholars from photographs only. Gold products decorated with concentric circles and cord-imitating patterns are known from the younger and from the late Urnfield periods in Transdanubia. The diadem and domed discs from Velem-Szent Vid are closely related to the Somló find in this respect. The best European analogues of this style are found on gold-foil-covered discs, diadems and gold vessels from Central and Northern Europe. The Somló collar provides further evidence that its place of discovery, the butte of Somló, served as one of the elite centres during the Ha B phase of the Late Bronze Age.

2024-ben „A késő bronzkor és kora vaskor a Somló vidékén” c. kutatási program keretében, régészeti fémkereső-műszeres lelőhelyfelderítés során előkerült a projekt eddigi legnagyobb, több mint 5800 fémtárgyat számoló bronzkincse. A lenyűgöző leletgyűttes, keltező értékű bronztárgyainak előzetes értékelése alapján, valószínűleg a Ha B fázisra, annak is leginkább a második felére datálható. Előzetes közleményünkben a leletgyűttes egyik legjelentősebb tárgyát, az aranyfólia díszes bronz nyakéket mutatjuk be. A tárgy a maga nemében különleges, hiszen formai és stilisztikai szempontból teljesen azonos ékszer eddig nem került elő a Dunántúl területéről. Legközelebbi párhuzamait az állítólag a „Thaya folyó vidékéről” származó, ma a berlini Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte gyűjteményében őrzött, bizonytalan kontextusú depókban és a mindössze illegális fémkeresők által készített fotóiról ismert, morvaországi „Tabulová hora” lelőhelyhez kötött darabok között találhatjuk meg. A fenti példányokon kívül a lelet koncentrikus kör és zsinetet imitáló díszével szorosan kötődik a helyi dunántúli fiatalabb és késő urnamezős kultúra aranyműves termékeihez, különösen a Velem-Szent Viden talált diadémhoz és gömbszeletekhez. Európai kitekintésben mintáinak legjobb párhuzamait elsősorban Közép-és Észak-Európa területéről származó aranyfólia díszes korongok, diadémok és aranyedények között találhatjuk meg. A nyakék jelenléte egy újabb bizonyítéka annak, hogy a késő bronzkori Somló valóban az egyik fontos elit központ lehetett a Ha B időszakban.

Keywords: Late Bronze Age, gold, collars, hoarding, Urnfield culture, Western Hungary (Transdanubia), CT

Kulcsszavak: késő bronzkor, arany, nyakékek, deponálás, urnamezős kultúra, Dunántúl, CT

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Introduction

In June 2024, one of the largest Late Bronze Age Transdanubian hoards was found on Somló Hill (Veszprém County, Hungary) in the framework of the research program ‘Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the Somló Region’ (Soós et al. 2023; Tarbay et al. 2023; Tarbay et al. 2024a). Hoard VII contains more than 5800 metal objects, including a gold-foil-covered bronze neck collar¹ (Fig. 1). This significant find was displayed to the public in *The Object of the Month* temporarily exhibition in October in the Hungarian National Museum and received special attention in Hungarian media. These circumstances encouraged the Somló Research Group to conduct a preliminary study on the artefact to prevent public misinformation about the object, as the

conservation and scientific evaluation of the hoard might take years to complete. This preliminary study will, therefore, focus on the collar itself, discussing mainly related finds, relative dating, as well as examining the context and content of the hoard.

The Neck Collar in Context

The Somló neck collar is the first artefact of its kind properly recorded within its own archaeological context (Hänsel 2003; Navrátil et al. 2024, 25–28, Fig. 19). It was discovered on 30 June 2024 by Krisztián Király, a volunteer metal detectorist during a planned metal detecting survey lead by Tamás Péterváry. Due to the protection of the archaeological site, the exact location of the find spot is not published in this paper. Illegal metal detectorist activities



Fig. 1. The collar from Somló Hill (Photo: László György)
1. kép. A somlói nyakék (Fotó: György László)

are observable on the hill, and disclosing such sensitive topographic information would jeopardise the ongoing research. The topographic data of the hoard is archived in the Central Database of the Hungarian National Museum, which for the next five years can only be accessed with permission.

The volunteer found two bracelets and a small, lozenge-sectioned annular ring with a thin spiral inserted in the middle. Only the spiral was lifted, the rest of the objects were left *in situ* by the finder. The excavation of the assemblage took place on 4 July 2024. The excavation was conducted in phases in a small trench (1.2 m × 1.2 m) to remove the upper ca. 20 cm eroded soil and to identify any archaeological features associated with the hoard. The lowermost remnants of two amorphous pits (O1A–O1B), containing animal bones and potsherds in an organised layout (S1), were detected near the bronze objects, in the northwestern edge of the trench. The relative chronology of these pits could not be determined.

After removing the section purposely left through the middle of the trench, the faint outline of a pit was observed around the artefacts. This pit was subsequently fully excavated (Fig. 2).

Hoard VII was placed inside this pit in two distinct acts of deposition. The upper deposition cluster (Hoard A) consisted of bronze objects – bracelets, rhomboid-sectioned small annular rings, a ring pendant, a spiral, and a horse bit mouthpiece – placed on carefully arranged potsherds. Under this set of artefacts lay the lower deposition cluster (Hoard B) marked by two vessels on their sides and a rectangular stone fragment. One of the vessels was an orange-coloured ceramic jug with a spherical belly and a cylindrical neck, the other was a black bowl with an inward sloping rim. The bowl was placed so that it completely covered the mouth of the jug. The pit, in which these vessels lay, was probably beehive in shape, yet the erosion of the upper layers made it impossible to determine its original shape with cer-

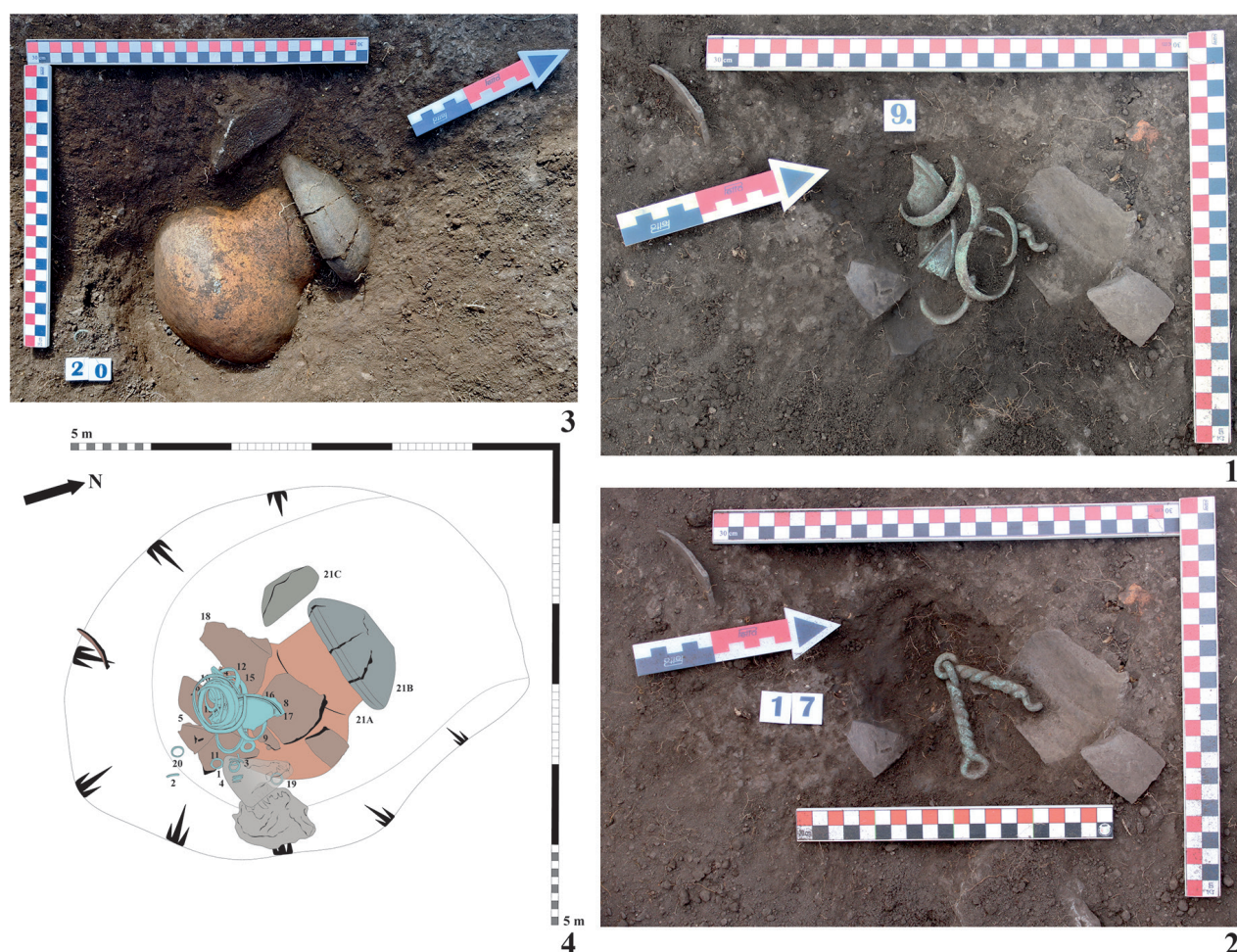


Fig. 2. 1–3: Excavation phases 9, 17 and 20; 4: Context of Hoard VII (1–2: Hoard A; 3: Hoard B)
2. kép. 1–3: A 9., 17., és 20. feltárási fázis; 4: a VII. depó kontextusa (1–2: „A”, kincs; 3: B kincs)

tainty. The outline of this feature only became discernible at the top level of Hoard B (Fig. 2).

The vessels were lifted *en bloc* and were taken to the CT Laboratory of the University of Pannonia (Veszprém) for analysis. The CT images revealed a collar covered in a gold foil pressed inside the neck of the jug with a separate gold foil thread along its lower edge. Many small annular rings, gold foil-decorated discs, another gold foil thread, large bronze spirals, and several knobs were also visible in the inner part of the jug (Fig. 3).

The in-laboratory excavation of the jug began on 6 August 2024 in the Conservator Department of the National Institute of Archaeology. The jug contained more than 5800 pieces of objects: blue glass beads, amber beads, white shell beads, knobs, bronze spirals, small and large annular rings, bracelets, two gold foil-decorated discs, a pin fragment, two gold foil threads, and organic remains, all of which are currently under conservation. The small objects

showed a less coherent arrangement and some of the beads and rings were stuck or corroded together as chains. A core of larger bronze objects showed a more regular arrangement in the centre of the pot (see Tarbay et al. 2024b).

The Somló Collar

Parts

The Somló collar consists of multiple metal elements: one bronze backplate, a gold-foil sheet, and two wire loops. The dimensions of the collar are: diameter: 120 mm × 114 mm, width: 59.57 mm (middle) 41.42–41.44 mm (sides), thickness (bronze-gold/edge): 1.23 mm, thickness (bronze): 0.4–0.5 mm, thickness (loops): 1.75 mm × 1.76 mm (left), 2.07 mm × 2.01 mm (right), weight: 42.9 g; pattern 1 = P1 (six concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs): diameter 8.88 mm, pattern 2 = P2 (five concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs): diameter 5.96 mm.

