

**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR PREHISTORIC AND
PROTOHISTORIC
SCIENCES (UISPP) –
30th COMMISSION**

**GORJ COUNTY COUNCIL
GORJ COUNTY MUSEUM
"ALEXANDRU ȘTEFULESCU"
TÂRGU JIU**

**20th INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM
OF FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY**

***GRAVES, CENOTAPHS AND VOTIVE
DEPOSITS OF WEAPONS IN EUROPE -
BRONZE AND IRON AGES***

**- PROGRAMME -
-ABSTRACTS-**

**Târgu Jiu, Gorj County (Romania)
7th-10th October 2021**

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**Târgu Jiu, Gorj County (Romania)
7th-10th October 2021**

Organizing Committee:

**Dr. Valeriu Sîrbu
President
30th Commission UISPP**

**Dr. Dumitru Hortopan
Vicepresident
Manager GCM**

**Dr. Cristian Schuster
General Secretary
Centre of Thracology**

THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2021

- 12.00-16.00 – Welcome and Registration of the participants
- 13.00-14.30 – Lunch
- 16.00 – Official Opening Ceremony of the 20th *International Colloquium*

SPEAKERS:

OFFICIALS, ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

SESSION: 17.30-19.30

CHAIRPERSON: DR. DIANA GERGOVA

- **DR. KATARINA DMITROVIĆ (SERBIA)** - *Grave Characteristics of the Bronze Age Necropolises in the West Morava Region of Serbia*
- **DR. MARIJA LJUŠTINA (SERBIA)** - *Bronze Age Funerary Practices on the Pešter Plateau and Neighbouring Regions of Western Serbia*
- **DR. CRISTIAN SCHUSTER, DR. VALERIU SÎRBU (ROMANIA)** - *The Tumulus from Baldovinești (Brăila County): a Reappraisal*
- **DR. ALEXANDRA COMȘA (ROMANIA)** - *Dental Problems in some Bronze Age Skeleton Series from Romania*

- Discussions

- 20.00 – Dinner

FRIDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2021

SESSION: 9.00-13.00

CHAIRPERSON: DR. CRISTIAN SCHUSTER

- **DR. RADU BĂJENARU (ROMANIA)** - *The Depositions of Metal Weapons in the Lower Danube Area during the Early Bronze Age*

- **DR. ROXANA MUNTEANU (ROMANIA)** - *Weapons of Choice. Early/Middle Bronze Age Axes and Swords in Eastern Romania*

- **DR. VLAD CĂRĂBIȘI (ROMANIA)** - *Early Iron Age Graves with Fibulae in Basarabi-Type Cemeteries*

- 10.30-10.45 – Coffee break

- **DR. DAVIDE DELFINO, DR. ANTONELLA TRAVERSO (ITALY)** - *Origines, contacts, développements. Liguriennes et Samnites: deux population préromaines comparées par leur rituels funéraires*

- **DR. SERGEY SKORY, DR. VITALY OKATENKO (UKRAINE)** - *Scythian Archaic Barrow № 524 near Village Zhabotin: New Facts about Device and Cult Practice*

- **DR. SERGEY SKORY, DR. ROMAN ZIMOVETS (UKRAINE)** - *Scythian Archaic Barrow № 524 near Village Zhabotin: Date of the Funeral Monument in the Light of New Discoveries*

- **DR. DRAGOȘ MĂNDESCU (ROMANIA)** - *The Graves with Weapons in the Necropolis from Valea Stâni. Looking for a Pattern of Panoply in Ferigile Group*

- Discussions

- 13.00-15.00 – Lunch

SESSION: 15.30-18.30

CHAIRPERSON: DR. MARIJA LJUSTINA

- **DR. DIANA GERGOVA (BULGARIA)** - *Parade Helmets and Contexts. between the South East and the North West of Europe*
- **DR. DIANA DIMITROVA (BULGARIA)** - *Studies of Burial Rites in Tumuli 5th-4th centuries BC in the Region of Sliven, Central Bulgaria*
- **DR. OCTAVIAN MUNTEANU, DR. MIHAI BĂȚ, DR. AUREL ZANOCI (REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA)** - *Late La Tène Warrior Graves in the East Carpathian Forest-Steppe and their Connections with Central Europe*
- **17.00-17.15 – Coffee break**
- **DR. AUREL RUSTOIU, DR. IOSIF VASILE FERENCZ (ROMANIA)** - *Graves with La Tène Weapons and Fluid Cultural Identities. New Discoveries from South-Western Transylvania*
- **DR. VALERIU SÎRBU, DR. DIANA DĂVÎNCĂ (ROMANIA)** - *Dead in Settlements versus Dead in Tumuli Necropolises in the Dacian World. Two cases from Wallachia and Transylvania*
- **DR. CRISTIAN SCHUSTER (ROMANIA)** - *Burials and Objects Depositions from the Getic Times on the Lower Argeș Basin (Giurgiu and Călărași Countries, Romania)*
- **Discussions**
- **19.30 – Dinner**

SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2021

SESSION: 9.00-11.30

CHAIRPERSON: DR. SERGEY SKORY

- **DR. VALERIU SIRBU, DR. SEBASTIAN MATEI (ROMANIA)** - *Dead in Settlements versus Dead in Tumuli Necropolises in the Dacian World. Three Cases from East of the Carpathians: Brad, Răcățău, and Poiana*

- **DR. OLENA DZNELADZE (UKRAINE)** - *Cenotaph from Chervony Mayak Necropolis*

- **DR. ALEKSANDR SYMONENKO, YELYZAVETA ARKHYPOVA (UKRAINE)** - *The Chronology of Sarmatian Ritual Deposits in the Light of new Finds*

- **DR. LIANA OȚA, DR. VALERIU SÎRBU, DR. SEBASTIAN MATEI (ROMANIA)** - *Sarmatian Graves from North-Eastern Wallachia – a Case Study*

- **Discussions**

- **13.00-15.00 – Lunch**

ROUND TABLE: 16.00 - 17.00

CHAIRPERSON: DR. VALERIU SÎRBU

- **International Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP)** -
Prehistoric and Protohistoric Mortuary Practices
- **Past, Present and Future** -

-**17.00** – **Official closing ceremony of the 20th International Colloquium**

SUNDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2021

- **8.30 - 12.30 – Documentary trip in the Gorj County**
- **13.00 - 14.30 – Lunch**
- **Departure of the participants**

ABSTRACTS

The Depositions of Metal Weapons in the Lower Danube Area during the Early Bronze Age

Radu Băjenaru (Romania)

Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

In the context of metal items depositions in the Early Bronze Age, the weapon depositions hold a particular place due to their high number and their significance.

The author presents the main characteristics of the metal weapon depositions at the Lower Danube, with special emphasis on the associations of weapons in hoards. Also presented are the several axes discovered in funerary contexts.

A particular place in these depositions holds the isolated finds. The contexts and significations of the weapon depositions in the Early Bronze Age at the Lower Danube are mainly discussed.

Early Iron Age Graves with Fibulae in Basarabi-Type Cemeteries

Vlad Cărăbiși (Romania)

Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

The Basarabi-type cemeteries concentrated mainly along the Danube, on both banks, still form the backbone of the middle period of the Early Iron Age in the region.

The author discusses a particular type of graves, namely the graves containing fibulae.

The contexts and combinations of the types of fibulae with other grave goods are also taken into account, as well as certain typological and manufacturing tendencies.

Dental problems in some Bronze Age skeleton series from Romania

Alexandra Comşa (Romania)

Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

There are analyzed some pathological conditions affecting the teeth, beginning with the carious processes, their complications, as well as some anomalies situated at the same level, in some skeletons of the Bronze Age.

Generally, these dental problems indicate a poor hygiene of the mouth in such past populations, but they also reflect a predilection towards specific foods, or other habits.

Origines, contacts, développements.

Liguriennes et Samnites: deux populations pré romaines comparées par leurs rituels funéraires

Daide Delfino (Italie)

Mi.B.A.C.T. - Regional Direction of Museums Molise
Geociências Centre of University of Coimbra (CGeo)

Antonella Traverso (Italie)

Mi.B.A.C.T. - Regional Direction of Museums Liguria

Parmi les plusieurs peuples pré romains qui caractérisent le passage entre l'âge du Fer et l'âge archaïque et classique en Italie, les Liguriens et les Samnites sont ceux qui représentent les deux extrémités nord et sud de la péninsule italienne dans la chaîne apenninique. Tous deux ont fortement résisté à l'expansion romaine et ont occupé un territoire purement montagneux.

A propos des Liguriens nous n'avons pas des informations sur leur organisation, par exemple comment celle fédérale sur le modèle étrusque mais nous avons de nombreux témoignages qui nous viennent des auteurs anciens. Déjà, les Grecs avaient élaboré le concept géographique de la Ligurie avec une expansion probable jusqu'au golfe de Marseille, tandis que la littérature reconnaît que cette ethnie a joué un rôle important dans le contrôle des cols des Alpes Maritimes. Au-delà de leur rôle de mercenaires en tant qu'experts de la navigation, les auteurs nous parlent d'une population difficile, avec un rôle de contrôle clé entre l'Étrurie et la France.

Les vestiges archéologiques, notamment funéraires, qui proviennent de certaines nécropoles dont la plus importante est peut-être celle de Chiavari, nous rendent un tableau complexe de marchands qui peuplent la plaine de Chiavari et exploitent ses mines depuis la fin du VIII^e siècle avant J.C.

Les Samnites, organisés en plusieurs tribus, jouent un rôle important dans le sud de l'Italie du final du V^{ème} au III^{ème} siècle avant J.C. Plusieurs historiens classiques ne décrivent les Samnites qu'à partir de cette période, en se concentrant notamment sur les IV^{ème} et III^{ème} siècles avant J.C. lors des guerres contre Rome. Par conséquent, l'idée que nous avons de leur culture et de leur organisation sociale remonte seulement à la dernière partie de leur histoire et à une période où leurs aspects d'origine ont été modifiés par des contacts avec la Magna Grecia et Rome. Pour combler cette lacune et dissiper de nombreuses croyances sur les Samnites qui se réfèrent aux aspects grecs et latins intégrés après le IV^{ème} siècle avant J.C. il faut s'appuyer sur des sources archéologiques (les nécropoles) pour les données et sur l'anthropologie sociale pour l'interprétation.

