

New data on archaeologist Zsófia Torma

Written by: Friedrich Klára



The young Zsófia Torma

(Made by F.K. based on a picture in Magdolna Tulok's 's writing)

My study written in 2007 about the life and work of Zsófia Torma and the study written in 2012 by dr. Enikő Madarassy, have already been published in English on our website and on the World Wide Web, translated by Margaret Botos and Zsuzsanna Tomory. Here I have collected the events that followed.

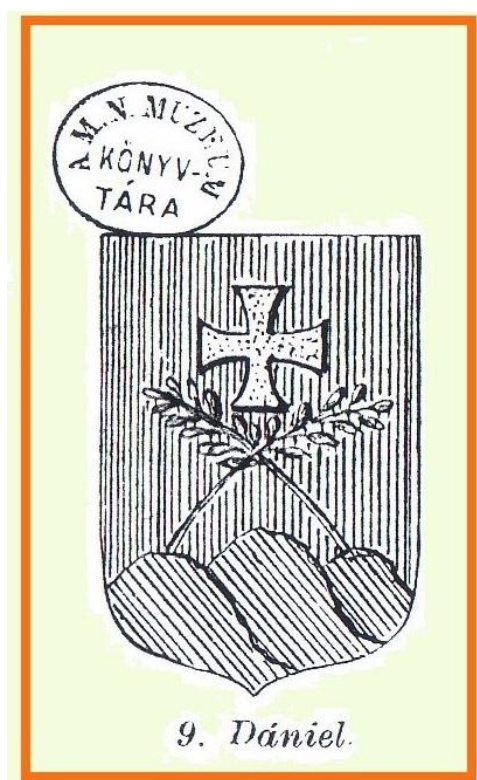
Torma Zsófia's exact date of birth: 26 September 1832.

Various sources place Zsófia Torma's birth year between 1832 and 1841. The best approximation of the actual date is the Transylvanian Museum journal, which gives the date as 27 September 1832. Júlia Fülöp, a local historian in Szászváros, gave me the exact date of birth based on the baptismal register: 26 September 1832. She received this data from Károly Fabich a researcher in Brassó (Transylvania).

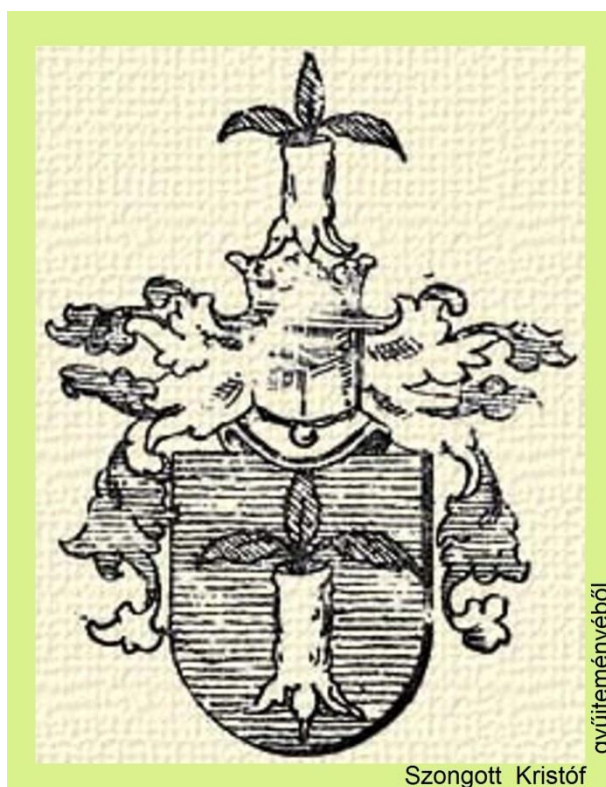
I first published the exact date in 2012 in the journal called *Honlevél*, then on our website and in my books and articles.

Armenian origin

The president of the Cultural Association of Transylvanian Armenian Roots, Dr. Sarolta Issekutz and the members of the association are committed to preserving the memory of prominent Hungarian personalities of Armenian origin. Among them is Zsófia Torma, whose mother, Mária-Jozefa Dániel, was the Armenian-origin landowner of the settlement of Kudu near Szamosújvár and Csicsókeresztúr. In 1875, with support of Zsófia Torma, a state school was established in this settlement to preserve the Hungarian language.



The crest of the Daniel family



The crest of the Torma family

(From Kristóf Szongott's book, 1898)

In the framework of the III. Armenian Culture Week (2009) there were even two performances about the Torma family.

The texts of these can be found in the July-August 2009 issue of the *Transylvanian Armenian Roots Notes*. A paper by Júlia Bálintné Kovács with plenty of family history

data was published by *Károly Torma, archaeologist-academician* (Editor-in-chief: Attila L. Béres, publisher: Dr. Sarolta Issekutz.

I quote some thoughts from this:

Torma Károly and Torma Zsófia "the mother of the scholar brother and sister, Dániel Mária- Jozefa Dániel, the granddaughter of János Dániel of Szamosújváros (Erzsébetváros) and daughter of István Dániel and Krisztina Fráter, was Armenian-Hungarian. I don't know about Károly, but Zsófia Torma kept track of her Armenian roots, kept in touch with Kristóf Szongott and communicated her theories about the origins of the Armenian people in her letters written to him. In the 1889 issue of the journal called Armenia, Szongott published excerpts from this letter titled "The European Origin of the Armenian People" and introduced the publication with the following words:

"We received very important data from the courtesy of our archaeologist, Mrs. Zsófia Torma, who has a well-known name in both domestic and foreign literature, regarding the origin and prehistoric history of the Armenian people."