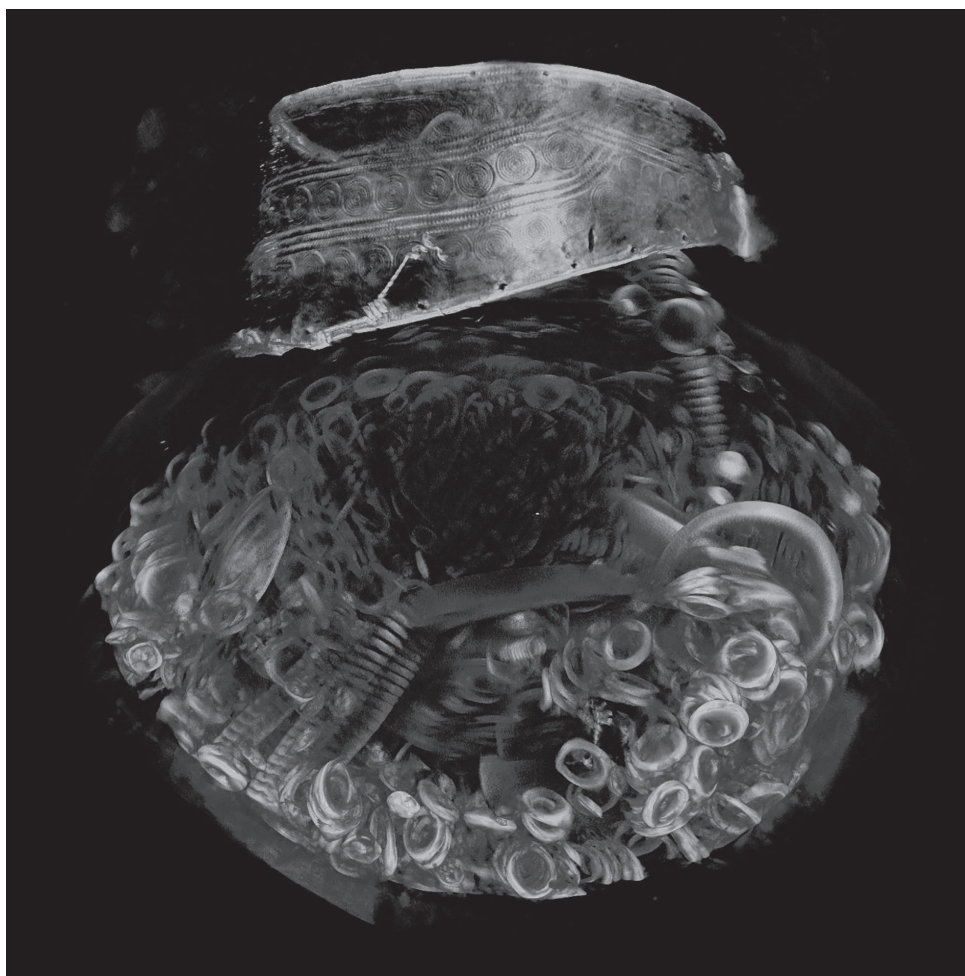


Fig. 3. CT image of the vessels showing their *in situ* content
(image: András Kovács, CT Laboratory, Pannon University, Veszprém)

3. kép. Az edények és *in situ* tartalmuk CT felvétele (felvétel: Kovács András, CT Labor, Pannon Egyetem, Veszprém)



Fig. 4. The neck collar from Somló Hill. 1: Front; 2: back (Photo: László György)
 4. kép. A somlói nyakék. 1: Előlnézet; 2: hátulnézet (Fotó: György László)

The backplate is an elongated thin bronze sheet with rounded edges. It was hammered out from a small bar or oval-shaped ingot. The backplate is punctured all around its edges (Fig. 7. 2), yet only the perforations around the lower and along the rounded lateral edges pierce through the outer gold sheet (Fig. 8. 2). All perforations were executed from the inside of the object (Figs. 4–5). These holes probably served to fasten organic material to the artefact to provide comfortable wearing for the owner (Menghin, Hänsel 2001, 388; Born 2003a, 178–181; Born 2003b, 95–96; Ilon 2015a, 26, 32, 56). A corroded residue of

this not yet specified organic material was preserved at one of the terminals of the collar (Fig. 7. 1).

Two circular-sectioned wire loops are attached to the terminals of the collar by means of perforations. The loops were inserted through the bronze sheet and remained hidden underneath the gold foil. Each hook was hammered out from small bar- or oval-shaped ingots and bent to their final shape. The hooks were hammered flat after being attached to the terminals for secure fastening. It is possible that the ornament was held around the neck of its owner by tying the hooks together with strings (Fig. 4. 2, Fig. 5, Fig. 7. 1).



Fig. 5. The neck collar from Somló Hill. 1–2: Sides (Photo: László György)
 5. kép. A somlói nyakék. 1–2: Oldalnézet (Fotó: György László)

The gold foil was shaped from a small cast ingot as well, analogues of which were found in loaf and bar shapes in the golden hoard from Sárazsadány (Mozsolics 1950, 29–31, Pl. 10. 24–38). The ingot was hammered between layers of leather to reach the required extent and thickness for the sheet (Oberfrank 1986, 25). The foil was fixed both by folding its edges over the rim of the bronze plate and via the perforations (Giumlia-Mair 2000, 3; Menghin, Hänsel 2001, 384) (Fig. 7. 2). The small gold foil thread near the lower holes – besides concealing the perforations – probably contributed to

the attachment of the gold sheet (Fig. 3), as in the case of several gold discs, where similar threads were preserved around the edges (Lázár 1941, 371; Mozsolics 1950, 14, Fig. 7. 1–3; Born 2003a, 178–181; Born 2003b, 95–96; Hänsel 2003, 166, 168; Müller 2012, 90; Ilon 2015a, 27; Metzner-Nebelsick, Jerem 2016, 20, 24). The gold foil may also have been glued onto the plate using some special material (tar, glue, resin, *etc.*) to provide a stable attachment, as in modern gilding practice (Oberfrank 1986, 25; Müller 2007, 16–17, Fig. 11; Ludvík 2009, 35–46, 52–55; Ilon 2024b, Fig. 19. 2).

Patterns

The collar shows different patterns on the front (Zone II) and on the sides (Zone I and III) of its surface (Fig. 6. A–B). A total of four distinct patterns can be distinguished: (1) six large concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs = P1 (Fig. 6. C. P1), (2) five small concentric-circles-and-a dot motifs = P2 (Fig. 6. C. P2), (3) the cord pattern leaning to the left = P3 (Fig. 6. C. P3), and (4) the cord pattern leaning to the right = P4 (Fig. 6. C. P4).

Some motifs run through multiple zones (Fig. 6. B. 1), others are repeated on each of the lateral sides of the artefact (Fig. 6. B. 2a–b, 6a–b, 11a–19b). Bundles of cord-ribs (Fig. 6. B. 1, 4, 7, 9) divide the neck collar into four fields in the front, and three fields in the sides of the object (Fig. 6. B. 1, 17a–18b). The cord-rib bundles consist of three ribs, except for the lower one that consists of only two ribs (Fig. 6. B. 11a–b) that frame seven small concentric circles of type P2 (Fig. 6. B. 10). The upper line of concentric circles of types P1 (Fig. 6. B. 3) and P2 (Fig. 6. B. 6a–6b) converges into a single line of cord-rib on each side (Fig. 6. B. 2a–b). Densely punched concentric circles – both smaller ones (Type P2; Fig. 6. B. 6a, 10, 13a–16a, 19a–b) and larger ones (Type P1; Fig. 6. B. 3, 5, 8) – appear between the cord rib bundles. P1 concentric circles are replaced with smaller versions (P2) at the bottom and sides of the plate and these smaller versions also make up the uppermost zone of the decoration (Fig. 6. B. 6 a–b, 10).

The decorations were embossed on the gold foil, as shown by the damage caused at several locations (Fig. 5, Fig. 9. 2). The patterns are completely flattened along the lower edge due to pressure from neck of the jug. Such flattening occurs where the backplate is completely smooth (Figs. 4–5, Fig. 8. 2, Fig. 9. 1). The plain bronze plate is visible where the gold foil is missing. Our observations, therefore, differ from that of Hermann Born on the production technology of the analogous ‘Thaya’ finds (see Menghin, Hänsel 2001, 388; Born 2003a, 178–181; Born 2003b, 95–96, Figs. 16–18). Whether ‘Thaya’ finds are fashioned in a different manner, or the corrosion of the thin bronze plate filled the gold foil’s patterns, can only be determined by re-examination.

The patterns of the Somló neck collar were produced by using three or four different punches/stamps (Fig. 6. C). The craftsman impressed these patterns on the gold foil after laying it on leather or some other soft material. The Somló neck collar patterns suggest that they were pressed from the in-

side and not from the other direction (Armbruster 2003, 74–75; Schorer 2023, 147–151). The punches were probably made of a softer material, like bone or wood, to avoid accidental piercing through the thin gold sheet (see Jockenhövel 2003, 111, Fig. 5; Schorer 2023, 147–151). P1 and P2 patterns were made by two different sizes of punches designed to press concentric circles around a dot (*Zierpunzen/Kreispunzen*). Examples of such tools with either a dot or a boss at their centre are known from Czechia, France, Germany and Switzerland. These punches are mainly made of bronze, among which the ones from G nelard are, in regards of their patterns, the most similar to P2 (Armbruster 2003, 74–75, Fig. 15–15b; Jockenh vel 2003, Fig. 5. 1–10; Springer et al. 2003, 281, No. 8a; Armbruster 2012, 388–390; Ilon 2015a, 47–59, 230–233; Ilon 2015b, 218; Bartk,  ambal 2018; Jockenh vel 2019, Tab. 1).

The cord patterns have two variations, one of them is leaning to the left (P3) and the other is leaning to the right (P4) reflecting the position in which the tool was held during punching. P4 frames P3, except for one motif in Zone II (Fig. 6. B. 4). Alternating these two variations creates a zigzag pattern, a favoured motif on gold artefacts like the ‘Thaya’ neck collars, two of the Velem discs, and the gold cups from Depenau and Eberswalde (Menghin, Schauer 1977, 84–85, 69; B andi 1983, Fig. 3; H nsel 2003, Fig. 2. 9; Armbruster 2003, 74–75, Fig. 16; Armbruster 2012, 388–390). Zigzags also appear on bronze products, for example the long spearhead from Soml  Hord I, which has a similar decoration along its socket (see Tarbay et al. 2024a, Fig. 1. 1B). The cord patterns (P3 and P4) can be achieved using either of two punches. One is a small awl-shaped tool with a narrow, notched edge (*Faulenzerpunze*), examples of which are known in the archaeological record, e.g. G nelard, Larnaud, and ‘Murnau’ (Armbruster 2003, Fig. 16; Springer et al. 2003, 280, No. 7b; Jockenh vel 2019, Tab. 1. 9, 11, 16). The other, which is a more likely option, is a simple chisel-shaped tool with a rounded edge of the same size as a single cord pattern. The cord-like patterns could easily be achieved by repeated punches with this tool. Both P3 and P4 can be made with the same tool by holding it in different ways. It is also more controllable than the awl-shaped tool with a notched edge for creating curved patterns, as seen in Zones I and III of the Soml  neck collar (Armbruster 2012, 388–390). This method, however, also has disadvantages; in Zone II, the oblique patterns gradually become

straight, which could indicate that the craftsman became tired and no longer could keep the punches in line (Fig. 4. 1, Fig. 5. 2).

