

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE CEMETERIES FROM THE 10TH AND 10—11TH CENTURIES, EXCAVATED AT SZARVAS

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Introduction

In the area of Ószőlő, lying east of Szarvas Békés county, the first excavations were carried out by ENDRE KRECSMÁRIK, on the so-called Lómer hill and in MIHÁLY MADLENKA's land, about the year of 1909. The excavator established the cemeteries to be from the Hungarian Conquest Era (KRECSMÁRIK, 1910). JÚLIA KOVALOVSKY also reported on the graves then found, as finds from the 10—11th centuries, and even on the settlement traces from the Arpadian Age, lying at the western and eastern ends of the sandhill which site — in her opinion — began to develop already in the 10th century (KOVALOVSKY, 1960). In another paper she describes a silver bracelet from the Age of the Conquest, found in the area of Szarvas, that supposedly came to light from the excavations carried out by KRECSMÁRIK in Ószőlő (KOVALOVSKY, 1960a).

In 1960, ISTVÁN DIENES organized an excavation in Ószőlő, as well, namely in the area of the Velki hill (a household plot belonging to PETROVICS's farm) that is probably identical with the Lómer hill mentioned above. He found the traces of an extensive Hungarian cemetery of the „common people” used, according to his establishment, continuously for a longer time, from the 10th till the 11th, and even till the 12th century (ISTVÁN DIENES: Report on the salvage excavation of a Hungarian common-people cemetery from the 10—11th centuries at Szarvas—Ószőlő; for placing at our disposal the above manuscript we should like to express our sincere gratitude to the author). In the investigated area the first result of the salvage of finds was the excavation of five graves. But in the course of further excavations there was found also another part of the cemetery having its origin supposedly in a later time, from where five further graves were excavated, anyway already damaged as the field there was trenched for a vineyard (DIENES, 1961).

Owing to the excavation of the archeologist GYULA GAZDAPUSZTAI, too, a cemetery from the 10th century was found in the downtown district of Szarvas (Szarvas — Lenin Street, later renamed Tessedik Street). The result of the excavation is: nine graves lying in one line of W—E orientation. Burying with horse occurred in three cases (GAZDAPUSZTAI, 1958).

We have elaborated the skeletal material of these two latter cemeteries, the material of which can be found in the Department of Anthropology in the Attila József University, Szeged. Because of the low number of the series, an

elaboration according to graves seemed to be practicable — publishing also the archaeological furniture. We have carried it out, following MARTIN's (1928) and LIPTÁK's (1962, 1965) method. In evaluating the trepanations, we have taken into consideration the monograph of NEMESKÉRI—ÉRY—KRALOVÁNSZKY (1960).

Metrical, morphological and taxonomical analysis

Szarvas—Őszölő

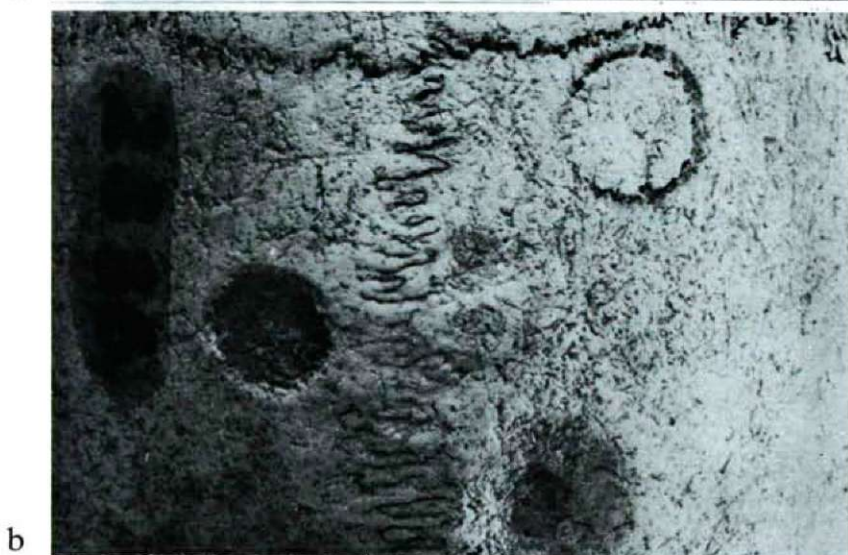
The anthropological material is in a good to medium state of preservation. The number of crania in good state of preservation — that are measurable — is seven, that of long bones in good state is five. An information is given in Table 1 about the state of preservation of the material and the connection between sex and age.