Where is Zsófia Torma's masterpiece with its 2500 illustrations ?

Pál Gyulai writes: *Zsófia Torma "moved with great concern to get her great work, illustrated with some 2500 figures, containing her discoveries, into print. For eight years, she has been making requests, personally visiting the offices of the Ministry and the Academy, but her requests are always rejected for „financial reasons”. The title of his major work would be Dacia before the Roman occupation." (1972/39.)*

(In the time of Zsófia Torma, historical sources called the area of Transylvania enclosed by the rivers Tisza, Al-Duna and Dniester: Dacia. The Dacians were in their heyday in the 1st century BC, not identical with the Romanians. The Romanians only began to settle in Transylvania in the 11th century, 1100 years later, source: Pál Gyulai, 1972/34).

As I wrote before Mrs Fehér Anna Walter researcher, book publisher, wrote a letter to Nicolae Vlassa (the archaeologist of the Transylvanian History Museum in Kolozsvár - Cluj-Napoca) in 1961 asking about the manuscript. At that time, it was still available, and according to Vlassa, the University of Kolozsvár was going to publish it. Unfortunately, both Mrs Fehér Anna Walter and Vlassa have since died and the manuscript has disappeared. At least when I enquired in 2009, they could not be found. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is responsible for all this, which for 140 years now has refused to acknowledge the work of Zsófia Torma, one of the greatest figures in Hungarian archaeology and cultural history.

The same thing happened to Zsófia Torma as happened to the Tatárlaka finds. The

Hungarian Academy of Sciences does not care about Zsófia Torma's work, but the Romanians do. We cannot even say that they were impatient. They waited for a few decades to see if our academy would take into account the values found on the territory of historical Hungary, but it did not. And yet, there were notices. The fact that my work, which they called 'amateur', was not taken into account is understandable, but neither was the book on Zsófia Torma by János Makkay, an archaeological expert, professor and his fellow expert, this is irresponsible. So written by Romanian archaeologist, Laura Coltofean, from a Romanian perspective.

Returning to the missing manuscript, it was still in the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) in 1961. I have been in correspondence with Júlia Fülöp, a local historian in Szászváros (Orastie), the local president of the Transylvanian Hungarian Public Culture Association (EMKE), the keeper of the memory of Zsófia Torma. In her letter of 13 December 2012, she writes that she was visited by Laura Coltofean, an archaeology student from Sibiu, to collect material on Zsófia Torma for her thesis. Coltofean told her that she had received Zsófia's handwritten diary at the Deva Museum for her thesis. From it, he copied pages, drawings, personal details, such as the aging Sofia's argument with family members.

On April 28, 2012, about half a year before Laura Coltofean, Gábor Szakács (writer, journalist, researcher of ancient hungarian writing) and I were informed by the Magna Curia Museum in Deva that they did not know of any Zsófia Torma material. Of course, in the absence of a research permit, we did not ask them to show it to us, but if they had one, we would send a specialist to do the research. It is likely that Laura Coltofean has been to the Museum Kolozsvár to collect material, and may have received the manuscript of Zsófia Torma, which contains 2,500 illustrations, for research, so she knows something about its whereabouts. **Dr. Enikő Madarassy physicist**, who was born in Transylvania and speaks Romanian, contacted Laura Coltofean with this and other questions, but received no reply. So, unfortunately, the task of publishing the manuscript has not been taken forward.

Is Zsófia Torma indeed the world's first female archaeologist?

We should not be afraid to say **yes** to this question. From the book of György Mandics (mathematician, researcher of ancient writings): *Zsófia Torma the world's first female archaeologist"* (1987/87). János Makkay professor of prehistory also writes: „*she is the world's first female archaeologist"* (1999/41).



Zsófia Torma in 1882

(Made by F.K. based on a picture in Vasárnapi Ujság -1882/38.)

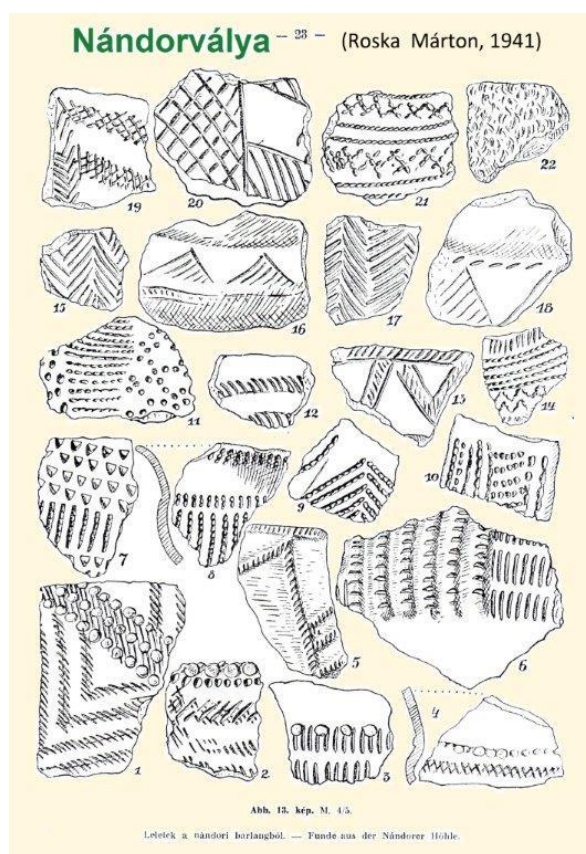
I also studied the scientific work of the two ladies who are being touted as the first female archaeologists.