The overlapping of punched concentric circles (P1–2) and cord patterns (P3–4) indicates a production technological error that provides a glimpse into the personal aspect of the manufacturing process (Fig. 6. C–D, Fig. 8, Fig. 9. 1). This is mainly observ-

able in Zone III, where P2 covers the cord patterns (P3–4) at two locations (Fig. 5. 2, Fig. 6. B. 1, 13, 15a, 17a). Slightly below this, P1 overlaps P2 in Zone II and Zone III (Fig. 6. B. 8, 15). These traces suggest that the craftsman first punched the cord pattern and then filled it with small (P2) and large (P1) concentric circles. In the front (Zone II), P2 covers P3–4 (Fig. 6. B. 4, 6a), suggesting that the cord bundles

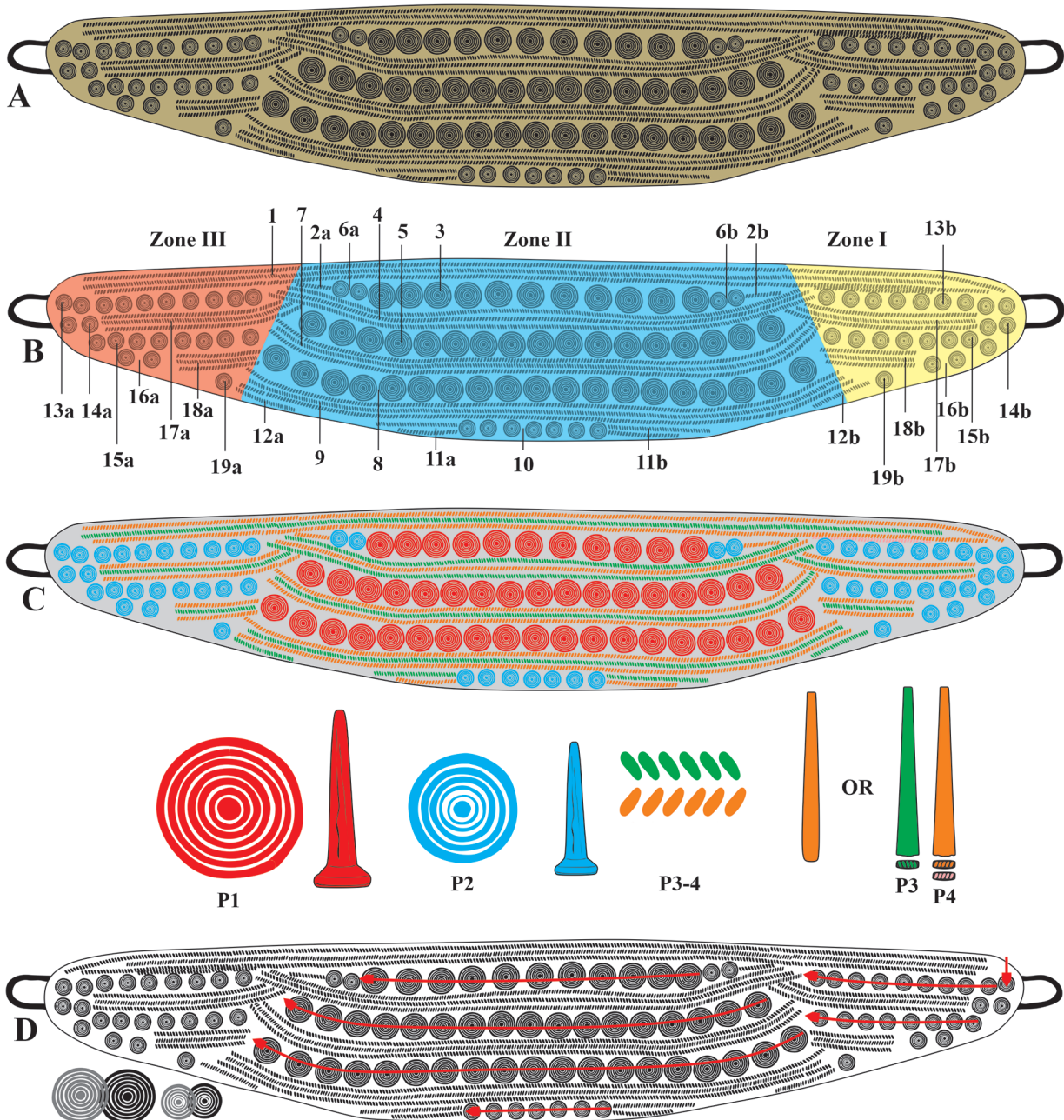


Fig. 6. A: Patterns of the collar; B: zones and parts of the collar patterns; C: concentric circle (P1–2) and cord-rib patterns (P3–4); D: direction of punching based on overlapping patterns. Please note that the drawings are not exact, but schematic representations of the object

6. kép. A: A nyakék díszai; B: a nyakék díszainek zónái és részei; C: koncentrikus kör (P1–2) és zsinegdísz minták (P3–4); D: a poncolás iránya az átfedő minták alapján. Az illusztrációk sematikus megjelenítései a leletnek, nem pontos rajzai

were also punched in this area. The craftsman followed a different strategy in Zone I, where the cord bundles (P3–4) cover the concentric circles (P2) in two cases (Fig. 6. B. 13b, 17b, 15b, 18b). Some P1 and P2 concentric patterns overlap in Zone II and Zone III, revealing the direction of the stamping. This was done from the right to the left on the gold foil of the Somló neck collar (Fig. 6. D).

Related finds in Transdanubia

Gold artefacts in Transdanubia can be dated between the Br D and the Ha B3 periods. Most were found to the north of Lake Balaton, whereas only Ha A1 examples are known in southern Transdanubia. These finds are associated with hilltop sites in the younger and late Urnfield periods (Kőszegi 1988, 53–54; Hansen 1994, 301). The first comprehensive study on these gold artefacts was provided by Amália Mozsolics (Mozsolics 1950). The results of her study were re-evaluated by following generations of scholars (Mozsolics 1979, 93–94; Mozsolics 1981; Bándi 1983; Sperber 1992, 63, fn. 4; David 2003; Hänsel 2003, 166–167; David 2007, 422–431), most recently Gábor Ilon (Ilon 2015a; Ilon 2015b), Carola Metzner-Nebelsick and Erzsébet Jerem (Metzner-Nebelsick, Jerem 2016).

The range of gold objects known from the Late Bronze Age in Western Hungary includes gold-foil-plated discs, gold-foil-plated domed discs, hair-rings, threads, gold spirals, gold beads, unfinished gold sheets, gold-foil-plated diadems, and now the Somló neck collar. Only a handful of burials are known to have contained gold objects. An early example is Grave 1 from Mound VI at Bakonyjákó, where a hair ring and gold threads were discovered (Jankovits 1992, 315–318, 333–334, Fig. 56. 3–4, Fig. 61. 4–5). Three Urnfield cemeteries are known to have contained gold artefacts: (1) Grave 159 from Sopron-Krautacker (Br D–Ha A1 /Ha A1/), which contained a gold foil thread (Metzner-Nebelsick, Jerem 2016; Ilon 2024b, Fig. 5. 3. 13. 1), (2) three burials (Graves 26, 36, and 125) from Budapest-Békásmegyér, which contained gold rings and a gold piece (Kalicz-Schreiber et al. 2010, 33–34, 38–39, 86–87, 276, 287, Pl. 18. 8, Pl. 22. 14), and (3) two burials from Zalakomár-Alsó-Csalit temető (Br D/Ha A1–Ha A2), which contained gold thread and gold wire as well as lumps of molten gold (Szárász 2020, 267–268, 275, 300, Pl. 295. 3). Tumulus 26 at Pécs-Jakab-hegy, dated to the turn of the Ha B3 and Ha C periods, is

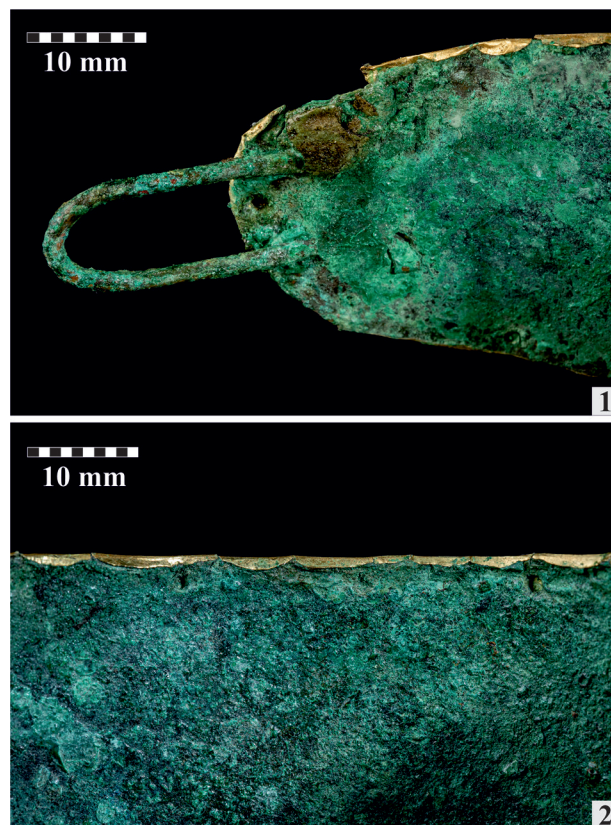


Fig. 7. 1: Wire loop inserted into the bronze backplate with organic remains; 2: overlapping of the gold foil and perforations of the bronze backplate (photo: László György)

7. kép. 1: A nyakék végén látható, bronz hordozólemezbe illesztett drótfül, felső részén szervesanyag maradványokkal; 2: a bronz hordozólemezre hajtott aranyfólia és a fóliát nem átütő perforációk (fotó: György László)

of special relevance, as it contained similar objects to Somló Hoard VII; 2000 small bronze knobs, gold wire beads, bronze spirals, rings and bracelets were recovered from this grave (Maráz 1996, 256–257).

Other than in hoards, gold finds are known from Urnfield settlements as well. Feature 435 from the multi-horizon (Br C2–Ha A1) settlement at Muraszemenye-Aligvári mező contained a fragment of gold wire (Szárász 2006, 171, Fig. 5. 11; Szárász 2020, 166–167, 192, Fig. 7. 3, Pl. 99. 2). Most of the Late Bronze Age gold objects are either stray finds or have been recovered from hoards. The custom of including small gold objects in hoards began in the Ha A1 period. Gold beads were recovered from the Kurd hoard and gold wires and gold-foil threads were found at Regöly-Kesziszállás dűlő and Nagyberki-Cseh-rét (Mészáros 1977, 61, 65, Pl. 7. 2; Mozsolics 1985a, 61, 141, 181–182, Pl. 26. 2; Honti 1992, 41,



Fig. 8. 1: Overlapping concentric circle (P2) and opposite cord-rib patterns (P3–4) in Zone III; 2: flattened cord-rib patterns, perforations punched through the gold foil in Zone II (Photo: László György)

8. kép. 1: Átfedő koncentrikus körminták (P2) és ellentétes irányú zsinégminták (P3–4) a III. zónában; 2: ellapuló zsinégminták, aranyfóliát átütő perforálások a II. zónában (Fotó: György László)

43–44, Fig. 1. 10). Gold products dated between the Ha A and Ha B periods are the most significant finds in relation to the Somló neck collar. The gold foil of the collar was not the only gold object in Hoard VII; two gold-foil-plated bronze discs, two gold foil threads, and gold beads were also recovered inside the vessels, which are currently under conservation. The two gold discs in Hoard VII were decorated with concentric circles and framed by dense lines along their edges. Hoard III, found in 2023, also provided small gold spiral beads and an additional gold-foil-plated disc with bronze and organic parts corroded to its rear side (Soós, Tarbay 2024, 28; Tarbay et al. 2024b, 4) (Fig. 10. 2). The gold disc from Hoard III is made by the same technique as the neck collar and it is decorated with concentric circles, as in the case of the discs from Ság Hill (Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 18. 1), Várvölgy-Nagy-Lázhegy I (Tarbay 2018, Pl. 397. 22), and three unprovenanced discs from the Bavar-

