

GÁBOR ILON

**The Golden Treasure from
Szent Vid in Velem**

**The Costume of a High-Ranking Lady of the
Late Bronze Age in the Light of New Studies**



BUDAPEST 2015

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Front Cover

The diadem and the domed roundels of the golden treasure
(photo by Tamás Tárczy)

Back Cover

St. Vid Hill of Velem (photo by the author)

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Prologue

The golden treasure was discovered in the last days of August in 1929, in the course of an archaeological excavation conducted by Baron Kálmán Miske. The first monograph on this remarkable assemblage, written by Amália Mozsolics, was published twenty-one years later; Gábor Bándi's study, focusing specifically on the diadem of treasure, appeared after a period of thirty-seven years. Yet another thirty-two years elapsed before the present author completed his manuscript. My attention was directed to this golden treasure by Dr. Ottó Trogmayer, who in 1999 organised an exhibition in the Helikon (Festetics) Palace Museum of the most fascinating artefacts kept in various museums of Budapest and of the county seats. This exhibition was accompanied by a bilingual catalogue.* Dr. Trogmayer requested the gold diadem for the exhibition. Before loaning it, I held it in my hands for the very first time and I was horrified to see its terrible condition, as was Dr. Trogmayer. Therefore, after the exhibition and as soon as I was able to, I announced a tender (2003), and as a result, the conservation of the diadem was carried out between 2004 and 2006. At the same time, I believed that I would be able to answer at least some of the questions that had bedevilled archaeological scholarship for so long about this dazzling assemblage. This work lasted for many years: the present volume is a reflection of what I have accomplished as well as a reminder that our work on this spectacular treasure remains unfinished as it was for my predecessors; it shows the options I had at my disposal, and what I have been actually able to achieve.

Kőszeg, August 20, 2014

Gábor Ilon

* László Czoma (ed.): *Ritkaságok, becses óságok. Magyarország megyéinek és fővárosának muzeális kincsei a keszthelyi Festetics-kastélyban 1999–2000.* – *Raritäten, kostbare Altertümer. Museale Schätze der ungarischen Komitate und der Hauptstadt im Festetics-Schloß in Keszthely 1999–2000.* Keszthely, Helikon (Festetics) Palace Museum, 1999.