Un examen rétrospectif sera effectué, en examinant les aspects présents dans les nécropoles les plus récentes, pour parcourir les éléments exogènes jusqu'à parvenir à relier ces contextes aux plus anciens et à tracer des éléments communs qui peuvent être des signes de résistance culturelle, et au final comparer les caractéristiques primordiales de ces deux peuples.

Studies of Burial Rites in Tumuli 5th-4th centuries BC in the Region of Sliven, Central Bulgaria

Diana Dimitrova (Bulgaria)

National Archaeological Institute with Museum at BAS, Sofia

After the accidentally discovered tomb near the village of Kaloyanovo in 1963, studied by Maria Chichikova, for more than 40 years in the region of Sliven the burial rites in tumuli have not been studied. In the summer of 2007, TEMP (Thacian Expedition for Tumular Investigations) under the guidance of Dr. Georgi Kitov resumed explorations in the area of the present-day municipality. The challenge is to check whether the Valley of the Thracian Rulers, identified as a name as a result of many years of archeological excavations in the area of the municipalities of Pavel Banya, Kazanlak and Maglizh in Central Bulgaria, continues east to the big turn of Tundzha River (ancient Tonzos) to the south.

After the discovery of a rich tomb of a Thracian ruler near the village of Zlatinitsa, south of the town of Yambol, there was a need to establish whether between the Valley in Kazanlak and the region of Kabile - Malomirovo the Odrysae in the 5th-3th century BC have practiced the same rites at the burial of their rulers and aristocrats.

During the 6 seasons of archeological excavations, more than 20 tumuli were excavated. Some of them turn out to be without archeological structures, but they provide important information about the way the mounds were accumulated and the burial practices of the Odrysae. In others, tombs of Odrysian kings have been found, so far anonymous. It was found that the population practiced inhumation and cremation at the same time. Due to insufficient empirical material, it is not yet possible to answer the question why one or the other ritual is preferred in certain cases. This trend in the area continued during the Roman era.

Grave Characteristics of the Bronze Age Necropolises in the West Morava Region of Serbia

Katarina Dmitrović (Serbia)
National Museum, Čačak

After seven decades of continuous archaeological researches in the region of the West Morava river that belongs to the border territory between western and central Serbia, we could claim that the funeral segment of the Bronze Age cultures is uneven known and its main characteristics have been relatively accurately determined just for certain territories. Geomorphologically, as well as culturally, in the West Morava Region should be distinguished the up- and the downstream of this big and important river, mutually insufficiently connected.

For the upstream, one of the main features is represented by burial mounds, which were isolated or grouped within smaller necropolises. Up to now, more than 40 Bronze Age burial mounds have been excavated, every containing one or more graves. This amount of material enabled us to establish, after the characteristics of grave structures, treatment of deceased and especially the grave goods, relatively clear chronological and typological system. The culture of Belotić-Bela Crkva spread on the territory of western Serbia is typical for the Early Bronze Age. For the region of the West Morava river has been proposed the existence of a separate sub-group named as Dragačevo group, after the concentration of specific burials in the stone cists noted in Dragačevo region, to the west from Čačak. To the Middle Bronze Age belong the biggest number of graves and there must be accentuated the bi-ritual treatment of bodily remains

as the increased number and the variety of grave goods, especially the appearance of bronze jewellery. During this phase here developed the West Serbian group that overlapped the same territory as the previous Belotić-Bela Crkva culture. It was noted that the Middle Bronze Age graves from the West Morava region bear some local attributes again. The Late Bronze Age is represented by a few graves whose forms of grave goods and the burial treatment demonstrate the continuity with the previous phase. The Urnfield influence is obvious on material culture, but the burial concept under the mounds remained as a strong local landmark.

The graves from the downstream of the West Morava river are rare in regard to the northern area and they belong to the totally different cultural pattern. The burial mounds are not the typical feature of the southern part of the region, there dominate flat necropolises. The deceased are typically burned and placed into an urn. The grave goods are rare and usually consisted of ceramics, while metal items are almost absent. The known graves are attributed to the Paraćin culture that chronologically corresponds to the developed Middle Bronze Age and to the Late Bronze Age.

In addition to the listed general features for all cultures which alternated during the Bronze Age in the region of the West Morava river, one should be aware of the fact that every new excavation or a single finding constantly complete, enrich and slightly change the overview offered here.

Cenotaph from Chervony Mayak Necropolis

Olena Dzeladze (Ukraine)

Institute of Archeology of the National Academy of Sciences
of Ukraine, Kyiv

Denis Sikoza (Ukraine)

The Late Scythian hillfort and necropolis Chervony Mayak are located on the right bank of Dnieper (now the Kakhovka reservoir) in the chain of similar hillforts ranging along both banks of the river up to its mouth. It is a part of the reference archaeological complex of Ukrainian national importance (this is its official rank): settlement plus burial ground. The Late Scythian Archaeological Expedition of the Institute of Archaeology of NASU headed by Prof. Oleksandr Symonenko excavated necropolis since 2011.