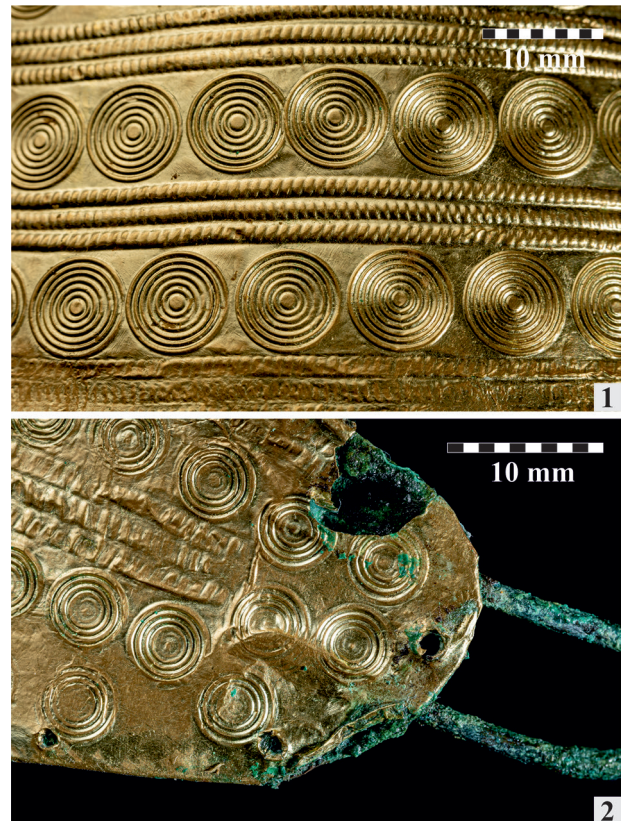


Fig. 9. 1: Overlapping concentric circle (P1) and opposite cord-rib patterns (P3–4); 2: undecorated bronze backplate, perforations punched through the gold foil, flattened patterns (photo: László György)

9. kép. 1: Egyégy fedő koncentrikus körminta (P1) és ellentétes irányú zsinégminták (P3–4); 2: díszítetlen bronz hordozólap, aranyfólián átmenő perforálások, ellapított minták (fotó: György László)

ian State Archaeological Collection (*Archäologische Staatssammlung München*) (Gebhard 2001d, 233, No. 44; David 2007, Fig. 5).

The Ság Hill lies approximately 33 km northwest of Somló Hill. During the basalt mining in the first half of the 20th century, Jenő Lázár salvaged a hoard that was later to be known as Hoard II (Ha B2). It contained fragments of a gold-foil-plated diadem and a gold-foil-plated domed disc, as well as numerous bronze objects. As these gold artefacts were lost during World War II from the collection of the Hungarian National Museum, they can only be studied from publications, the quality of which is not adequate for precise examination and comparison of the motifs or the production technology of the finds. The larger concentric circle patterns on these objects share similarities to those on the Somló neck collar (Lázár 1941; Mozsolics 1950, 11–12, Pl. 4. 1–2, Pls. 5–6; Mozsolics 1979, 85–94; Bándi 1983, 83; Mozso-

lics 1985b, 63–66; Schauer 1986, Pl. 46. 1; Kőszegi 1988, 53; Kemenczei 1996b, 103–105; Kemenczei 2000, 77, Fig. 43; Mozsolics 2000, 37–38, Pls. 8–18; Hänsel 2003, 167; Kacsó 2006, 86; David 2007, 423; Ilon 2015a, 87–88).

The Velem-Szent Vid gold hoard, excavated by baron Kálmán Miske, is one of the closest parallels of the Somló VII neck collar. The hoard consists of one gold-foil diadem and two pairs of gold-foil domed discs and their bronze backplates, as well as gold spirals. The Somló neck collar is most comparable to these objects in regard to the small and large concentric circle patterns and cord patterns, the arrangements of which reflect similar aesthetic taste (Tompa 1937, 105; Mozsolics 1950, 7–10, Figs. 3–5, Pls. 1–3; Bándi 1983; Mozsolics 1985a, 213; Schauer 1986, Pl. 45. 2; Kőszegi 1988, 53; Sperber 1992, fn. 4; Kemenczei 2000, 77, Fig. 42; Hänsel 2003, 166–167; Kacsó 2006, 86; David 2007, 423–426; Ilon 2012; Ilon 2013; Ilon 2015a; Ilon 2015b; Metzner-Nebelsick, Jerem 2016, Fig. 7. 2–3; Ilon 2024a, 195–196; Ilon 2024b, Fig. 5. 3, Fig. 13. 2).

The Várvolgy-Nagy-Lázhegy Hoard I (former Felsőzsid) was found inside a ceramic vessel in 1926. Among the objects received by the Hungarian National Museum and the Balaton Museum were gold-hair spirals, gold-foil-plated discs or domed discs in whole and in fragments, gold threads, as well as a blue glass bead, and bronze objects, such as a sickle, a socketed chisel and an axe. The cord and concentric circle patterns of the discs show distant similarities to the Somló neck collar (Tompa 1928; Mozsolics 1950, 14–15, Pl. 7; Mozsolics 1981; Bándi 1983, 85–86; Mozsolics 1985a, 211; Schauer 1986, Pl. 45. 3; Kőszegi 1988, 53; Sperber 1992, fn. 4; Kemenczei 2000, 77–79, Fig. 44; Kacsó 2006, 86; Müller 2012; Müller 2013; Ilon 2015a, 88; Tarbay 2018, 692–695, Pl. 389–397) (Fig. 10. 1). Another gold hoard from the same site, found inside a pit excavated by Róbert Müller, is also of great importance. This assemblage contained a pair of gold hair rings, gold foil spirals, and spiral beads. The semi-finished gold discs and gold droplets support the idea that local production of gold ornaments existed in Transdanubia (Müller 2012; Müller 2013).

The range of published gold artefacts from the Transdanubian Urnfield culture can be concluded by three – or, according to some scholars two – more finds. Mozsolics discussed a fragmented gold foil sheet decorated with concentric circles and two spirals from the Fleissig Collection, which allegedly

came from ‘Dunántúl’ (Transdanubia) (Mozsolics 1950, 15, Pl. 4. 3–5; Bándi 1983, 86; Schauer 1986, Pl. 46. 2; David 2007, 423). The Museum of Art History (*Kunsthistorisches Museum*) in Vienna bought two gold discs and two gold spirals allegedly from ‘Altofen’ (Budapest-Óbuda) from an infamous antiquities dealer, Jakab Krausz, in 1873. These finds are now in the Natural History Museum (*Naturhistorisches Museum*) in Vienna. Similarly to the Somló VII finds, both of these discs are decorated with various concentric circle motifs (Tompa 1942, 110; Mozsolics 1950, 14, Fig. 7; Hartmann 1970, 116–117, Pl. 48. Au 193–197; Bándi 1983, 86; Schauer 1986, Pl. 45. 1; Kőszegi 1988, 53; Barth 1989; Sperber 1992, fn. 4; David 2007, Fig. 4. 7–8; Ilon 2015a, 87; Metzner-Nebelsick, Jerem 2016, 24, Fig. 7. 4–8). Krausz also sold gold threads allegedly originating from ‘Stuhlweißenburg’ (Székesfehérvár, Fejér County), which Fritz Eckart Barth considered to be part of the same assemblage as the Óbuda find (see Hartmann 1970, 116–117, Pl. 48. Au 301; Bándi 1983, 86; Barth 1989, 155–156, Pl. 1. 1–9). It is impossible to determine whether these finds are from the same set of artefacts or to ascertain the validity of the provided provenance for these objects in retrospect. No similar gold finds from archaeological contexts, however, are known either from West Budapest or from Fejér and Pest Counties, which undermines the authenticity of Jakab Krausz’s account.

Allegedly from Thaya River

In respect of style and formal characteristics, the Somló neck collar has only several close analogues, all of which are from uncertain provenance and ambiguous archaeological contexts. Three neck collars, along with thousands of small pieces of jewellery, were purchased by the Museum for Prehistory and Early History Berlin State Museums (*Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin*) around the early 2000s from an art dealer and from a private collector in Berlin, who had previously owned all these artefacts. The objects were allegedly found together with potsherds on a vine hill in the ‘region of the River Thaya’ near the Moravian and Lower Austrian border in 1989. Wilfried Menghin distinguished three hoards in the acquisition, while Alix Hänsel calls these clusters ‘Complexes’ (A, B, and C), each consisting of small artefacts (e.g. beads made of shell, amber and glass, annular rings, small knobs and gold threads), showing striking ty-

pological similarities to what the Somló Research Group has discovered in Hoards III, VII and VIII (Menghin, Hänsel 2001, 383–391; Menghin 2002; Hänsel 2003; Menghin 2010, 79–80, Figs. 78–79). The three neck collars from the ‘Thaya region’ resemble the Somló collar in their shape and style of decoration. All of them display a similar combination of small and large concentric circle patterns and cord ribs organised into three bundles. Some differences, however, can be observed in the arrangement of the patterns. On two of the ‘Thaya region’ neck collars, the patterns are divided by vertical cord-ribs, a feature absent on the Somló neck collar (Hänsel 2003, Fig. 2, Fig. 7). Despite minor differences in the position of the smaller concentric rib patterns

near the edges and the arrangement of the cord-ribs, the patterns on the third ‘Thaya region’ neck collar resemble the most to those on the Somló neck collar (Hänsel 2003, Fig. 9). The patterns on the Somló neck collar, nonetheless, do not run through the entire surface of the artefact, but rather break and continue in another set of lines. Moravian colleagues have recently published an image of two neck collars allegedly looted from a site called Tabulová hora hillfort south of the Thaya River (Navrátil et al. 2024, 25–28, Fig. 19). These unfortunate artefacts, only known from poor-quality photos taken by the detectorists, resemble considerably to the third ‘Thaya region’ neck collar discussed above (No. IVf3374) (Hänsel 2003, Fig. 9; Navrátil et al. 2024, Fig. 19).



Fig. 10. 1: Gold foil from Várvölgy-Nagy-Lázhegy Hoard I; 2: gold foil covered bronze disc from Somló Hill Hoard III (photo: Iván Jaksity)

10. kép. 1: Aranyfólia Várvölgy-Nagy-Lázhegy I-es kincsből; 2: aranyfóliával borított bronzkorong a III. somlói kincsből (fotó: Jaksity Iván)

European Outlook

Analogues of the Somló neck collar exist beyond Western Hungary and the 'Thaya river'. In fact, the stylistically related objects are many, since the newly found jewellery belongs to a group of golden elite ornaments of a uniform style discovered all over the continent reaching from the Carpathian Basin to Ireland, Iberia and Northern Europe. This impressive assembly of masterpieces is a product of generations of craftsmen, who, over the centuries, adopted these prestige objects to the taste of contemporary elites (Eogan 1981, 359–361; David 2003, 35–40).