I already mentioned the name of the German-Prussian Johanna Mestorf when she with unjust words attacked Zsófia at the 1880 congress in Berlin at Pulszky's instigation (Makkay J. 1999/31, 32). Mestorf lived between 1828 and 1909, was a governess, who translated Scandinavian archaeological works into German, worked on Scandinavian mythology, classified artefacts in museums, catalogued collections, but she did not create and discover anything new. She did no excavation work, so she cannot be called the world's first female archaeologist. She became museum director in 1891 and received an honorary doctorate in 1909, 10 years later than Zsófia Torma.

American **Harriet Boyd** Hawes lived from 1871 to 1945. She graduated from Smith College in 1892, received a liberal arts degree (in Hungarian: bölcsész). In 1897, 1898 she nursed injured soldiers in the Greco-Turkish War and Spanish-American War. In 1899 she travelled to Crete, participated in an excavation, in 1904 led an excavation in Crete, discovered and excavated the ancient settlement of Gournia. Her husband was an English archaeologist and anthropologist, Charles Henry Hawes. It was indeed a remarkable life, but by the time she was born, **Zsófia Torma** had already built up an important collection of paleontology. Nor can Harriet Boyd Hawes be called the world's first female archaeologist.

Zsófia Torma was also a female pioneer of Hungarian scientific cave exploration

Detail from the artikel archaeologists Pál Patay and Kinga Székely: **Zsófia Torma The first woman-scientist in Hungarian speleology** (1992): *'She extended her archaeological research to other directions, as well. By then, it was well known, that caves are significant places of archaeological discoveries, so, her interest was aroused by the caves situated near to her abode at the village Nandor (Nandru). In 1877 she began to explore one of them, the cave with double entrance in the mountain called Dealu Pesteri (Mountain of Caves)... Zsófia Torma carried out excavations not only in this cave. She visited nine smaller niches and cavities near the village Nandor...'*

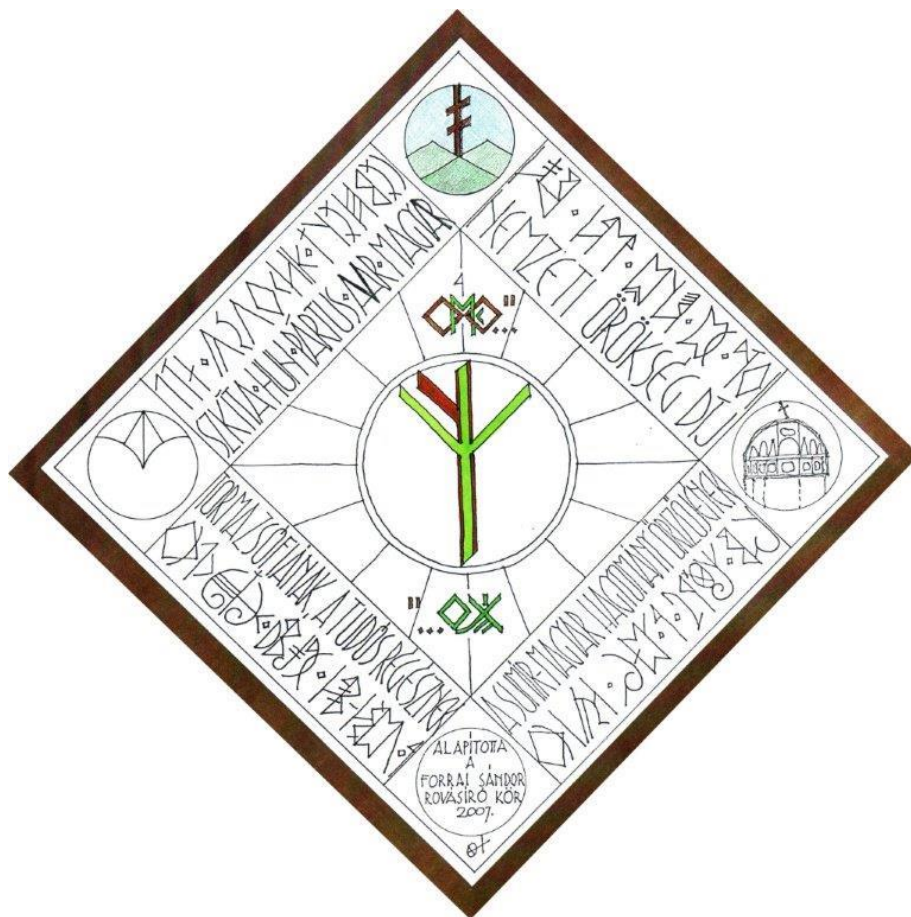


*Pottery fragments that Zsófia Torma collected in the Nándor cave
(Figure: Márton Roska)*

Award for Zsófia Torma

As founders of a company, named after Sándor Forrai (a teacher and expert in ancient writings) Gábor Szakács and I decided to give a posthumous award every year to those

personalities who have done a lot for the Hungarian homeland, but for this reason have not received an official state award in accordance with their merits. In 2008, we awarded this Scythian-Hun-Avar-Hungarian Heritage Prize to Zsófia Torma, and symbolically presented it at the *9th Carpathian Basin Competition of the ancient Hungarian writing*. We wanted her to be an ideal of young people. Since then, with the help of Júlia Bálintné Kovács, we have managed to deliver the award, to Miklósné Torma, Dr. Katalin Rácz, who is a descendant of Zsófia's brother.



*Zsófia Torma's Scythian-Hun-Parthussian-Avar-Hungarian Heritage Award
(drawn by: Ferenc Dittler, 2007)*

Artists' works about Zsófia Torma

In 2007 I asked Judit Józsa, a ceramic artist of Szekler origin, to create a sculpture about Zsófia Torma. Judit Józsa studied the clothing of the time, so she created an authentic and beautiful statue.