The most graves at Chervony Mayak are the typical Late Scythians deep crypts, containing several deceased, probably the relatives. The second type of

burial construction is the niche-graves hypothetically belonged to the Sarmatians who lived among the Late Scythians.

In campaign 2017 unusual grave 142 was excavated. At the center part of oval pit at a depth of - 110 the handmade small bowl was found. The bronze fibula, bell and beads lied near the bowl. The skeleton or other bones were absent. Small pieces of pottery were found in the pit filling.

1. The handmade cup with flat edge, funnel-shaped body and short cylindrical foot. Vessel is 3,5 cm high, edge is 9 cm in diameter, foot is 4 cm in diameter. The cup is of very poor quality and possibly has been made specifically for burial. Such ceremonial pottery was not in use like ordinary tableware.

2. The bronze fibula with 4 coil spring and back chord. The flat arcuate back was decorated of stamped ornament with knob at the end. Length is 3,5 cm. Fibulae of the same types were founded in the grave 119, skeleton 2 (Symonenko, Sikoza, Dzneladze 2015, p. 121, ris. 30, 9; Dzneladze, Sikoza, Symonenko, 2018, p. 363, ris. 2, 46) and grave 131, skeleton 2 (Dzneladze, Sikoza, Symonenko, 2018, p. 363, ris. 2, 47). Most of them were found in necropolises of the Lower Don region, but our fibula has of smaller size and back chord. According to parallel the fibula dates of the last quarter of 1st century – first half of the 2nd century AD (Kropotov 2010, p. 211).

3. The bronze sphere-conical bell made from the thin sheet. Round hole is located on the top of bell. The bell-clapper is lost. Height is 14 mm, lower diameter is 16 mm, hole diameter is 4 mm.

4. The necklace consists of 18 glass and Egyptian faience beads. The most spectacular of them is cylindrical polychrome bead made from opaque black glass, decorated by scalloped ornament from white spiral stripe. Length is 21 mm, diameter of bead is 12 mm, canal diameter is 5 mm. It belongs to the Alekseeva type 271a, 1st century – first half of the 2nd century AD (Alekseeva 1978, p. 49).

Similar constructions with artifacts were found by Maria Viazmitina in the Late Scythian necropolis Zolota Balka (Viazmitina 1972, p. 113). Maria Viazmitina attributed them as sacrificial pits. They also were the oval-shaped.

According to the personal items found in the pit such as fibula, bell and beads this construction can be attributed as cenotaph. This special funeral rite probably reflects some aspects of the Late Scythians spiritual culture still unknown for us.

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Parade Helmets and Contexts. Between the South East and the North West of Europe

Diana Gergova (Bulgaria)

National Archaeological Institute with Museum at BAS, Sofia

One of the specific sign characteristic of the culture of the Getic South Eastern European lands in the Late Iron Age are the parade helmets from the territory of Bulgaria and Romania (Coțofenești, Agighiol, Peretu, Letnica etc).

Two main types can be distinguished – the helmets produced in one piece found on the territory of Romania and the more rare type known from Bulgaria - composite helmets covered with metal decorative plates. The parade helmets are also one of the most representative pieces of the Getic art which symbolic, ritual and mythological scenes reveal the peculiarities of the Getic beliefs and myths.

The Getic parade helmets are found both in rich princely burials as well in purely ritual contexts - as sacred gifts buried in the Earth, with proposed interpretation as donations to the Thracian Ares. The tradition of the parade helmets in ritual context surprisingly preserves its significance through the Roman until the Mediaeval period.

A unique resemblance with the Getic parade helmets in the construction, in the decoration with metal plates, as well as in the main motives and ritual scenes depicted on them demonstrate the much later parade helmets from 6-7th century AD of Vendel type from the rich boat burials from Sweden and South England.

The author raises the question about the connection between these two asynchronous groups and considers that they should not be treated as accidental.

We propose the hypothesis that the Getic and the Gothic parade helmets with their discussed “non Roman” origin, are expression of the common ideological ideas, beliefs and standard norms shared as a result of the long term contacts and interactions between South East and North West Europe during the 1 st mill BC and later. These ideological norms could guarantee the constancy in the social and symbolic significance of the parade helmets through the centuries.

Bronze Age Funerary Practices on the Pešter plateau and Neighbouring Regions of Western Serbia

Marija Ljuština (Serbia)

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade

The region of Novi Pazar, including the territory of the city of Novi Pazar along with the Tutin and Sjenica municipalities, is situated in the south-western corner of Serbia. Two plateaus – Sjenica and Pešter – are surrounded by the mountains Rogozna, Golija, Javor, Zlatar, Jadovnik Žilindar and Mokra Gora. Valleys of the important rivers Lim and Ibar provided good connectivity of the region, which is rich in smaller river flows belonging to the Raška and Ibar watershed.