There are numerous objects with cord rib and concentric circle patterns (Menghin, Schauer 1977, Fig. 5; Ilon 2015b, 217–218). Concentrating on fine typological characteristics of patterns, the number of related analogues can be reduced.² Both Menghin and Hänsel noted that the concentric-circle-and-a-dot motifs (P1–2), instead of the concentric-circle-and-a-boss motifs, are less characteristic of Western Europe, and represent a 'Danube tradition', possibly related to one single workshop, hallmarked by eponymous objects like the diadems from Ság Hill and Velem-Szent Vid (Hänsel 2003, 172; Menghin 2010, 80). The concentric-circle-and-a-dot motifs are indeed more typical in this part of Europe, yet the distribution of this arrangement of patterns is certainly much wider on the continent.

The combination of concentric-circles-and-a-dot motif (P1–2) and cord patterns (P3–4) can be found on four different types of gold products: gold-foil discs and gold-foil domed discs;³ collars; diadems; and gold vessels (Fig. 11). The golden discs and the domed discs are an important group of artefacts because of their counterparts on Somló Hill and on other Transdanubian sites (Ság Hill, Velem-Szent Vid, Várvölgy-Nagy-Lázhegy). Scholars involved in the discussion of these objects (Kimmig 1940, 207–208, List 27; Bándi 1983, 86; Schauer 1986; Sperber 1992, Fig. 4; David 2003, 422–423; Ilon 2015a, 87–92; Ilon 2024a, 207) listed the following gold-foil discs and domed discs from Austria, Germany and Ireland: Bullenheimer Berg, looted hoard (Gebhard 1991, 52–55, Fig. 24); Deggendorf-Fischerdorf, grave, Mound 2 (Schmotz 1984, 51–52; Schmotz 1985, 312, Figs. 8–9); Goldbach Grave 2, Ha A (Wilbert 1982, 83–84, 116, No. 12, Pl. 28. 10); Glüsing bei Hennstedt, grave (Menghin, Schauer 1977, 108, Fig. 65; Menghin, Schauer 1983, 140, No. 25, Fig. 64. 25; Springer et al. 2003, 285, No. 13); Innsbruck-

Mühlau Grave 1 (von Merhart 1930, Pl. II; Wagner 1943, 86, Pl. 9);⁴ Rothengrub hoard (Hoernes 1906, 89–90, Figs. 66–72; Pittioni 1952; Lauer mann, Rammer 2013, 84, Fig. 21); Sistrans burial mound, gold sheet fragment (Wagner 1943, 104–106, Pl. 1. 112); Innsbruck-Wilten 'Grave 110' (Wagner 1943, 134–135, Pl. 30. 8); Ireland stray find (Müller-Karpe 1980, Pl. 483. 5; Schauer 1986, Pl. 46. 3), Volders Grave 374 (Kasseroler 1959, 148–149, 225–226, Fig. 340, Pl. XVII. 374K); 'Worms-Liebfrauenkirche', antiquities market (Behrens 1916, 182, No. 435; Eggert 1976, 310, No. 576; Sperber 1999, 614, Fig. 12. 6–7); Unprovenanced discs from the Bavarian State Archaeological Collection (*Archäologische Staatssammlung München*), antiquities market (Gebhard 2001d, 233, No. 44).⁵ Discs and domed discs are a stylistically diverse group of jewellery, usually with individual patterns; some even show a concentric-circles-and-a-boss motif ('Deggendorf-Fischerdorf', 'Worms-Liebfrauenkirche') in combination with cord patterns. Gold-foil discs with patterns similar to that of the Somló neck collar are known from Austria, mainly from Urnfield graves in Tyrol: Innsbruck-Mühlau Grave 1, Rothengrub hoard, Sistrans, Innsbruck-Wilten 'Grave 110'.

Bled Hoard II contained two gold appliqués, decorated with lavish patterns of concentric circles and a cord-rib patterns that are similar to that of the Somló collar. Unfortunately, the objects come from a private collection, together with several other bronze artefacts that are characteristic of the Br D and Ha A1 periods. The available data on the circumstances of this discovery were reconstructed and re-evaluated in several studies by Peter Turk. The finding spot of Bled Hoard II was on the northern shore of Lake Bled, just below the castle hill. Peter Turk, based on the typological composition and characteristics of fragmentation of the objects within the hoard, dates these collars to the Br D period (Turk 2012, 305–308, Figs. 2–3; Turk 2021; Ilon 2024a, 196; Turk 2024, 44–47, Figs. 3–4). While it is not preferable to take reconstructed contexts of finds from private collections at face value, if the two gold collars were indeed found in conjunction with the bronze objects, these artefacts may represent some of the earliest large gold foil jewellery in this region.

Besides the Tirolean examples, there are a few gold-foil-covered diadems – other than those from Velem-Szent Vid and from Ság Hill – that are also decorated with concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs and cord-rib patterns. These objects are distant

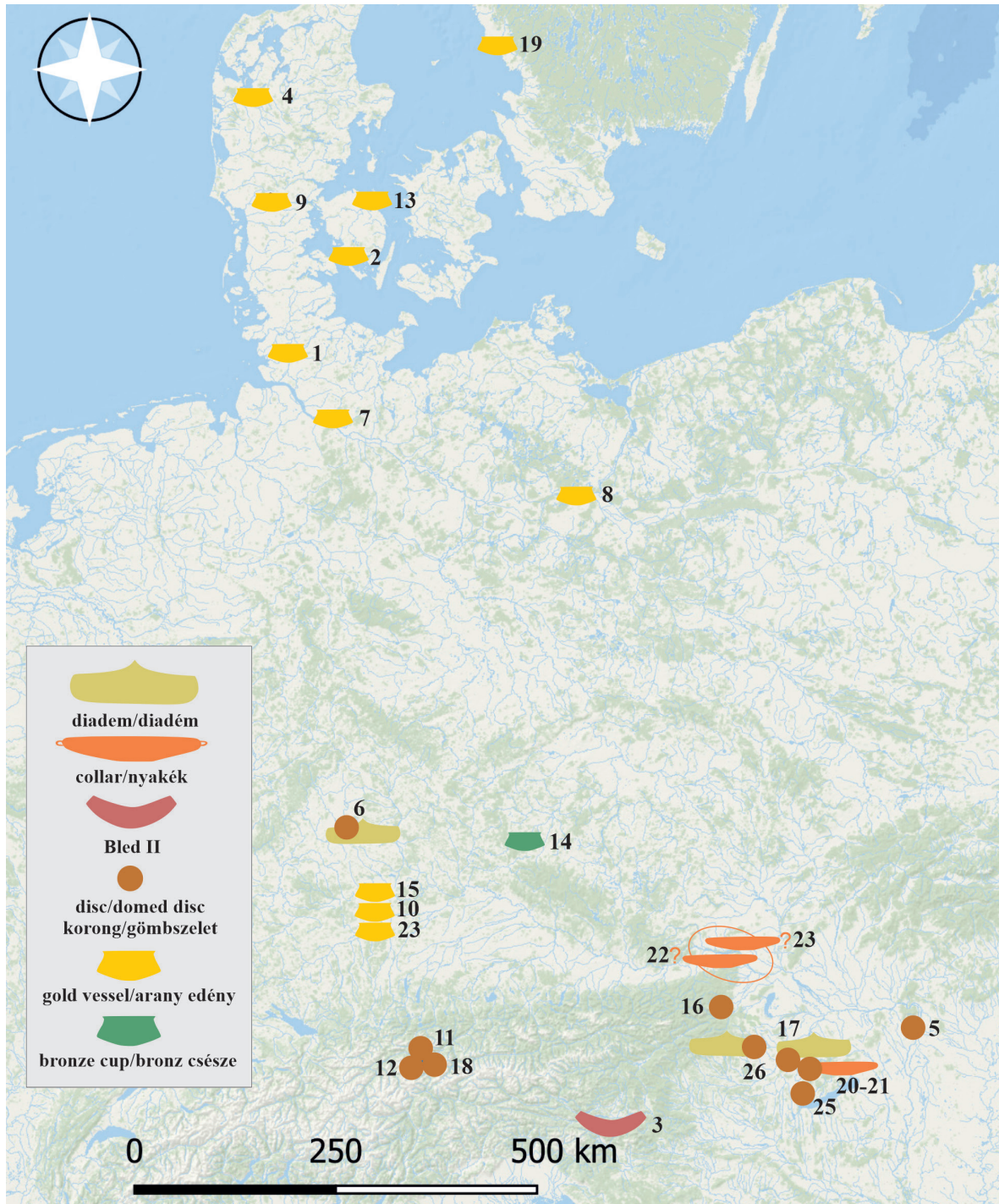


Fig. 11. Distribution of finds decorated with concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs and cord-ribs analogous to the Somló collar. 1: Albersdorf; 2: Avernakø; 3: Bled II; 4: Borgbjerg; 5: Budapest-Óbuda; 6: Bullenheimer Berg; 7: Depenau; 8: Eberswalde; 9: Gjerndrup; 10: Heroldingen-Huisheim; 11: Innsbruck-Mühlau; 12: Innsbruck-Wilten; 13: Midskov; 14: Milavče; 15: Nördlinger Ries; 16: Rothengrub; 17: Ság Hill; 18: Sistrans; 19: Smörkullen; 20: Somló III; 21: Somló VII; 22: allegedly 'Tabulová hora'; 23: allegedly 'Thaya River area'; 24: Unterglauheim; 25: Várvölgy-Nagy-Lázhegy; 26: Velem-Szent Vid

11. kép. A somlói nyakékhez hasonló pont köré szerveződő koncentrikus körmintákkal és zsinegdísszel borított tárgyak elterjedése. 1: Albersdorf; 2: Avernakø; 3: Bled II; 4: Borgbjerg; 5: Budapest-Óbuda; 6: Bullenheimer Berg; 7: Depenau; 8: Eberswalde; 9: Gjerndrup; 10: Heroldingen-Huisheim; 11: Innsbruck-Mühlau; 12: Innsbruck-Wilten; 13: Midskov; 14: Milavče; 15: Nördlinger Ries; 16: Rothengrub; 17: Ság-hegy; 18: Sistrans; 19: Smörkullen; 20: Somló III; 21: Somló VII; 22: állítólag „Tabulová hora”; 23: állítólag „Thaya folyó vidéke”; 24: Unterglauheim; 25: Várvölgy-Nagy-Lázhegy; 26: Velem-Szent Vid

analogues of the Carpathian artefacts, and only elements of their patterns display similarities to that of the Somló neck collar. The most important one⁶ is the gold ornate hoard deposited inside a vessel at Bullenheimer Berg, unearthed by looting metal-detectorists. Many scholars associated this hoard with the Ha B period. The six gold-domed roundels of this hoard display a combination of gold corded ribs and concentric circles and the patterns of the diadems seem to be a complex version of those visible on the Ság Hill find (Gebhard 1991, 52–55, Fig. 24; Lehrberger et al. 1997, 304, Pl. 63. B39–40; Gebhard 2001c, 233, No. 43; David 2003, 36, Fig. 2. 10; Gebhard 2003, 150–153, Fig. 2; Hänsel 2003, 166, Fig. 12; David 2007, 422–423, Fig. 1; Hagl 2008, 149, Pl. 6; Menghin 2010, 79, Fig. 77; Ilon 2015a, 90).