Judit Józsa: Zsófia Torma (Photo: Klára Friedrich)

Ferenc Miklós Dorogi ceramic artist, local historian and Tibor Túri Török, sculptor, museologist made reliefs of Zsófia Torma. Klára Szabó made a painting of her.



Tibor Túri Török: Zsófia Torma
(Wikimedia Commons)



Ferenc Miklós Dorogi: Zsófia Torma
(Photo: Klára Friedrich)

Research trip: Szászváros (Orastie) – Tordos (Turdas) - Tatárlaka (Tartaria)

At the invitation of Júlia Fülöp (local historian and excellent organizer), on 28 and 29 April **2012**, Gábor Szakács, Endre Döry, (who was an employee of a Radio) and I participated in the Hungarian Days of Hunyad County. A big part in this event was the commemoration of Zsófia Torma - also thanks to Júlia Fülöp.

I learned the important fact from Júlia Fülöp that Zsófia Torma wrote her diary in Hungarian and gave her lectures in Hungarian at home, so it is not true that she did not speak Hungarian well.



Szászváros, April 2012: Gábor Szakács reports with Júlia Fülöp on Zsófia Torma

(Photo: Klára Friedrich.)

On the 28th, we visited the Museum of Szászváros, where museologist Iustina Bogdan presented the collection. We were particularly interested in the memories of Sarmizegetusa, because we can read about this ancient village in Hunyad County by Zsófia Torma. Officially, it is said to be the site of the Dacian capital. However, according to a data provided by our archaeologist, the name of the settlement refers to the Sarmatians. *Sarmise-getu-sa*, meaning place or castle of the Sarmatians. This is supported by the fact that its Hungarian name is Várhely.

After the museum visit, we went to Tordos because we were informed that, due to the construction of a large highway, a salvage excavation is underway in the area near Maros, where Zsófia Torma collected her materials roughly 140 years ago. We took photographs

with the permission of the expert present.



2012. Tordos - motorway construction (Photo: Klára Friedrich)



2012. Tordos: the site of the archaeological excavation (Photo: Klára Friedrich.)

After Tordos, we visited the Museum (Magna Curia) in Deva to inquire about the notes of Zsófia Torma, which are supposedly there. Unfortunately, due to renovations, there were few staff inside and they did not know about the notes. The inner Neolithic section was closed, otherwise we could only see a stuffed bird exhibit, but in the courtyard we found quite a large, though disorganised, collection of Sarmizegetusa material.

In the afternoon, in the Téglás Gábor School Centre in Deva, Júlia Fülöp, Gábor Szakács and me gave a projected presentation about Zsófia Torma, Sándor Forrai and ancient Hungarian Writing to the members of EMKE*, Hungarians from Deva and Vajdahunyad, the school principal, teachers and students. Gábor Téglás (1848-1916), the school's namesake, a teacher, archaeologist, who was a student and later a colleague of Zsófia Torma. (*EMKE = Transylvanian Hungarian Public Culture Association).

On Sunday, we attended a mass and solemn commemoration for Zsófia Torma in the Reformed Church in Szászváros. We learned that during our visit to Szászváros in 2006, we found the Reformed Church closed, because it had been repeatedly broken into and stolen. Now the service was conducted by Pastor Szabolcs Sipos. Archaeologist Mihai Castaian, museum director, began her tribute, and then Júlia Fülöp, Gábor Szakács and me drew attention to the importance of her discoveries. Also present was the Romanian doctor who lives in Zsófia Torma's house and who does not agree that the previously removed memorial plaque be put back on the house. We were hoped that the solemn occasion would prompt her to change her position (unfortunately, this has not happened so far). An informal discussion followed in the council chamber with the Hungarians of Szászváros, who unfortunately remained very few in number, about 500 person, out of a town of 19,000 inhabitants.

After that, we looked at Zsófia Torma's house from the outside, and the sights of Szászváros, led by Júlia Fülöp.

Júlia Fülöp also showed us old issues of the Szászváros Newspaper, from which I have copied, with thanks.

From the '**Szászváros**' newspaper, 1899/6/3: It announces *the "honorary scholarship" of Zsófia Torma.*

"The prehistoric settlement at Tordos, which he discovered and saved from destruction, is no longer an unknown treasure trove for the scientific world, for although her sympathetic personality had to fight more than once against the dislike and the diminishing opinion of the academic science because of his independent views, and had to endure a serious illness..."

'Szászváros' newspaper, 1908/7/2.

"Come, let us wreath the grave of one of Hungary's greatest women and scholars! But where is she? The cemetery guard points to a place... Half a metre high, rickety wooden cross, under a sunken grave overgrown with weeds. She spent half of her fortune on her priceless collection ...The other half of his fortune, some 40,000 crowns, was inherited by his relatives... His grave is now only to be found with the help of the cemetery guard- and the grave cross is ashamed to the fact that today to receive only such gratitude those who lived for their country and and for the benefit of their relatives..."

In memory of Júlia Fülöp, a local historian of Szászváros

A great loss: in 2014, Júlia Fülöp, the tireless guardian of the memory of Zsófia Torma in Transylvania, passed away. She collected a large amount of material on our archaeologist, especially her contemporary material is valuable.

She was the initiator and the soul of the annual Torma Zsófia commemorations in Szászváros, Hunyad County, since 2005. Her helpers and co-operating partners are the Transylvanian Hungarian Public Culture Association (**EMKE**), the Reformed Parish and the local Ethnographic Museum. The EMKE (Transylvanian Hungarian Public Culture Association) in Szászváros has also published a small booklet with a selection of writings about the archaeologist.