The wide Pešter plateau offers very specific life conditions. It is sharply divided from the surrounding zones by both its height and its geomorphological characteristics. It is an area without forest, with average height 1100 – 1250m above sea level, having characteristics of the karst and with very little water. It makes the shortest connection between the Raška and Lim valleys, and in broad sense between the Morava valley and the river Drina, i.e. between the eastern and the western parts of the Central Balkans. During the Bronze Age, this region provided subsistence necessities for the communities whose traces can be more easily recognised in the sites they used to bury their dead.

The Pešter plateau and neighbouring regions are characterised by tumular necropolises. The earliest burial horizon, confirmed in two mounds at the site of Gomile in Crnoča and one smaller mound at the site of Glavica in Brnjica, can be cautiously connected with the Early Bronze Age. The horizon is characterised by cremation, cenotaphs and some traces of ritual actions which followed the

funeral itself. The second horizon, chronologically positioned in the final phase of the Middle Bronze Age, is represented by some graves with inhumed deceased in mounds at the sites of Gračanska Polja in Gračane and Latinsko Groblje in Glogovik. The last burial horizon belongs to the bearers of the Late Bronze Age Brnjica culture, who settled the region in the last centuries of the 2nd millennium BC. Their standard funerary practice included cremation of the deceased and placing their bodily remains in urns covered with large bowls, well protected by stone constructions inside smaller tumuli with peripheral stone enclosures. Such necropolises were discovered at the sites of Humpa in Dojeviće, Igralište in Novopazarska Banja, Utrine in Delimeđe and Latinsko Groblje in Glogovik. Some uncertain finds from the sites of Tabačina and Ras - St. Peter and Paul church can be added to this burial horizon. Comprehension of funerary practices, despite being limited to less than ten necropolises in the region, sheds light on the Bronze Age communities, their mobility and connectivity during the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC.

The Graves with Weapons in the Necropolis from Valea Stâinii. Looking for a Pattern of Panoply in Ferigile Group

Dragoş Măndescu (Romania)
County Museum Argeş, Piteşti

The topic of this paper is firstly based on the evidence of graves with weapons discovered in the necropolis of Valea Stâinii (Țitești commune, Argeş county, Romania), most recently investigated cemetery belonging to the Ferigile group (Late period of the Early Iron Age, 7th – 5th centuries BC) in the sub-Carpathian area of Central-Southern Romania.

The archaeological excavations at Valea Stâinii began in 2014 and continues until today, seven of the 21 explored graves (exactly 1:3) containing weapons (axes, spears, sword, kives, arrows) as grave goods.

The author extrapolates the issue trying to find a common pattern of panoply on all the graves containing weapons in the Late Hallstatt cemeteries belonging to Ferigile group. Around 80 cremation graves with weapons were identified (sealed complexes, well documented) in 13 funerary spots (Cepari, Curtea de Argeş, Ferigile, Ieşelnița, Năeni, Oteşani, Râureni, Rudeni, Teiu, Tigveni-"Babe", Tigveni-"Pietroasa", Țitești and Valea Stâinii).

The statistical analysis of the types of weapons and associations between them reveals the predominant role of the battle-ax and spear, according to an

obvious "Thracian" pattern, and a somewhat less visible "Scythian" influence by arrowheads or akinakes type swords.

Late La Tène Warrior Graves in the East Carpathian forest-steppe and their connections with Central Europe

Octavian Munteanu (Rep. of Moldova)

Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University of Chişinău

Mihail Băţ (Rep. of Moldova)

Moldova State University, Chişinău

Aurel Zanoci (Rep. of Moldova)

Moldova State University, Chişinău

The topic of the abstract is determined by a number of burial finds in the East Carpathian forest-steppe, dating to the late La Tène, which, according to their grave goods, can be attributed to warriors.

At the outset, we should pay attention to the fact that they contrast with a distinct element in the evolution of communities in the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic region, which is characterized by a sharp decline in the number of graves, almost to complete extinction.

This phenomenon has been known since the 3rd third century BC as a quasi-generalization over vast areas of Europe: from Pontus to Brittany. In the context of the absence of graves, the "traditional" burial sites of the Poieneşti-Lucaşeuca culture, as well as the concentration of warrior graves in the middle Danube basin, stand out.

The latter, having their core in the Balkans, would extend north of the Danube, first in Oltenia, then in western Muntenia and inside the Carpathian Basin, and from there to more distant areas. It is worth mentioning, in this context, the presence of curved daggers in the burial structures at Malaja Kopańja and Zemplin, as well as finds of a curved dagger at Histria and a Celtic-type sword with a scabbard at Callatis.

Obviously, to these are added the burial complexes with weapons from the East-Carpathian forest-steppe, such as those from Răcătău, Boroseşti, Poieneşti, Dolinjany and Mana, which are of particular interest to us in terms of the constituent elements and, in particular, in terms of the processes behind these cultural manifestations.

We will focus on their analysis and contextualization, on the mobility and connections between the various populations that have inherited these traditions, and on the nature of these relationships.

Weapons of choice. Early/Middle Bronze Age axes and swords in Eastern Romania

Roxana Munteanu (Romania)
Buzău County Museum, Buzău

The paper aims to review some of the metallic findings from Eastern Romania dating from the third and second millennium BC. The overall corpus of weapons is taken into account in order to ascertain distribution and deposition patterns.