Another group of artefacts associated with neck collars consist of gold vessels. The distribution of these prestigious objects mainly covers northern and western Europe, including the territories of Spain, France, the British Isles, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. While these objects vary in their cultural contexts, dating and decoration, some display a combination of concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs (P1–2) and cord ribs (P3–4). This special group of finds has been discussed many times since studies by Kossinna and Schuchhardt (Kossinna 1913; Schuchhardt 1914). Except for the two gold cups from the Ha B1 Unterglauheim hoard/grave, the gold vessel hoard purchased from the antiquities market called Heroldingen-Huisheim, and the gold vessel hoard from Nördlinger Ries (Kossinna 1913, 20, Pl. 15. 2; Schuchhardt 1914, 18–19, Fig. 18; Anonymous 1936, 12–14, Pl. 6. 62; Menghin, Schauer 1977, 73–75, Fig. 41–42; Menghin, Schauer 1983, 88–90, Fig. 38; Schauer 1986, Pl. 34. 1; Jacob 1995, 124, Pl. 77. 408–409; Gebhard 2001a, 224–225, No. 24, Fig. 24; Gebhard 2001b, 225, No. 26; Gebhard 2001e, 16, Fig. 8; Springer et al. 2003, 289–290, 292–293, Nos. 19–19e, 23; Wirth 2003, 133–139, Fig. 1, Figs. 3–4), all originate from Northern Europe (Menghin, Schauer 1977, 60–104; Springer 2003, 28–30; Springer et al. 2003, 286–299, Appendix, List 2; Pahlow 2006, 20–25, Fig. 12; Metzner-Nebelsick, Jerem 2016, 26). Three of such Period IV vessels were found in northern Germany: Albersdorf, Depenau vessel hoard, and the famous gold hoard from Eberswalde (Growth 1860, 20–21; Lindenschmit 1881, Pl. 1. 4–5; Kossinna 1913, 3–12, 3–33, Figs. 9–11, 24, Pls. 1–11, Pl. 12. 25, 42–43; Schuchhardt 1914, 13–14, 21–22, Fig. 25, Pls. 3–10;

Schuchhardt 1939, 170–171, Fig. 154; Menghin, Schauer 1977, 66–69, 80–89, Fig. 35, Figs. 37–38, Figs. 45–53; Menghin, Schauer 1983, 77–79, 98–115, Fig. 34, Fig. 42; Schauer 1986, Pl. 35. 2, Pl. 38. 5, Pl. 39; Jacob 1995, 124–126, Pl. 77. 410–412, Pl. 78. 413–414; Hidde 1997, 128–130; Springer et al. 2003, 287, 294–296, Nos. 16, 25; Pahlow 2006, 20, 22–24, Figs. 10–11, Pl. 33. 189, Pl. 19. 112; Martin 2009, 132–134, Pl. 52. 212–213, Pl. 53; Armbruster 2012, 404–407, 413–414, Figs. 42–43, Figs. 46–47). Four assemblages from Denmark contain gold vessels with similar patterns: Avernakø, Borgbjerg, Gjerdrup, and Midskov. These hoards can also be dated to Period IV (Kossinna 1913, 24–25, Fig. 5, Pl. 15. 3; Schuchhardt 1914, 22–24, 32, Figs. 26–27; Broholm 1948, 189–194, 203, Figs. 1–7, 14; Schauer 1986, Pl. 34. 3–4, Pl. 36, Pl. 37. 2; Armbruster 2012, 407–413, 422–424, Figs. 44–45, Fig. 52). The gold vessel dated to Period IV from Smörkullen hill in Sweden stands as the northernmost example of the style observable on the Somló neck collar (Kossinna 1913, 28–30, Fig. 7; Schuchhardt 1914, 24, Fig. 30; Menghin, Schauer 1977, 78, Fig. 43a; Menghin, Schauer 1983, 94–95, Fig. 40; Schauer 1986, Pl. 37. 5; Springer et al. 2003, 291, No. 21; Ullén 2003, 143–146, Fig. 1, Fig. 3; Armbruster 2012, 425–426, Fig. 54). Gold vessels have their bronze counterparts. The bronze cup with cord-rib and concentric circle patterns from Milavče Mound C1 burial in Czechia is significant in this regard. This assemblage was dated to the Br D, a much earlier phase than most of the gold vessels belong to (Kytlicová 1991, 62–65, Pl. 6. 35). The bronze cup from the Očkov burial (Ha A1), even though it is decorated with three cord-ribs only, is another early example for the use of such vessels in an elite context. This vessel was found in conjunction with gold threads (Paulík 1962, 21, Fig. 21, Figs. 23–24; Novotná 1991, 19–21, Pl. 2. 8).

The spatial distribution of the related gold vessels is a valuable source of information, considering that the bronze sheet metal neck collars in the Carpathian Basin are not typical elements of the ornamental set. In the area of the Urnfield culture, the most common neck jewellery are the twisted torcs with rolled terminals. Sheet metal objects are generally used for producing belts, belt hooks, and different types of bronze and gold foil-plated diadems. Neck collars, however, are quite frequent in the Nordic Bronze Age (Montelius Period II–III). Alix Hänsel dismissed the connections between these Nordic neck collars and neck collars of the Somló type, based on differences in pro-

duction technology (cast versus hammered, casting technology, execution of patterns, fastening of gold foils onto bronze objects), decorative style, and fastening method (rolled-up ends versus loops) (Hänsel 2003, 165–166). Since the distribution of the neck collars in Europe suggests that the custom of wearing such ornaments is characteristic of Northern Europe, and in the Carpathian Basin this object has no direct antecedent nor any bronze counterparts, we cannot entirely support Hänsel's theory. It seems more likely that the idea and the demand for such objects may have come from outside the Carpathian Basin and it was redefined locally regarding technology of production and style. Elite connections between the Carpathian Basin and Northern Europe are well-known and testified by eponymous objects of Scandinavian and Carpathian origin (see Thrane 1975; Szabó 1993; Knape, Nordström 1994; Szabó 1995; Gömöri, Kaus 2014; Tarbay 2014). The following northern European collars dating from Period II and IV share similar patterns with the collar from Somló Hoard VII: Bad Oldesloe (Period IV/Ha A2–Ha B1), Wardböhmen (Period II/Br D–Ha A1), Sonnerup-Tjørnehøj (Period II/Br D–Ha A1) (Nørgaard 2011, 52–56, 72, 87, 207, Pl. 33. 249, Pl. 45. 360, Pl. 55. 436).

Dating

Dating the neck collar based on the 'Thaya' and 'Tabulová hora' analogues is challenging as both artefacts are stray finds without reliable contexts. The combined occurrence of cord-rib patterns and concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs on gold and bronze products can be dated in the periods between the Br D and Ha B2 in Central Europe and Ha A and Ha B2 in Western Hungary (Kemenczei 2000; Ilon 2012, 129). None of the gold products that show strong stylistic similarities to the Somló finds can be dated accurately. Amália Mozsolics (Mozsolics 2000, 37–38) and Tibor Kemenczei (Kemenczei 1996a, 84; Kemenczei 1996b) dated Ság Hill Hoard II to the Ha B2 period but not all scholars agree on this conclusion (Hansen 1996; Turk 1996, 115–117; Kemenczei 1996b, 95–97; Pare 1999, 360). The relative chronological position of the Velem-Szent Vid diadem is rather ambiguous, and arguments were put forward for dates ranging from Br D2 to Ha B3 (see Ilon 2015a, 107–112). The gold-foil discs listed here as close analogues of the neck collar (e.g. Innsbruck-Mühlau Grave 1, Rothengrub hoard, Sistrans and Innsbruck-Wilten 'Grave 110'), are either from

uncertain contexts or their dating is ambiguous (see Ilon 2015a, 88–89). Only the gold vessels with cord rib and concentric circle patterns are dated in a coherent manner; these finds generally date to the Montelius Period IV (equivalent to Ha A2–Ha B1). This dating is valid even if the criteria for comparison are narrowed to the presence of triple cord ribs and concentric-circles-and-a-dot motifs (Albersdorf, Depenau, Eberswalde, Midskov, Smörkullen), (Menghin, Schauer 1977, 81–89, Fig. 45, Figs. 49–50; Armbruster 2012, 404–407, 413–414, 422–426).

Unlike the 'Thaya' and 'Tabulová hora' finds, the Somló neck collar is from a reliable archaeological context. The several organic remains, metal and non-metal objects, provide a chance for a more accurate dating. Radiocarbon dating will be carried out following the analysis of the organic remains. The ceramic vessels associated with the hoard contribute little to dating the assemblage. One of them is an orange-coloured vessel with a straight base, a spherical body, a conical neck and an everted rim (*Kegelhalsgefäß*). This type of vessel was classified by Patek as Variant 2 of Type 2, which is a characteristic of the second half of the Late Bronze Age between Ha A and Ha B (Patek 1968, 94, Pl. IV. 4; Lochner 1991, 261–262, 299, Fig. 1). The other vessel, a black bowl with a straight base and a reverted rim (*Schlüssel mit eingezogenem Rand*), is also characteristic of a wider period between the Br D–Ha A1 and the Ha C (Patek 1968, 102; Lochner 1991, 289, Type E/Var. a; Kalicz-Schreiber et al. 2010, 253, Typentafel 7. IV. F3. 22; Ilon et al. 2011, 149). The bronze objects inside these vessels are small jewelry like small and large lozenge-sectioned annular rings, small knobs (Fig. 12. 7), different types of beads (blue, shell, gold spiral) (Fig. 12. 8–10), large spirals (Fig. 12. 5), a pin fragment, a small spiral ring, gold-foil thread, gold-foil-covered discs, bracelets, and a sheet metal tube. These objects are typical of several phases of the Late Bronze Age, but they tend to be hoarded together at the end of the Ha B phase in Transdanubia. Hoards showing similar combinations of small ornaments are known from Ság Hill (Hoards II–V) (Kemenczei 1996b, 91–107; Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 2. 8–9, Pls. 13–15, Pl. 16. 1–18, Pl. 18. 1–2, Pl. 19. 10, Pls. 20–21, Pl. 22. 2–3, 6–7, 9, 18–20, 22–23, Pl. 122. 1–5, 13, Pl. 125. 13–14, Pl. 126. 12–37, 39). Some Austrian hoards, e.g. Gars/Thunau (Ha B3/Ha C), Pitten (Ha B3/Ha C), and Michelstetten II (Ha B1), have contents similar to Hoard VII (Lauer mann, Rammer 2013, 75–77, 79–82, 106, Fig. 19, Pl. 11. 11, Pl. 14. 1–9, Pl. 28. 8–12).