Table 1. Szarvas—Őszölő: Skeletal material of the cemetery from the 10—11th centuries

Material character		Inf. II.	Ad.	Mat.	Together
In good state of preservation (measurable)	Males	—	1	3	4
	Females	—	1	1	2
	Of undetermined sex	1	—	—	1
	Together:	1	2	4	7 (63, 64%)
Fragmentary (non-measurable)	Males	—	—	2	2
	Females	—	—	—	—
	Of undetermined sex	1	1	—	2
	Together:	1	1	2	4 (36, 36%)
Total:		2	3	6	11

Grave 1: Inventory number 2826. Calotte in good state of preservation and fragmentary skeleton. Male, maturus. The cranium is mesocranic. Norma verticalis: ovoid; glabella: 2; forehead is steep, eurometopic. Norma occipitalis: tent-shaped; protuberantia occipitalis externa: 1; processus mastoideus: medium. Lambdaregion: flat. On the os parietale three symbolic trepanations are to be seen. The site of the middle one is on the sutura sagittalis, in zone I named by Nemeskéri and co-workers, while those of the two extreme ones are in zones IIIa and IIIb that are the left, resp. right parietal bones at the calotte. All of them are circular but of different size. The one belonging to zone I is the largest and deepest, with a diameter of 15 mm. The one belonging

Plate I



- a. Szarvas—Őszölő, 10—11th century
Grave 1. Trephined skull.
- b. Szarvas—Őszölő, 10—11th century
Grave —. Trephined skull.



Fig. 1. Szarvas—Ószőlő, 10—11th century
Grave 3. Female, p—x

to zone IIIa is smaller as compared to the former one, with a diameter of only 10 mm. The one belonging to zone IIIb is the smallest, shallowest, and its diameter cannot be determined. All the three trepanations touch the *tabula externa* (Plate Ia).

Archeological furniture: Horse bones.

Grave 2: Inventory number 2827. Fragmentary pelvis and humerus of an adult of undetermined sex. It is a heavily disturbed grave.

Archeological furniture: three two-parts pendants and two round buttons (one of them is probably the upper part of the two-part pendant).

Grave 3: Inventory number 2828. Cranium and skeleton in a state of good preservation. Adult female. The cranium is brachycranic, orthocranic, tapeinocranic and aristencephalic. *Norma verticalis*: sphenoid. The forehead is steep, stenometopic. Glabella: 2. *Norma occipitalis*: house-shaped; *protuberantia*

occipitalis externa: O; processus mastoideus small. The upper-face is leptene; fossa canina: 2. The orbit is roundish, hypsiconch; the nose in moderately protruding, straight, leptorrhine. Nasal spine: 3; facial profile: orthognathous; alveolar prognathism: 2. Mandible is small, gracile. Her stature is tall, 160 cm. Taxon: p-x (Fig. 1).

Archeological furniture: 2 species simple bronze lock-rings.

Grave 4: Inventory number 2829. Fragmentary cranium and skeletal remains of a child. Inf. No archeological furniture.



Fig. 2. Szarvas—Ószölő, 10—11th century
Grave 8. Male, m

Grave 5: Inventory number 2830. Fragmentary calotte and a skeleton in good state of preservation. Male, *maturus*. Greatest length of cranium: 180. Glabella: 3. His forehead is somewhat: curved; *protuberantia occipitalis externa*: 3; *norma occipitalis*: tent-shaped; *processus mastoideus*: medium. Stature: tall-medium, 168 cm.