The number of bronze weapons discussed here is rather small and consists mainly of the items identified within the bronze deposits from Borlești, Corbasca, Odobești, Parava, some grave or settlement inventories and several fortuitous finds (such as the swords from Piatra Șoimului or Buzău).

In this context it should be noted that the surge of the metallic findings in the last five years may change our perspective on the depositional habits during prehistory.

An unequal amount of axes and swords within the study area has been registered previously, but usually no further thought was given to the meaning of this marked difference.

Sarmatian Graves from North-Eastern Wallachia – a Case Study

Liana Oța (Romania)

Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

Valeriu Sîrbu (Romania)

Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

Sebastian Matei (Romania)

Buzău County Museum, Buzău

Although several studies about the Sarmatians from Wallachia, syntheses or focused on certain regions, have been written recently, there are still issues that need to be discussed. This time, the authors' attention is focused on north-eastern area of Wallachia.

The reason consists in the fact that the Sarmatian graves discovered in Buzău region have not been analysed so far. These graves have a certain number of characteristic features, among which their territorial concentration in few sites, a relative high percent of Roman imports (although most of them glass beads) and especially a dating that allows us to connect them, with a few exceptions, with the second stage of Sarmatian settlement in Wallachia, more precisely the end of the 2nd century AD and the first half of the following century.

The territorial distribution and the dating are arguments supporting the assumption that the Sarmatian communities in north-eastern Wallachia, concentrated in the first stage (late 1st century AD – beginning of the 2nd century AD) in Brăila Plain, extend during the second stage to the Buzău Plain and the Subcarpathian region, along the courses of Buzău and Călmățui rivers.

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the main characteristics of the Sarmatian graves, both in the Buzău region and in the entire north-eastern Wallachia.

Graves with La Tène weapons and fluid cultural identities. New discoveries from south-western Transylvania

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Funerary rites and rituals play an important role in the strategies used to express certain social or cultural identities. In this context, the Late Iron Age graves containing weaponry from south-western Transylvania sought to reflect the martial, warlike identity of the elites of the rural communities of the 4th – 2nd century BC, and later of the aristocratic elites of the Dacian Kingdom period.

Starting from these observations, the paper aims to discuss the characteristics of the funerary contexts containing weaponry, belonging to the “Celtic horizon” and the “Dacian horizon”, from the region in question. The analysis will take into consideration a series of older discoveries, already known in the specialist literature, as well as some recent discoveries which are still unpublished, like the funerary inventories from Râu de Mori and Almaşu Sec – Valea Ursului (Hunedoara County).

Despite the presence of some weapons of the La Tène type, which have a wider spatial and temporal distribution, some structural and contextual features of these discoveries point to certain transformations in the identity constructs from one chronological and cultural horizon to another. Therefore, another aim of this paper is to identify the chronological stage at which these transformations occurred in south-western Transylvania.

Burials and Objects Depositions from the Getic Times on the Lower Argeş Basin (Giurgiu and Călăraşi Counties, Romania)

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There are discussed the funerary finds from Popeşti, Făcău, Radovanu, Chirnoşi, the aspects that they had in common, but also, their peculiarities, their political, economical and religious meaning.

There will be also approached a series of objects deposits, with a possible cultic significance, from settlements, or other places (running, or still waters).

The Tumulus from Baldovinești (Brăila County): a Reappraisal

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The archaeological investigations carried out during the '60^s of the past century at Baldovinești-*Pepinieră* had resulted in the discovery of some burials. With regard to their number – 17 or 18 – there are some controversies, as well as some others, concerning the distribution of the burials in the tumulus, the position of the skeletons, their orientation and the presence of the grave goods.

All these aspects will be discussed on the occasion of this find reappraisal. We will also bring some corrections and we will advance some cultural assignments.

Dead in Settlements versus Dead in Tumuli Necropolises in the Dacian World (II). Two Cases from Wallachia and Transylvania

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For a better understanding of this phenomenon, we have chosen two sites with representative finds, one in Wallachia and the other in Transylvania.

Popești. The tumuli necropolis is situated at about 1.5 km from the settlement; 6-7 tumuli of it have been excavated, but only four have been published; as for the others, excavated in the inter-war period, we have no data. One has identified a series of facilities indicating rituals and offerings for the deceased. The dead people were all incinerated and their bones found in

different places: on the pyre, in the pits, at the fitting level of the tumulus, while in Tumulus no. 4, the helmet served as an urn (no human bones, in Tumulus no. 1). The tumuli no. 2 and no. 4 had a rich inventory, consisting in offensive weapons and defending gear, harness gear, adornments and clothing accessories, plus fragments of Dacian vessels and Hellenistic amphorae from the burial ceremony, which indicate the deceased were riders. The tumuli are dated in the 2nd – 1st c. BC.

In the acropolis and the unfortified settlement were found human bones from at least 12 individuals, children, adolescents and mature people, in pits, usually circular, with domestic filling, as well as in the archaeological layer. The skeletons were complete, in anatomic position or not, usually crouched, but there were also skulls or just isolated bones; one could see on certain skeletons traces of manipulating or dismembering of the deceased; with one exception, they had no inventory. Dated in the 2nd – 1st c. BC.