Fig. 12. Artefacts from Hoard VII. 1: Ring pendant; 2: annular ring; 3–4: gold foil-covered bronze discs; 5: spiral; 6: small annular ring; 7: knob; 8: white bead; 9: blue glass bead; 10: amber bead; 11: twisted mouthpiece of a bit; 12: bracelet

12. kép. Tárgyak a VII. depóból. 1: Karika csüngő; 2: zárt karika; 3–4: aranyfólia díszes korongok; 5: spirál; 6: kis zárt karika; 7: pityke; 8: fehér gyöngy; 9: kék gyöngy; 10: borostyán gyöngy; 11: csavart zablaszájrész; 12: karperec

The two gold discs from Hoard VII show similarities to Somló Hoard III, Várköly-Nagy-Láz-hegy I (Ha B1), Celldömölk-Ság Hill II (Ha B2), and unprovenanced finds kept in München. Gold foil threads are undatable but have their counterparts among the local gold hoards discussed above. While the deposition of beads, even in large quantities, is not unique to the Transdanubian Urnfield culture (see Mozsolics 1985a, 61), hoarding such large quantities of shell, blue glass and amber is a characteristic of the Late Urnfield period in Transdanubia. Analogues for this kind of selection are found in Somló Hoard I, III and VIII and the Ság Hill hoards II and V (Mozsolics 2000, 37–39, Pl. 122. 13, Pl. 126. 39). The decorated bracelets from Somló Hill Hoard VII belong to the Kelčice type, representing their late, thin-

ner variants. These are common ornaments in the Carpathian Basin and West Central Europe dating to the Ha B1–Ha B2 (Ha B3) (see Tarbay 2024) (Fig. 12. 12). Hoard VII also contains Visuvia-type rings, *i.e.* large annular rings with lozenge-cross-section (Fig. 12. 2). Such objects, considered to have been common in many areas in the Carpathian Basin and to the north-west, were used as jewellery or parts of complex ornaments or objects dating to the Ha A1–Ha B2/Ha B3 period (see Tarbay 2022, 79–81, Fig. 11). The small annular rings, which are frequent in the Ság Hill hoards, are known in Transdanubia between the Ha A2–Ha B1 and Ha B2: *e.g.* Biatorbágy, Sióagárd-Leányvár, Ság Hill II, III, V (Kemenczei 1996b, 103; Mozsolics 2000, Pl. 16. 18, Pl. 19. 10, Pl. 22. 22; Kalicz-Schreiber et al. 2010, 273, Typentafel

15. 13; Váczi 2014, Fig. 2. 24–26; Tarbay 2018, Pl. 25. 103–104) (Fig. 12. 6). Casting moulds probably for this type of artefacts are known from Velem-Szent Vid, Ság Hill and Gőr-Kápolnadomb (Miske 1907, Pl. 24. 12, Pl. 25. 10; Ilon 1996, Pl. 3. 12–13; Ilon 2018, Fig. 2. 1; Ilon 2024b, 6. 1. 4, Fig. 14. 3). Further examples are known from Bavaria and Austria, including casting moulds like the ones found in Obertraubling (Overbeck 2018, 62–63). As Lochner pointed out, these small annular rings are multi-part women's head or neck jewellery dated to the Ha A1–Ha B period. Their analogues are found in burials and hoards in Austria, Southern Germany and Mittelfranken, where they were combined with similar small items, spirals and beads (Lochner 1999, 185).

Currently we propose that the upper deposition cluster of the hoard (Hoard A) belongs to the same period as the lower deposition cluster (Hoard B) that contained the vessels and the neck collar, as both deposition clusters contain typologically similar objects, such as small annular rings and decorated bracelets. They were either buried simultaneously, or the upper deposition cluster was buried later as part of a second deposition act. Either way, the time difference between the two acts of deposition was certainly not substantial. The radiocarbon dates from the lower deposition cluster of the hoard will hopefully solve this chronological issue. The upper deposition cluster of the hoard also contained a rare ring pendant with a loop (Fig. 12. 1). Similar jewellery, albeit without a loop, is known from Grave 86 at Gernlinden (Ha A1; Kossack 1954, 85–91, Pl. 16.10; Kilian-Dirlmeier 1975, 55; Wels-Weyrauch 1991, 62, Pl. 18. 497–499), Velem-Szent Vid Hoard IV (Br D/Ha A1 or Ha A2) (Jankovits 2017, 192, Pl. 70. 2496; Tarbay 2018, 715–716, Pl. 433. 12), and Montlingerberg (Anonymous 1950, 319, Pl. 46).

A significant object for establishing the chronology of the hoard is a two-part, twisted-bit mouthpiece with two rings (Fig. 12. 11). It is an incomplete object without cheek pieces, which makes identifying proper analogues a difficult task. Analogues for the two-part mouthpieces with twisted decoration are the advanced variants characteristic of the Late Urnfield period. The counterparts of the Somló horsebit can be found in the regions of the Swiss Lakes and the Upper Rhine (Deicke 2021, 34–37). Examples are known from Mörigen, Switzerland (Hüttel 1981, 161–163, Pl. 23. 245), Künzing Grave A, Steinkirchen and Záboří and Labem (Deicke 2021, 34–37, Fig. 13, Pl. 29. 3, Pl. 49. 14, Pl. 85. 5). There are several

different types of Early Iron Age horse bits with this kind of mouthpiece in Italy (see von Hase 1969). An analogous mouthpiece was also found at Pécs in Transdanubia (Kemenczei 2005, 103, 134, Cat. No. B20, Pl. 26. B1). The appearance of this find in the hoard indicates that the deposition of the assemblage may be related to the era of the Thracian-Cimmerian bronzes in the Ha B3 period, which supports the hypothesis that important hilltop sites, such as Somló Hill, survived intact into this period (Kőszegi 1988, 54–57; Soós et al. 2023).

Considering the relative dating of the new neck collar, we believe that it should be dated to the later stages of the Ha B phase (Ha B2–Ha B3). Arguments for this dating are based on combinations of objects related to Ha B2–Ha B3/Ha C hoards from Transdanubia and Austria and the individual typo-chronological characteristics of certain artefacts. Based on the presence of the twisted-bit mouthpiece, the time of deposition for the complete assemblage was likely in the Ha B3 period.

Conclusions

There can be little doubt that the Somló neck collar was an important artefact for the community inhabiting the area of the hill. The collar and some of its analogues originate from hilltop sites and hillforts, mainly from those with central importance. This pattern is observable both in Transdanubia (e.g. Velem-Szent Vid, Ság Hill, Várköly-Nagy-Lázhegy) and beyond (David 2003, 38; Gebhard 2003, 152). In Transdanubia, the appearance of this special jewellery also suggests an ideological change among the elite, which slowly eclipsed the warrior identity previously celebrated in burial customs and hoards during the Br B2/C and Ha A1 periods. The neck collars, diadems and gold discs that appeared between the Ha A and Ha B periods in Transdanubia could be insignias of power unprecedented here since the end of the Middle Bronze Age and distant reminders of customs known in the Aegean and Middle East (Kacsó 2006, 90). The neck collar from Somló Hill represents the latest development of this custom around the time between the Ha B2 and Ha B3 periods, especially, as indicated by the twisted bit mouthpiece, in the Ha B3 phase.

The neck collar was made by advanced metalworking techniques limited to elite ornaments of precious metals and special bronze products. The motifs consisting of concentric circles and a cord-rib pat-

tern have numerous analogues among gold-foil-decorated neck collars, diadems, discs and dome discs, and gold vessels. These artefacts were parts of the paraphernalia of the Late Bronze Age elite from Ireland to the Carpathian Basin from Northern Europe to the Italian Peninsula. This magnificent piece of jewellery would have been recognised by anyone all over Europe as a sign of high social status. The Somló neck collar, however, has its own close parallels on fine typological arguments. It is essentially like the Transdanubian gold-foil-covered jewellery found in hoards and stray finds of the local Urnfield culture. These distinct groups of artefacts include diadems, gold-foil discs and domed discs from Velem-Szent Vid, Ság Hill, Várvolgy-Nagy-Lázhegy and Budapest-Óbuda. The best analogues of the patterns and their combinations are the domed discs and the diadem from Velem-Szent Vid. The chronological position of these finds, however, is uncertain due to their dubious archaeological contexts or the shortcomings of the local relative chronological schemes. It appears that these finds essentially represent a period between the Ha A2 and Ha B. In respect of style and production technology, the newly found neck collar also shares similarities with the gold-foil-covered diadems, discs and domed discs from the Austrian Alps, Bavaria and the vessels made of precious metals from Northern Europe. The latter region is also important, as the distribution of neck collars is high in this area, suggesting that these Carpathian objects may have had a Nordic inspiration. The lack of archaeological context for the 'Thaya' and 'Tabulová hora' finds makes the new neck collar's Moravian relations uncertain and questionable, yet among all the known Late Bronze Age gold finds, these six finds are the most similar to the Somló neck collar in respect of style and technique. It is very likely that they were made in the same workshop.

It is hard to tell who was entitled to wear such a masterpiece. Based on analogues outside the Carpathian Basin, it seems plausible that it was a jewellery made for women. Small gold-foil discs of similar style were recovered from female burials in West Central Europe (Sperber 1999, 614). Bronze counterparts of this neck collar in northern Europe are essentially found in female burials, and they are mainly associated with jewellery related to women (Nørgaard 2011). The Transdanubian Urnfield burials of women are, unfortunately, poorly furnished with grave goods. Female graves usually contain ceramic vessels, remains of the funerary feast, and

small burnt bronze objects. It was not common to place lavish gold or bronze objects representing higher social status in these burials. The neck collar is only one piece of a complete set of clothes and jewellery deposited inside the ceramic vessels. The content of the hoard could be a ceremonial dress, giving its wearer an awe-inspiring look and clearly separating her from the rest of the society. Each element, like the gold thread-woven textiles, beads possibly originating from distant lands, richly decorated bracelets, and the sheer quantity of small rings worn either as a headdress or part of a belt, further enhanced the owner's status. It is possible that this set was not even meant to be worn on mundane occasions, but, instead, could belong to a 'priestly vestment', items that provided their wearers with an otherworldly look during rituals (Kemenczei 2000, 79; Menghin, Hänsel 2001, 393–395; Gebhard 2003, 150–153; Hänsel 2003, 174; Ilon 2015a, 112).

These symbolic sets of objects were probably not allowed to be taken to the afterlife by placing them in the burials of their owners. They had to be treated with distinct rites of passage, as indicated by Hoard VII. Ritual interpretation is also supported by the recurring combination of similar small jewellery (*e.g.* different types of beads, knobs, small annular rings) and elements of ceremonial dresses, as observed in several cases on Somló Hill. The earliest examples for burials or hoards were published by Kálmán Darnay (Darnay 1899, 59–61; Tarbay et al. 2023, 80–81). The Somló research program also found such combinations of objects in Hoard III and Hoard VIII. Small annular rings and beads were, to a lesser degree, also present in Hoard I. These small jewellery items were usually placed as one coherent group within a hoard. Hoard III is significant in this regard, as it also contained gold finds, and most of the objects of the hoard were placed inside a ceramic vessel covered with a bowl. The recurring combination of objects, similarities in arrangement, and placing these finds into ceramic pots are part of an unfolding pattern suggesting that deposition of ceremonial dresses was an established custom.

The deposition act of Hoard VII could have been a special event. The arrangement of the hoard allows us to reconstruct the hoarding performance to a certain extent. Two ceramic vessels were placed inside a pit (Hoard B). The first one was filled with lavish elements of a ceremonial dress and jewellery. The neck collar was pressed inside around the neck of this ceramic vessel imitating the relative position

in which it was worn in real life. In other words, the item was placed in a way as if it was worn by the vessel itself. The mouth of this vessel was sealed with a black bowl. No human remains were found inside the vessels, but their arrangement seems to imitate some Late Bronze Age burials with generally poorer grave goods (e.g. Kalicz-Schreiber et al. 2010, 100–101, 119–120) or burials more generously furnished with metal finds (e.g. Ilon 2014, 20–26, Figs. 15–16). A special ceremonial dress with a neck collar may have been buried inside the pots instead of cremated human remains. What we see, therefore, is probably the symbolic burial of a ceremonial dress and the neck collar and all that it relates to status, prestige, potential ritual connotations. The first hoarding act was followed by a second, when another small hoard (Hoard B), mainly of jewellery, was placed on the carefully arranged set of vessels (of Hoard A). It may have been deposited either at the same time as the first hoard or afterwards in the framework of a commemorative rite. In case of the latter, the place of deposition could have been well-known for the people of the period. The typological relationship between the upper and lower deposition clusters of the hoard suggests that they belong to the same period. The deposition of this hoard may be associated with a changing era during the Ha B3 phase. An insignia of the Urnfield period was deliberately deposited in communal ritual; this act may have also meant burying of the symbols of the former elite system and giving way to the new world of the Early Iron Age. It is possible, therefore, that on Somló Hill we are

observing a special rite associated with a change of era. In the period of Ha B3, the prestige objects and insignia of the earlier Urnfield period are deliberately deposited in communal rituals, thus symbolically burying the former elite system and giving way to the new insignia of the early Iron Age world.