Archeological furniture: a recessed small round button with gilded centre, a piece of an iron hoop of quiver, arrow iron, bone-cover of a bow.

Grave 6: Inventory number 2831. Calvarium and skeleton in good state of preservation. Female, *matura*. Cranium is mesocranic, hypsicranic, acrocranic, and euencephalic. *Norma verticalis*: ellipsoid. Her forehead is steep, eurymetopic. Glabella: 2; *norma occipitalis*: house-shaped. *Protuberantia occipitalis externa*: 0; *processus mastoideus* is small. Mandible is medium high; the lambda-region is flat. Her stature is medium, 155 cm.

Archeological furniture: costated, S-ended lock-ring.

Grave 7: Inventory number 2832: Fragmentary cranium of a child (Inf. II).

No archeological furniture.

Grave 8: Inventory number 2833. Cranium and skeleton are in an excellent state of preservation. Male, *adultus*. Cranium is dolichocranic, orthocranic, acrocranic, and oligencephalic. *Norma verticalis*: pentagonoid. The forehead is somewhat curved, metriometopic; glabella: 4. *Norma occipitalis*: house-shaped; *protuberantia occipitalis externa*: 1; *processus mastoideus*: medium. The face-cranium is mesoprosopic, mesene, the fossa canina: 3. The orbit is squared, mesoconch. The nose is chamaerhine, medium protruding, straight. Facial profile is orthognathous; alveolar prognathism: 1. The mandible is small, gracile; in the lambda-region: divided os apicis. His stature is short-medium, 163 cm. Taxon: m (Fig. 2).

No archeological furniture.

Grave 9: Inventory number 2834. Calvarium in good state of preservation. Male, *maturus*. The cranium is mesocranic, hypsicranic, metriocranic and euencephalic. *Norma verticalis*: pentagonoid. His forehead is somewhat curved, metriometopic; glabella: 3. *Norma occipitalis*: house-shaped; *protuberantia occipitalis externa*: 0; *processus mastoideus*: small. Upper-face: euryene; fossa canina: 2. The orbit is squared, hypsiconch. The nose is medium protruding, straight, mesorrhine, the facial profile is orthognathous; alveolar prognathism: 1. Taxon: m-x (Fig. 3).

No archeological furniture.

Grave 10: Inventory number 2835. Cranium and skeleton in an excellent state of preservation. Male, *maturus*. Cranium is dolichocranic, orthocranic, metriocranic and aristencephalic. *Norma verticalis*: pentagonoid. His forehead is somewhat curved, sutura metopica, eurymetopic; glabella: 4. *Norma occipitalis*: house-shaped; *protuberantia occipitalis externa*: 0; *processus mastoideus*: medium. The face-cranium is mesoprosopic, mesene, the fossa canina is of degree 4. The orbit is mesoconch, squared. The nose is mesorrhine, medium protruding, straight. The facial profile is orthognathous, alveolar prognathism: 2, the nasal spine is of degree 3. The mandible is high and strong. The lambda-region is flat, sutural bones at the lambda-region. His stature is medium, 166 cm. Taxon: n (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3. Szarvas—Öszölő, 10—11th century Grave 9. Male, n—x

No archeological furniture.

Inventory number 2836. (Stray find). Calvarium in good state of preservation. Male maturus. The cranium is mesocranic, chamaecranic, tapinocranic, and euencephalic. Norma verticalis: ovoid. His forehead is somewhat curved, metriometopic, sutura metopica; glabella: 3. Norma occipitalis: house-shaped; protuberantia occipitalis externa: 0; processus mastoideus: medium. The upper-face is mesene; fossa canina: 2. The orbit is squared, hypsiconch; the nose is somewhat protruding, leptorrhine. Nasal spine: 3. Facial profile: orthognathous; alveolar prognathism: 1. The lambda-region is flat. Taxon: n—x (Fig. 5). On the calvaria three symbolical trepanations can be seen. All the three are round. On the right os parietale, near the sutura coronalis, a round engraving appears, belonging to zone IV. b. Its diameter is 20 mm.