Sighișoara-Wietenberg (Transylvania)

The necropolis of this settlement has not been yet identified, but one has found a series of human bones in the settlement and its neighbourhood as well, in a “field of pits”.

Settlement. In 8 pits of the settlement, C. Seraphim discovered, in 1901-1904, 10 individuals, four were little children and five, mature people; some skeletons were complete, in anatomic position or not, but there were also separated bones such as jaws or ribs: we need to mention a child deposited in a vessel, a rib, associated with several nails and wood remains. We could add a child found in 1992 by A. Rustoiu, in a pit.

Field of pits. There was, at the limit of the settlement, an area with 12 pits, excavated in 1967-1970 by Gh. Moldovan, but, except for some photos, there are no excavation documents. In eight pits were found 18-19 individuals, seven children, an adolescent, at least three mature people; no reliable data about the others. Most of the pits had one or two individuals each, two pits had three individuals each, and in another one, seven individuals seemed to have been thrown. A few of them had inventory items, usually jewellery or clothing accessories. In four other pits, there were no human bones, only ashes, charcoal and pottery fragments, maybe remains from the burial ceremonies.

If we take into account the ensemble of the characteristics of the human bones found in the settlement and the “field of pits”, we could not consider them as graves, consequently they are not the outcome of some normal mortuary customs used by the Dacian community of this region. Dated in the 1st BC – 1st c. AD.

Final considerations. We will try, through the comparative analysis of the two types of human bones, to identify their characteristics and significance. As no necropolises, of incineration or inhumation for the common people of

these residential centres have been, so far, discovered, we have no reliable information about the treatment of most of the deceased people in these communities.

Dead in Settlements versus Dead in Tumuli Necropolises in the Dacian World (I). Three cases from East of the Carpathians: Brad, Răcățău, and Poiana.

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Tumuli graves. Out of the 40 tumuli identified in the past at Brad, Răcățău and Poiana, 12 have been excavated, only seven of them, published thoroughly. The tumuli necropolises were situated at about 1-1,5km of distance from these important Dacian centres from the east of the Carpathians, which means the settlement and the cemetery were mutually visible. One has identified a series of fittings which, without being spectacular, suggest complicated rituals and offerings for the deceased. All the dead have been cremated, their bones were found in different places: on the pyre, in the pits, at the fitting level of the tumulus, but never in urn. In almost 30% of the tumuli there were no human cremated bones.

The discovered inventory is, with two exceptions, modest or is absolutely missing. This obvious contrast between the funerary arrangement, the complicated rituals during the burial and the poor funerary inventory in most of the tumuli could be explained only by the religious restrictions. One could remark, in the tumuli from the east of the Carpathians, dated in the first century AD, the lack of the essential fighting gear, either offensive (swords, spears/lances, daggers), or for protection (shields, armour, coats of mails).

Inhumations, skeleton parts and isolated bones in settlements. The archaeologists identified, in the three davae, human remains from at least 40 individuals, most of them in pits with domestic aspect, but also in/under the houses, under the fireplaces or in the archaeological layer. There were complete skeletons, in anatomical positions or not, skeleton parts, skulls, jaw bones, isolated bones from different parts of the body. On certain bones, one could see sections or traces of violence, like blows or cuts. There is no obvious preference for the orientation or deposit of the deceased; most of them were crouched, on the left or on the right, on the edge of the pits.

Half of the individuals at least were children, but there are also some teenagers, adults, mature people; it is more likely the absence of the old people (*senilis*). In the majority of the cases, only one individual was put, but there are situations with two or three. The inventory was found for a few deceased, mainly children, usually, adornment or clothing items; the pottery vessels have been very rare. The finds from Poiana are dated in the 4th c. BC – 1st c. AD, while those from Brad and Răcățău, in the 1st c. AD.

The analysis of the human bones discovered in settlements reveals the fact they could not be considered as common graves, because: a) they are not from funerary spaces, b) there are no rules of deposit or orientation, c) a very diverse condition of the bones – complete skeletons, skeleton parts and isolated bones, d) lack of an inventory and offerings to observe certain funerary rules.

Final considerations. The comparative analysis of the two types of human bones shows how fundamentally differently these communities treated some of their deceased people. Our paper is dealing with identifying the motivation, their characteristics and their significance. It is worth also mentioning the lack of necropolises, either of cremation or inhumation, for the common people of these residential centres, consequently we have no data about how these communities treated the majority of the deceased people.

Scythian Archaic Barrow № 524 near Village Zhabotin: New Facts about Device and Cult Practice

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The first archaeological excavations of the burial mound, situated in the southern part of the Dnieper Right-Bank forest-steppe region (basin of the Tyasmin River), was held in 1913 by the famous archaeologist Aleksei Bobrinsky. The central part of the mound was excavated by a pit.