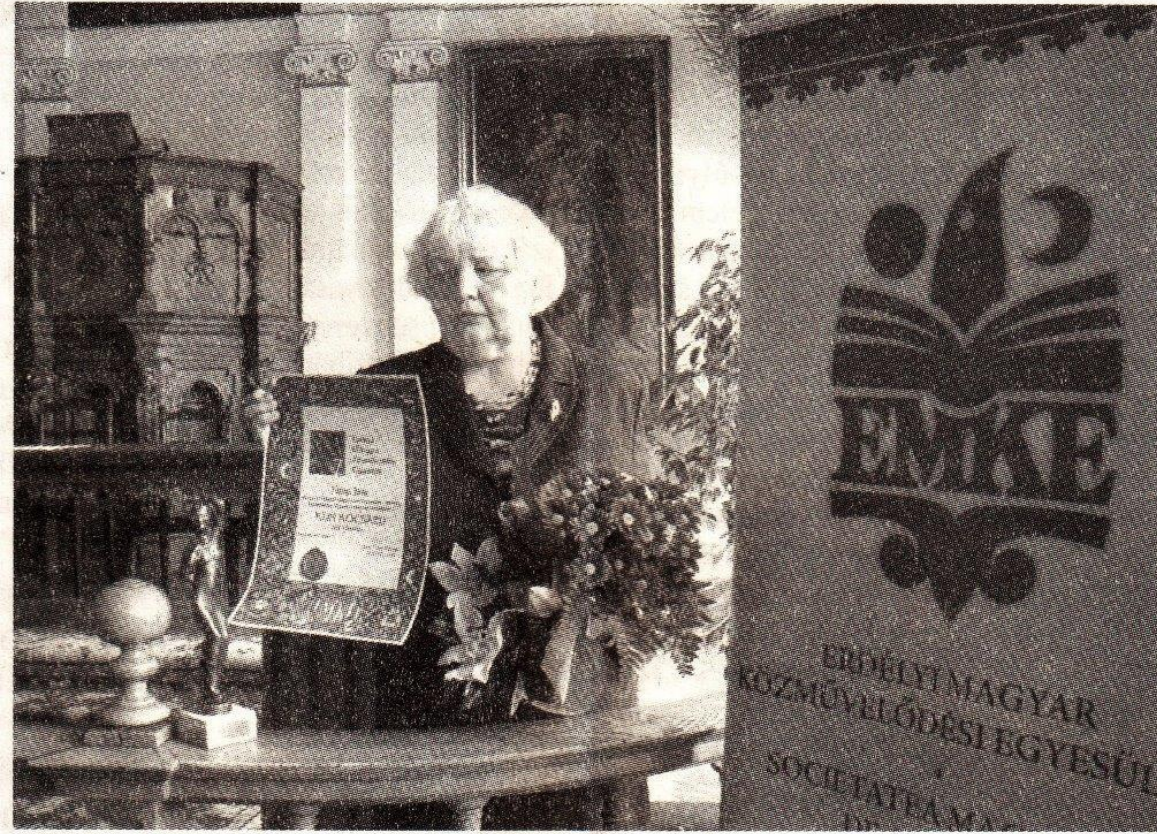
Commemorations were held in the Reformed church and its assembly hall, and an exhibition was organised by the director of the Ethnographic Museum. In October 2005, the Romanian mayor of Szászváros also attended the commemoration and, taking up a proposal by a local artist, promised to erect a public statue of Zsófia Torma.

Unfortunately, this has not yet materialised. At the same event, the director of the Museum of Szászváros archaeologist Mihai Castaian **praised the merits of Zsófia Torma.**

The descendant of the archaeologist's family, Miklós Torma Miklósné Rácz Katalin, was also present. There are still descendants of the ancient Torma family with whom Júlia Fülöp has kept in touch.

The Hungarian community in Hunyad County has also lost an irreplaceable organiser. The municipality placed a memorial plaque in 2004 on the archaeologist's house in the town of Szászváros which was once a museum. The new romanian owner, who renovated the building, took it down and refuses to put it back up. Júlia Fülöp has fought persistently to get the plaque back, but in vain.

I know of only one award for Júlia Fülöp - in 2012, at the national EMKE meeting, the Kun Kocsárd Award was given for her work.

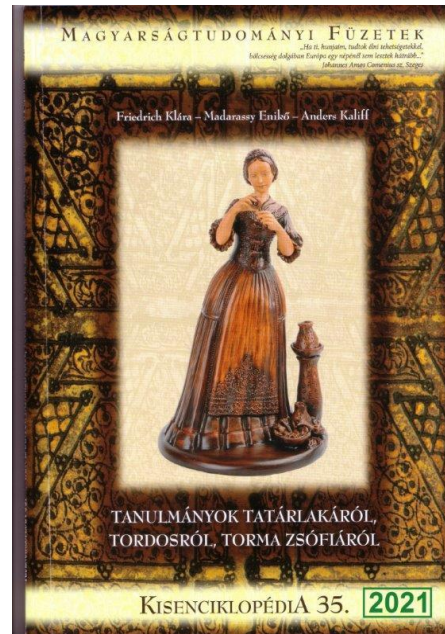
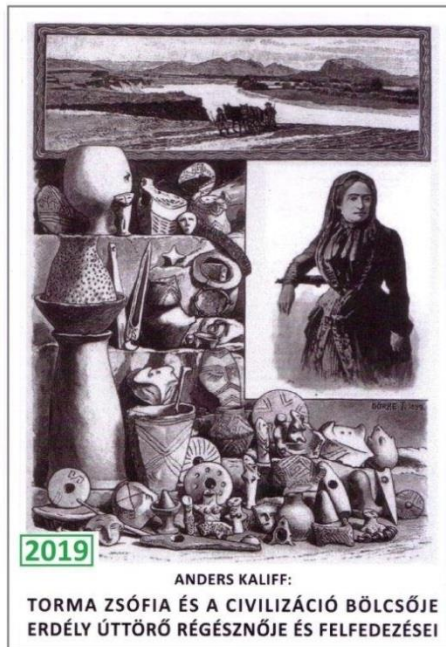


Fülöp Júlia with Kun Kocsárd Award (Magazine: Hunyad Megyei Hírmondó, 2012. ápr.)