The second one can be seen similarly on the right os parietale, its diameter is 10 mm, touching the tabula externa, and can be found in zone II. a. On the left os parietale there may be observed the third one, also in zone II. a., with 17 mm diameter. The intrusion took place till the diploe substance. The three trepanations most probably have been made in three different occasions (Plate I. b).



Fig. 4. Szarvas—Öszölő, 10—11th century Grave 10. Male, n

Szarvas — Tessedik Street

The material of the seven graves at our disposal is very fragmentary. Here we omit to publish any archeological furniture, having at our disposal no documentation in detail.

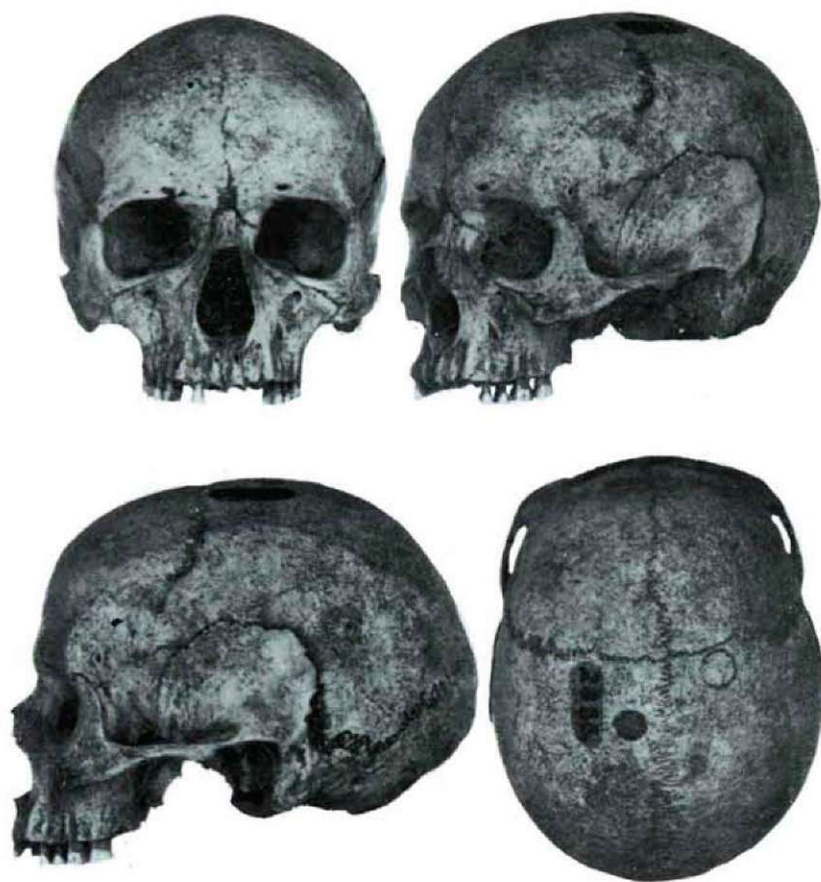


Fig. 5. Szarvas—Őszölő, 10—11th century
Grave —. Male, n—x

Grave 2: Inventory number 2819. A cranium of medium state of preservation. Male, maturus. The cranium is hyperbrachyranic. Norma verticalis: ovoid. The forehead is curved, stenometopic. Glabella: 3; norma occipitalis: house-shaped; protuberantia occipitalis externa: 3; processus mastoideus: strong. The face-cranium is hypereuryprosopic, euryene; fossa canina: 3. The orbit is squared, hypsiconch. The nose is leptorrhine. Alveolar prognathism: 2; mandible is medium high. Taxon: crC.

Grave 3: Inventory number 2820. Skeletal fragments of a child (Inf. I).