Under the mound, Bobrinsky discovered a large ground tomb buried in the mainland, which was robbed in antiquity. Surviving objects (weapons, horse equipment, pottery and fragments of bronze, gold plaques in the form of doe figures) allowed the mound to be dated to the end of the 7th century or the turn

of the 6th century BC (Ilyinskaya 1975). Some findings from the mound became the eponymous standards for identifying groups of functionally different products, for example, bronze bilobate rhombic arrowheads (Jabotinsky type tips) (Illinska 1973) bronze three-clutch cheek pieces from a horse's bridle (cheek pieces of the Zhabotin-Uashhit type) (Erlich 1991).

In 2019, we conducted full research of the mound. By the time of the excavation, it had a height of 3.0 m with a diameter of 55 x 50 m. During the study, we obtained 12 profiles of the mound, which enabled us to get a complete picture of its structure. The mound was created from black soil in 2 stages.

The first mound directly blocked the central tomb. Its diameter was 24 m with a reconstructed height of up to 4.0. m. The mound whole area was radially lined with wooden blocks. The second mound with a diameter of up to 50 m was fixed below by clay crepidoma, with a reconstructed height up to 7.0 m. Our research's data on the central tomb, especially, on its size, differ from the information published by Bobrinsky by a variety of attributes. The actual dimensions of the tomb are not 35 square meters, but 22 square meters.

The two ritual wooden oak platforms adjoined to the south-eastern and north-western sides of the central tomb. One of them was burnt. Next to them, we found burial №2, in a small gravel pit covered by wooden blocks. The human skeleton (14–18 years old) was located on its side in a crouched position without any items found with him. Weak traces of the effects of fire are fixed on the bones. It is possible that before being placed in the grave, a rite of purification by fire was performed over the deceased on a platform with traces of burning.

In our opinion, this burial should be considered as a sacrifice to the main noble deceased - a heavily armed Scythian horseman buried in the central tomb.

Scythian Archaic Barrow № 524 near Village Zhabotin: Date of the Funeral Monument in the Light of new Discoveries

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As already mentioned in a previous report (Skory-Okatenko) in the 1970^s. years Barrow number 524 near village Zhabotin was dated to the end of the 7th century BC. or abroad VII-VI centuries BC (Ilyinskaya 1975).

Since the late 1980^s, the scholars tended to date the central tomb and the entire burial mound № 524 near Zhabotin village to the following time periods: the border of the 8-6th centuries BC (Kosack 1987), 750-700 BC (Medvedskaya 1991), no later than the end of the VIII century (Daragan 2011) and *around the middle of the 8th century BC* (Ryabkova 2014) in the latest studies. Thus, the Zhabotin-524 mound began to be interpreted as a supporting funerary monument of the Scythian archaic in the Dnieper Right-Bank forest-steppe region. In our opinion, this interpretation seems to be incorrect.

In the course of the mound studies, we discovered a few objects related to the central tomb: bronze plates of armor, a large fragment of an iron sword, but, most importantly, a bronze plaque from a horse's bridle in the form of a bull's head and an amphora handle. Judging by the structure of clay, this amphora refers to vessels of Eastern Greek production. In terms of the burial's chronology, these findings are very important, since they cannot be dated earlier than the end of the 7th century BC.

The new evidence one more time turned our attention to the most significant artefacts, the so-called chrono-indicators, discovered in 1913, on the basis of which a number of researchers were dating the Zhabotin-524 burial mound by the middle of the 7th century BC (arrowheads, horse reins, items decorated in animal style). Their reanalysis confirms that these artefacts are not convincing arguments for such an early dating of the burial mound.

New findings in the Barrow No. 524 near village Zhabotin and a critical look at the artifacts that were found in 1913 convince that this funeral monument belongs to the final phase or end of the Scythian Near-Asian campaigns. This is the end of the 7th century BC or beginning of the 6th century BC.

The chronology of Sarmatian ritual deposits in the light of new finds

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In 2017 near Malynivka village in Petrovo district of Kirovohrad region of Ukraine the ritual deposit has been found because of accidental circumstances. It belongs to the category of sites known in the literature as "odd" assemblages (M.B. Shchukin), the votive or ritual "hoards".

The find consists of the bronze Roman provincial vessels (situla of Bargfeld type and pan of the Aylesford type), silver and lead bridle roundels, five pairs of iron bits and cheek-pieces, five frontlets with a hook, and ten iron socketed arrowheads. Parallels to these items are dated to the 2nd – 1st centuries BC.

The Aylesford type pan, which is first found in the North Pontic region, specifies the date of the assemblage to the first half of the 1st century BC. It is notable that almost all scarce findings of the Aylesford type pans are concentrated at Kuban region. The topography of the parallels makes it possible to associate the "odd" assemblage from Malynivka with the Northwestern Caucasus or Kuban region and determine its cultural affiliation as Sarmatian.

The date and cultural attribution of the assemblage does not exclude the connection of this and similar "odd" assemblages (Marievka, Bădragii Noi, Vesela Dolyna, Hordashivka, etc.) with the raids of the Sarmatians (the Siraci) and Maeotians from Kuban region.

This finding supports one more time the hypothesis of A. Symonenko about the connection of North Pontic "odd" assemblages with the operations of the Barbarian allies of Mithridates Eupator in the North Pontic region.

NOTES