Recent Studies and books about Zsófia Torma

Studies and books have been published by authors listed in the References.

In 2019 was published Dr. Anders Kaliff's book: *Zsófia Torma and the Cradle of Civilisation - Transylvania's Pioneering Archaeologist and her Discoveries*. He is a Swedish professor of archeology at Uppsala University. Some quotes from the book: *"It is inevitable to think how research into the early Stone Age civilisations of Transylvania and the Balkans might have developed if the findings and theories of Sofia had been taken seriously by more experts from the very beginning. With the considerable support of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, large-scale research excavations could have been started as early as the 19th century. But the study of this culture was thus delayed."* (p. 32)... *"Despite having no formal academic, archaeological or historical qualifications, Sofia worked at the highest level of archaeological professionalism."* (p. 33, Translated into Hungarian by Rebeka Bereczky.)



In **2021** the 35th Hungarian Studies booklet of the World Federation of Hungarians was published about *Tatárlaka, Tordos, Zsófia Torma*. The authors are Klára Friedrich, Enikő Madarassy, Anders Kaliff. On the cover is a ceramic sculpture of Zsófia Torma by Judit Józsa.

Street named after Zsófia Torma in the XVI. district of Budapest

In **2022**, a new street was added to the **XVI** district of **Budapest**. Together with Gábor Szakács, we proposed to Mayor Péter Kovács that it should be called the Zsófia Torma promenade, as there is no public space with such a name anywhere in the Carpathian Basin, or anywhere else in the world. This was accepted by the local and metropolitan municipality representatives, so on 30. March 2022. the ceremonial naming took place.



(Photo: Klára Friedrich)

Memorial session of Zsófia Torma

On 27. Január **2023.** the Hungarian Historical Society of Zurich organized a scientific memorial session with this title: 190 years ago was born Dr. Zsófia Torma, the first Hungarian archaeologist. 11 researchers gave presentations, among others Dr. Enikő Madarassy physicist from Sweden. Availability of their lectures in the References. This year there was a lot of interest in Zsófia Torma, I gave five lectures about her, with many pictures.

Submission for Hungarian Heritage Award

In July **2023.** together with Gábor Szakács, we submitted Zsófia Torma's archaeological and ethnographic work for the prestigious Hungarian Heritage Award. The proposal is supported by continuously collected supporting signatures. We are currently still waiting for the result.

Memorial plaque in honour of Zsófia Torma in Szászváros, Transylvania

On 22. November **2023.** at 2 pm, a long-awaited event took place in front of Zsófia Torma's house in Szászváros, where the archaeologist lived from 1861 until her death in 1899, at the address of Főtér 24. It was here that she kept, arranged and classified her vast collection of over 20,000 items, and became the first museum in Szászváros. This collection contains the most important Neolithic material in Europe to date, and after his death it was transferred to the Museum of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca).

The archaeologist's house was sold by her heirs, changed hands several times and in 2004 a memorial plaque was placed on it. The new owner took the plaque down under the pretext of renovation and has not put it back up since. The town's tradition-loving community, led by local historian Júlia Fülöp, continuously asked the Romanian owner and the city administration to put the plaque back. In 2012, after our visit to the site, Gábor Szakács and I approached Carpathian Basin organisations to help the plaque reinstalled.

Fülöp Júlia's children, Katalin and Béla, have continued their mother's organizing work tirelessly. In addition, Dr. Enikő Madarassy contacted the mayor of Szászváros, and the Armenian Municipality of District XII, chaired by Anita Hegedűs, contacted the RMDSZ of Szászváros on this matter.

As a result of the appeals launched 19 years ago, we were pleased to read the invitation to the inauguration of Béla Fülöp and Katalin Fülöp Tomesc Sr. Unfortunately, however, this time the memorial plaque was not placed on Zsófia Torma's house, but between the

flagstones of the footpath in front of her house, i.e. on the ground, where people step on it.



Photos by Katalin Fülöp

The text on the plaque reads in three languages, Hungarian, Romanian and English: *'This building was the home of ZSÓFIA TORMA 1861 – 1899*, the first archaeologist from Central and Eastern Europe. * The two dates are not the year of the archaeologist's birth and death, but the period in which she lived in the building. That is, for 38 years, until her death.*

In Romanian can read who made the plaque: *the Gyulafehérvár 1918 Foundation, the Franciscan Roman Catholic Parish and the Reformed Parish of Szászváros, the Romanian Hungarian Democratic Alliance of the Municipality of Szászváros, the Municipality of Szászváros Town Hall.*

The inauguration was opened by Béla Fülöp, the main organiser. On behalf of the Castellum Foundation (Transylvanian Hungarian Historical Families Organisation), a speech was given by Ms. Miklósné Torma Dr. Katalin Rácz, Győző Ugron, Secretary General of Castellum, and a wreath was placed. In her remembrance of Zsófia Torma, Dr. Katalin Rácz also praised the work of local historian Júlia Fülöp. The Gyulafehérvár 1918 Foundation also wreathed the plaque. Lőrinc Széll, the deputy governor of Hunyad County of the RMDSZ also gave a speech, and the Catholic parish priest Sándor Kádár blessed the plaque.