Grave 4: Inventory number 2821. Cranial fragments of a child (Inf. I).

Grave 5: Inventory number 2822. Fragmentary cranium and skeleton in medium state of preservation. Female, juv.-adult. The cranium is hyper-

Table 2. Comparison of the anthropological finds of the Southern Hungarian Plain from the 10th and the 10—11th centuries

Place of excavation	References	Number of crania suitable for metrical analysis	Major taxons
Orosháza-Dózsa co-operative farm, 10th century	Farkas—Lipták, 1965	Male: 4 Female: 1	Nordoid, Pamirian, Turanid
Békés-Povádzug, 10th century	Lipták—Farkas, 1967	Male: 2 Female: —	Cromagnoid-A, Mediterranean
Hódmezővásárhely-Nagysziget, 10—11th centuries	Farkas—Lotterhof—Marcsik, 1969	Male: 5 Female: —	Brachycranial, Mediterranean
Kübekháza-Újtelep, 10th century	Farkas—Lotterhof—Marcsik, 1969	Male: 4 Female: 3	Mediterranean, Nordoid, Turanid, Cromagnoid
Szabadkígyós-Homokbánya 10th century	Lotterhof, 1971	Male: 4 Female: 3	Mediterranean
Szabadkígyós-Pálliget, 10th century	Lotterhof, 1971	Male: 4 Female: 2	Cromagnoid-A, Nordoid
Szarvas-Ószőlő, 10—11th centuries	Lipták—Marcsik	Male: 4 Female: 1	Mediterranean, Nordoid, Pamirian

brachyranic, hypsichranic, tapeinocranic and aristencephalic. Norma verticalis: ovoid. The forehead is convex, metriometopic; glabella: 1. Norma occipitalis: bomb-shaped, protuberantia occipitalis externa: 0; processus mastoideus: small. The mandible is small. In the lambda-region: os apicis. Her stature is medium, 156 cm.

Grave 7: Inventory number 2823. Plagiocephalic cranium in medium state of preservation. Male, adultus. Glabella: 2; the forehead is somewhat curved; protuberantia occipitalis externa: 1; processus mastoideus: medium; spina nasalis anterior: 3; fossa canina: 3; the mandible is medium high.

Grave 8: Inventory number 2824. Fragmentary cranium. Female, adulta. The cranium is brachyranic. Norma verticalis: ovoid. The forehead is somewhat curved; glabella: 3. Norma occipitalis: house-shaped, protuberantia occipitalis externa: 2; processus mastoideus: strong. The mandible is medium high.

Grave 9: Inventory number 2825. Cranium is fragmentary. Female, matura. Glabella: 1; the forehead is steep. Fossa canina: 3; the nose is moderately protruding. The mandible is medium high.

General statements

The two cemeteries elaborated from the area of Szarvas, let us suppose two different populations, so much the more as the racial component Cro-magnoid—C found in the Tessedik Street is absent from the material at Ószőlő. The cemetery in the Tessedik Street is a unilinear, rich cemetery of a clan (oral information by Dienes) but, owing to the low number and fragmentary character of its anthropological material, there can be drawn no considerable conclusions from it.

Comparing the series from Szarvas—Ószőlő with the South-Hungarian cemeteries recorded in Table 2 (FARKAS—LIPTÁK, 1965; LIPTÁK—FARKAS, 1967; FARKAS—LOTTERHOF—MARCSIK, 1969; LOTTERHOF, 1970) — of course, on the basis of the results of the taxonomical analysis — the material of Ószőlő is showing some difference. The Nordoid and Mediterranean components are predominant that is characteristic — according to LIPTÁK's monographs published in his comprehensive work (1970) and with co-workers (LOTTERHOF—MARCSIK—LIPTÁK, 1970) — of the anthropological feature of the common people. This result is supporting DIENES's supposition according to which the graves of Szarvas—Ószőlő are referring, on the basis of their archeological furniture, as well, to a cemetery of the common people.

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