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Dedication

Members of the research project wish to dedicate the Somló neck collar to the memory of Norbert Horváth. Norbert was archaeological volunteer in our team, whose kind contribution has yielded many valuable artefacts for the project. May his memory be a glittering treasure.

Notes

1 The recently recovered Somló artefacts and their close morphological analogues are not yet known from inhumation or cremation burials from the Late Bronze Age. Currently, as is the case with many Late Bronze Age jewellerys from the Carpathian Basin, we cannot determine with certainty on which part of the head the object was worn, which makes finding a proper term for the artefact a difficult task. The close analogues of the Somló find have been described in various ways. Wilfried Menghin referred to the Thaya objects as *Halskragen* or *Goldkragen* (Menghin 2002). Alex Hänsel used the term *Halsberg* (Hänsel 2003) and Gábor Ilon continued to use this term as well (Ilon 2015, 53). Wolfgang David took a more careful stance and referred to these objects with a German as *mit Goldfolie überzogenen kragenförmigen Zierblechen aus bronze*, which means ‘gold-foiled-covered decorated sheets of bronze in the shape of a collar’ and calls

them *kragenförmiger Gewandbesatz* (David 2007). In the case of Tabulová hora, Aleš Navrátil and his colleagues refer to the objects as ‘diadems’ in quotation marks, indicating uncertainty of usage (Navrátil et al. 2024, 25–27). Peter Turk alludes to the Thaya finds as *golden appliqués* (Turk 2024, 48). Due to the lack of *in situ* contexts revealing the original position of wear for these objects, it is not possible to take a clear terminological stance. In this preliminary report we use the term introduced by Menghin and Hänsel and call the Somló object a collar or a neck collar, as we find this interpretation to be the most plausible one for this artefact. It is of great significance, that the size (width and diameter) of the object and the shape of the plates (straight at the top and rounded at the bottom) resemble the most to collars recovered from the area of the neck in inhumation burials (Ølby, Wardböhmen Hengstberg and Schaftstallberg) in Northern Europe

- (Nørgaard 2011, 14, 18–19, Fig. 67). We do not, however, reject the validity of other interpretations (diadem, headdress, coronet, *etc.*).
- 2 In the section 'European Outlook' we present analogues of the Somló collar based on decoration and not on morphological grounds. We understand that the cord-rib and concentric circles (with dot or boss) appear in many combinations and on numerous artefacts of various materials from the Late Bronze Age. It is not within our current scope to cite all the analogues, nor do we consider this to be necessary for the relative dating of the Somló collar. We, instead, only focus on artefacts that show a combination of cord-rib patterns and concentric-circles-with-a-dot motifs, as this motif is apparent on the Somló artefact. We deliberately omit artefacts that do not show cord-rib patterns and concentric-circles-with-a-dot motifs in combination or on which the cord-rib patterns are combined with concentric-circle-with-a-boss motifs.
 - 3 Some disc pendants (*e.g.* Han-sur-Lesse Cave, Landau-Wollmesheim Grave 2) were also associated with gold discs following the work of Wels-Weyrauch (Mariën 1965, Nos. 9–10; Dehon 1992, Fig. 5; Wels-Weyrauch 1995, 127; Sperber 1999, 614, Fig. 5. 2; Ilon 2015a, 87–91), but we find typological similarities distant to these finds and the ones found in the Carpathian Basin.
 - 4 Sperber also relates bronze backplates and bronze discs from this group of finds: Innsbruck-Mühlau Grave 46; Innsbruck-Wilten Grave 86 and 98, Schifferstadt-Burgstraße (Wagner 1943, 97, 132–133, Pl. 27. 15; Sperber 1992, 63, Fig. 1, fn. 4; Ilon 2015a, 89).
 - 5 The list of decorated gold-foil discs can be further expanded to include Italy (*e.g.* Borgo Panigale – Bronzo finale [1200–950 BC], Frattesina – Bronzo finale, Gualdo Tadiono – MBA/LBA [1700–1200 BC], Redù – MBA/LBA, Roca Vecchia – Bronzo finale), Czechia (*e.g.* Milínov – Br B2/C, Nová Huť – Br B2/C, Zelené – Br B2/C) and France (*e.g.* Ribécourt-Dreslincourt – MBA/LBA). Most dated to the transition of the Middle Bronze Age and the Late Bronze Age, they also show stylistic differences compared to the Somló collar (see Lehrberger et al. 1997, 267–268, Pl. 2. Č41, Č51, Pl. 4. Č83, Pl. 5. Č104; Bergonzi 2009; Guérin, Armbruster 2015).
 - 6 Petterweil gold-foil covered diadem with a concentric circle pattern from disturbed Late Bronze Age graves in 1882 is another example (Hermann 1966, 128, Pl. 118C. 10–12; Müller-Karpe 1980, Pl. 446A. 6; Wels-Weyrauch 1995, 127; Ilon 2015a, 90). Other diadems showing this pattern combinations are known from Binningen (Br D2; Mozsolics 1950, 18, Pl. 16. 2; Bándi 1983, 86, Fig. 6. 1; Ilon 2015a, 49, 78–79), Paseky (Br D; Richlý 1894, Pl. 15. 4; Mozsolics 1950, 15–18; Müller-Karpe 1980, Pl. 435. F9; Bándi 1983, 86; Lehrberger et al. 1997, 268, Pl. 6. Č 110; Ilon 2015a, 79), Höfen and Rixheim (Müller-Karpe 1980, Pl. 417. A6, Pl. 432. F1).

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KÉSŐ BRONZKORI NYAKÉK A SOMLÓRÓL. ELŐZETES JELENTÉS A VII. DEPÓRÓL

Összefoglalás

„A késő bronzkor és kora vaskor a Somló vidékén” c. kutatási program keretében, régészeti fémkereső-műszeres lelőhelyfelderítés során Király Krisztián régészeti önkéntes néhány bronztárgyból álló kisebb leletegyüttesre bukkant. A tárgyak feltárása során egy összetett, két részből álló késő bronzkori depóegyüttes (VII. kincs) bontakozott ki, melyet gödörbe deponáltak. A kincslelet legfelső részén kerá-

miaedény töredékeken gondosan elhelyezett bronztárgyak, sarlók, karperecek, kis zárt karikák és egy zablászárész nyugodott. A gödör legalján egy narancssárga kónikus nyakú edény feküdt az oldalán, szájára egy fekete színű, behúzott peremű tálat húztak. Az *in situ* kiemelt edények ipari CT vizsgálata alapján, melyre a veszprémi Pannon Egyetemen került sor, fény derült arra, hogy az edények több ezer

apró tárgyat, közöttük egy unikális aranyfólia díszes bronz nyakéket rejtenek.

Előzetes közleményünkben a közelmúltban nagy médiavisszhangot kapott nyakékkal foglalkozunk, melynek ebben a tanulmányban kívánjuk megadni értékelését, elejét véve annak, hogy téves vagy szakmailag nem megfelelő információk terjedjenek a tárgyról, a leletegyüttesről és annak felfedezéséről. A nyakék több részből áll: bronz hordozólemez, összekapcsolást segítő dróthurkok, aranyfólia borítás és szervesanyag belső réteg. A pont köré szerveződő koncentrikus körmintákból (P1–P2) és zsinórdísz utánzó díszekből (P2–P3) álló motívumokat az aranyfóliára vitték fel pecsétlő-szerű, valószínűleg szervesanyagból készült poncolókkal, melyek párhuzamai a nyugat-közép-európai késő bronzkori leletanyagból jól ismertek. A tárgy legszorosabb analógiája az állítólag a „Thaya folyó vidékéről” származó bizonytalan depóként rekonstruálható nyakékhármas, melyet a berlini Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte őriz. Három hasonló nyakéket tart számon a cseh régészet egy illegális fémkeresők által készült fotó alapján, mely állítólag egy morvaországi, Tabulová hora nevű, kifosztott lelőhelyről származik. A fentiekén kívül a somlói nyakék díszei jól kapcsolódnak a helyi dunántúli urnamezős kultúra területén talált aranyfólia díszes diadémokhoz (Ság-hegy, Velem-Szent Vid), gömbszeletekhez és korongokhoz (Budapest-Óbuda, Somló III, Ság-hegy, Várvolgy-Nagy-Lázhegy, Velem-Szent Vid), illetve a szlovéniai Bled II-es kincsben talált ékszerekhez. A somlói nyakéken látható mintakombináció legkorábbi megjelenése, meglepő módon a Br D-re keltezett Milavče C1 halom bronzcsészéjén látható. Szintén korai a csak zsinéddíszel bíró ocskói halom (Ha A1) bronzcsészéje. A fentiekén kívül a somlói lelet elsősorban tiroli osztrák urnamezős temetkezésekből származó aranyfólia díszes korongokkal (pl. Innsbruck-Mühlau 1. sír, Rothengrub depó, Sistrans, Innsbruck-Wilten „110 sír”) és bajorországi leletekkel, mint a Bullenheimer

Bergen talált diadém és gömbszeletek, ápol kapcsolatot. Megítélésünk szerint a lelet több szálon is kötődik az észak-európai fémművességhez. Egyfelől hasonló szerkesztésű mintákat figyelhetünk meg elsősorban Észak-Európában, másodsorban Dél-Németországban, a IV. periódusra (Ha A2–Ha B1) datálható arany edényeken, mint Albersdorf, Avernakø, Borgbjerg, Depenau, Eberswalde, Gjerndrup, Heroldingen-Huisheim, Midskov, Nördlinger Ries, Smörkullen, Unterglauheim. Az északi kapcsolat második szálát azok a hasonló formájú és néhány kivételes női sírban viseleti helyzetben megtalált bronznyakékek alkotják, melyek közül a Bad Oldesloe, Wardböhmen és a Sonnerup-Tjørnehøj-ről származó darabok emlékeztetnek távolról a somlói nyakékre.

A VII. depó keltezése a feldolgozás előrehaladásával pontosításra kerül a későbbiekben, s reményeink szerint a restaurálás alatt álló lelet teljes feldolgozása során radiokarbon keltezéssel kiegészül majd. Jelenleg a kincsegyüttesben található karakteres tárgyak és tárgykombinációk alapján vonhatunk le következtetéseket a depóegyüttes és a benne található nyakék datálásáról. A kincsben a legtöbb tárgy a késő fiatal és késő urnamezős időszakra jellemző, különösen szorosan kötődnek a Ság-hegyen felfedezett, Ha B2-re keltezett leletek-hez. Késői földbe kerülés mellett érvel a csavart zablaszájrész, mely helyi és nyugat-európai analógiák alapján a leletegyüttes felső részének („B kincs”) datálását a Ha B3-ra helyezi.

A Somlón talált nyakék valószínűleg a helyi urnamezős elit egyik női tagjái lehetett. Egy szimbolikus díszekkel ellátott, fontos státuszjelző ékszer volt, melyet tulajdonosától külön temettek el egy furcsa deponálási rituálé keretében, melynek régészetileg megfogható menete imitálja a korszak temetkezéseit. Késői deponálása arra utal, hogy elhelyezése talán összefüggésben állhatott a korszak fordulóján végbenemő elit reprezentáció megváltozásával.