Zsófia Torma's birthplace manor house was sold

In 2023 I received a letter and photos from physicist Dr. Enikő Madarassy, that Zsófia Torma's birthplace manor house on Csicsókeresztúr (Transylvania) is for sale for 140.000 euros. The historic building is in a very neglected state. Enikő Madarassy and I tried to

get supporters who would help financially and legally to buy the House for the Transylvanian Hungarian community. Unfortunately, that didn't work out.



The manor house of the Torma family in Csicsókeresztúr around 1900. (From: Júlia Fülöp)



The manor house of the Torma family in Csicsókeresztúr, 2008.



<https://kastelyerdelyben.ro/castle/conacul-torma-cristestii-ciceului-torma-kuria-csicsokeresztur-torma-castle-cristestii-ciceului/>

The manor house of the Torma family in Csicsókeresztúr in a few years later



Deleted advertisement from here: <https://www.olx.ro>

The manor house of the Torma family in Csicsókeresztúr without a roof in 2023.

(<https://kronikaonline.ro/erdelyi-hirek/a-magyar-diaszpora-akarta-megmenteni-az-olx-en-arult-torma-kuriat-vegul-roman-kezen-valhat-boutique-szallova>)

In 2024 we learned that the House was bought by a Romanian family and they want to convert it into a Hotel. In a letter, we asked for the help of the Hungarian government and the president of the RMDSZ to officially ask the new owners to place a memorial plaque on the house, and also to establish a memorial room in the building, which presents the original condition and the history of the Torma family.

An attempt to decipher the signs on some of Zsófia Torma's archaeological findings

Zsófia Torma really appreciated the smallest piece of pottery and encouraged others to do the same. In 1880, at a meeting of the Hunyad County Historical and Archaeological Society, she concluded her lecture with this request: *"However, I call upon you, not only to solve the above-mentioned questions, but also to enrich the collection of our society, not to throw away next year - if you happen to find - any seemingly unpretentious piece of stone or bone, on which the work of human hands can be discovered, nor even the smallest piece of pottery, because there may be among these objects some on which our experts may discover very important data concerning the subject of their study."*

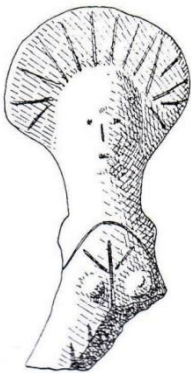


*Some findings from the collection of Zsófia Torma, pot bottoms with letters
(Photo: Sándor Víg)*

The IX. Congress of the World Federation of Hungarians was held in 2016, where I gave a lecture on the Stone Age antecedents of the ancient Hungarian writing in the Carpathian Basin. For example the finds of Bajót, Tordos, Tatárlaka, Kisunyom, Tászok-tető. These signs or letters are formally identical to the ancient Hungarian writing - used today. Most of the written relics and evidence of this writing was preserved by the Szeklers (Székelyek) in the Carpathian Basin.

We know that two letters are only identical if they have the same sound value. Sound value is supported if we can decipher meaningful words from the signs. Here I would like to prove with some archaeological finds of Zsófia Torma that most of the signs of the Tordos-Vinca culture can be pronounced and interpreted with sound value of the ancient Hungarian writing.

1. Find of Zsófia Torma, a fragment of a burned clay statuette from Tordos, 7000 years old, 7 cm high. Also available on postcard from the National History Museum of Transylvania in Kolozsvár. In the museum catalogue it reads "*Moon Goddess nimbus with 13 signs and PSI*" (The Danube script...2009/157.) It is strange that the Greek letter *PSZI* is used to indicate the carvings above the statuette's breasts, although they form the letters *ZS* or *T* in our ancient Hungarian writing, that Romanian experts should be aware of, especially in Transylvania, where most of the relics of this old writing have survived. It could also be a *T*, because one of the lines in the photograph is uncertain.



The find of Zsófia Torma (drawing by archaeologist Márton Roska, 1941)

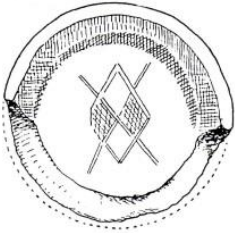
As long as I saw the drawings of Roska and Winn and the postcard, I thought of the crown of glory, the crown of light. I am pleased that the catalogue experts appreciate the simple lines of the glory as writing marks, because they can be referred to as such in the simple lines seen on other memorials. I will take advantage of this. For example, I think that the 4th and 5th lines on the hair crown from the right are similar to the letter **T**. And the first two lines from the left form an ancient Hungarian number 5 and I could go on.

At the same time, the nimbus, the halo, the glory, the crown of light make me think that the ancestor of the ancient **Hungarian grande dame**, respectable lady, priestess, named Babba was depicted here by her maker in Tordos 6500 years ago.

2. Pottery fragment from Tordos, a pot bottom, about which Márton Roska, the archaeologist who inventoried the material, writes: "*probably a property mark in the middle of the bottom*". I have given the sound values to the signs based on the letters of

the ancient Hungarian writing.

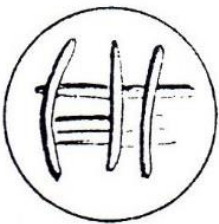
A letter *K* and *B* appear first in the drawing. The master's name was probably KaBa. Kaba is an old variant of the name Csaba, this was the name of the son of King Attila the Hun and it is still a common name in Hungary today. The drawing actually shows 5 letters *K*, a large one and the 4 small ones inside it, demonstrating the ingenuity of the pot maker.



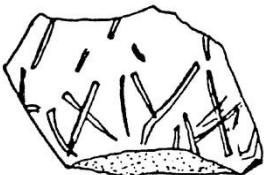
3. Tordos pot fragment, from right to left *Ö*, uncertain scratch, then nice *G-O* or *L-O* (LÓ= horse) and *S*.



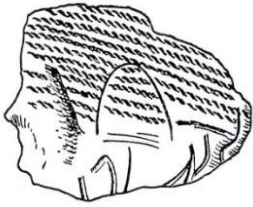
4. Tordos pot fragment, right-to-left *I-R-Z* assemblage, but could be the word *ÍZ=taste*, of which we know several meanings. For example, it is related to food, but it also means disease. From left to right *Z-I*, or *Z-D*. It can be a monogram or a master's mark.



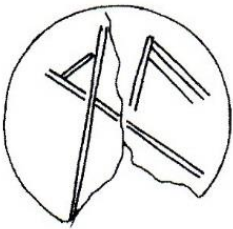
5. Fragment of a Tordos vase, from right to left *B, T, SZ, B, SZ*. The word *BOT=stick* can be assumed.



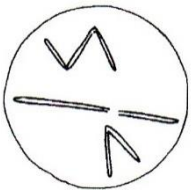
6. Cord-decorated Tordos pot fragment with ancient Hungarian Writing details at the bottom.



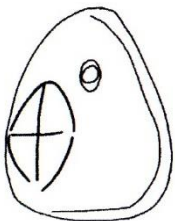
7. Tordos pot bottom fragment. On the right, an engraved **L**, then a **BA** ligature. This ligature from left to right, is also **BA**. So it could mean **BAB=bean**. Or even **LÓBAB=horsebean** when read together *with* the **L**. *This* means that the vessel could have been used to store it. According to the Tolnai encyclopaedia, the horse bean is one of the oldest cultivated plants of mankind (1928/198)



8. Pottery fragment from Tordos, pot bottom. **R** and **S**, or **K** and **S**. If inverted **S** *it* can be number 5 according to the ancient Hungarian numerical writing.



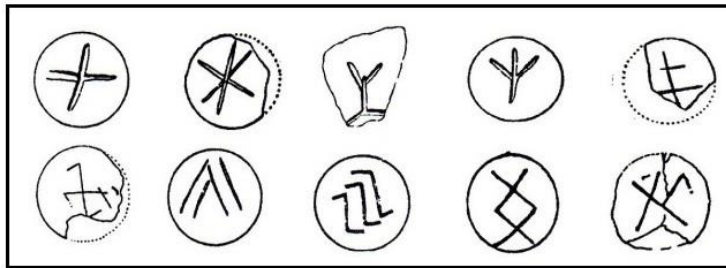
9. Loom weight from Tordos. It bears the ancient Hungarian letter **F**.



10. Also the find of Zsófia Torma, a fragment of a spindle whorle from Nándorválya. From right to left **Ü**, **L**, **G** runic signs. **ÜL=sit** or **LeG**, or **LéG**. **GÁL** as name. **GAL**: Felled tree trunk in the Czuczor-Fogarasi dictionary.



Some more signs from the collection of Zsófia Torma, conspicuous formal identity with the letters and numbers of the ancient Hungarian writing.



**For what reasons was Zsófia Torma ignored in her own time
and even nowadays?**

Knowing more about the era in which Zsófia Torma lived, I have the opinion that she was not ignored because she was a woman, but for political reasons.

Her family and she supported the 1848 revolution, and she did not agree to compromise with the Habsburgs, but she agreed with the views of Lajos Kossuth.



*Torma Zsófia at the age of 67
(Made by F.K. based on a picture in Vasárnapi Ujság – 1899/49.)*

Her brother Károly Torma archaeologist supported the compromise with the Habsburgs, so he had a nice career, and was elected to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Zsófia Torma's greatest rivals, Ferenc Pulszky and József Hampel archaeologists, also supported the compromise with the Habsburgs. Ferenc Pulszky was also on good terms with Viennese circles, as he was married to the daughter of a Viennese banker, and József Hampel married Pulszky's daughter. Both of them became members of the Academy. The pro-Kossuth people who rejected the compromise with the Habsburgs, were not liked by the political authorities. For example in 1868, László Böszörményi, 1848 revolutionary, captain, lawyer, journalist was imprisoned for publishing Lajos Kossuth's letters by the Andrassy government (the government of the compromising with the Habsburgs), and he died in prison within a year.

One of the reasons for Zsófia Torma's omission is that she joined the opinion of Lajos Kossuth, who rejected the compromise with the Habsburgs.

Second: she was ignored because at that time the Habsburgs allowed to the Hungarians two possibilities of origin: Finno-Ugric or Turkish; Zsófia Torma's results could not be squeezed into these two categories. This is the second the reason for her omission even in the 21st century.

Third time she was ignored because it was not fully understood at the time to have revealed the most significant, rich in signs and letters area of the European Neolithic. Her definition was correct when she placed her finds in the Neolithic period.

Zsófia Torma was adamant that the signs of her discs and pottery are not only master marks, but also characters, letters. These characters live on in the Hungarian writing. This is the third reason for her omission today.

We ask the Good Lord to make Zsófia Torma a role model for young people and to let the scientific world know her importance.

On our website, www.rovasirasforrai.hu there is also a lot of material about Zsofia Torma, with pictures, in the **Translations** section.

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