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**THE TURANIC POPULATIONS OF EASTERN AREA OF CARPATHIANS
IN X-XIV CENTURIES**

PhD Thesis

- summary -

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Introduction

The latest Turanic population that have dominated a very large territory from Mongolia to the Danube for more than three centuries, played a significant role in ethno genesis and evolution of sedentary nations from Eurasian steppe and its closeness. In the west part of the river Dniester, the tribes of Turkic Pechenegs were known from the Xth century, followed then by Uzes people for a short period, then by the Cumans who ruled until the coming of the Mongols. The long period of Turanic power and their different economy approach contributed to the significant changes within communities of farmers. In the eleventh century the settlements of Dridu culture were almost disappeared, and the population of farmers was forced to retreat to inaccessible areas for herders from steppes, followed by a new archaeological culture, of Raducani type of the sedentary communities, carrying obvious elements from nomad world.

The present research is focused on studying Turanian funerary complexes, these ones being the only safe archaeological evidence on nomadic herders of the Carpathian-Dniester. Thus, the work claims to be one of archaeology, and the results are obtained from unwritten sources from archaeology field as well. As matter of fact it can't be denied the fact that there were used other types of sources too, and all sources of information were combined where it was possible.

a) Chronological limits:

The suggested time period for the given research proceeds from archaeological realities, and also from written sources which clearly define the chronological range of the late Turanian presence in the given area. Lower limit, at the beginning of the Xth century coincides with the first riders Pechenegs reaching the Danube. In order to fix the upper chronological boundary, designed in the mid XIV century, we kept followed by processes and events that took place in the Golden Horde and in the east-Carpathian space during this period. We didn't set up the chronological limits in the middle of the XIIIth century, during the conquest of the North Pontic steppes by the Mongols, because the most of Turanian population continue to keep their identity under the domination of the new owners.

b) The geographic branch

The study comprises the bounded area of the Carpathian Mountains, the river Dniester, the lower Danube and Black Sea, which geographically, includes various relief forms, the lower region and the highest, encompassing as well the steppes areas. In nowadays this territory is constituted of three countries: Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Thus,

we suggest studying the whole Carpathian–Dniester area and not only its southern part, as it was practiced before.

c)The aim of the research

Thanks to systematic land investigations and fortuitous discoveries, altogether so far gathered a rich archaeological material on late Turanics represented by over 560 funerary complexes raised in about 170 settlements, some of which were unknown. The main objective of the present paper is the processing and estimating the scientific value of the remains. In the first chapter are studied ritual and funerary rituals. Burial practices and habits of rituals are an expression of eschatological beliefs, bringing forward community's perceptions and concepts upon afterlife. The researching process took into account every detail of complex funerary arrangements, its geographical location, the position of graves in mounds, aspect and arrangement of holes, the age and sex in the phenomenon of exhumation, the presence of horse bones, as well as inventory and funerary offertory, so that circumventing some and exaggerating the role of others lead to false assumptions and conclusions. Qualitative analysis of funerary rituals can provide important information on both, the complexes and chronology of their ethnic attribution. The second part of the research is based on inventory analysis, being studied the categories and types of different pieces found in tombs. Exhaustive survey of all objects found in tombs allowed identifying the analogies, date, description of occurrence context, of historical evolution and their role in the material culture of nomadic herdsmen communities. On the basis of detailed analysis of archaeological data, is treated the issue of, ethnic, social and cultural affiliation, as well as chronology of these antiques. The information obtained after the research of the archaeological material together with written sources, enabled us to elucidate some problems linked with are being processed and interpreted data from the study of funerary ritual and material culture. Taking into consideration the given information, late Turanian's funerary complexes were divided in four chronological groups. The graves framing in certain periods of times aims to illustrate on the basis of data taken from the studied land of aspects connected with the presence of Turanics on the west of the river Dniester, demographic situation, ethno-cultural affiliation and dominance of ethnic groups in certain periods and historical evolution of populations on the area under research.

In order to achieve the fixed aim was issued a catalog –collection of a full description of each funerary complex. Thorough presentation of the information on the mound, pit, skeleton, inventory and other important data served for creation of a useful tool for our further study, further taking benefits from it and other specialists in this field. The thesis is supported

by rich illustrative material showing as much as possible archaeological remains, a series of tables and graphics and not on the last place.

d) The research objectives

As elements of the formulated purpose the following research has proposed the objectives: I) establishing the written fund sources and archaeological sources on the issue of Turanian populations of the eastern Carpathians and their degree of reflection for the phenomenon under discussion; II) critical analysis of the historiography, appreciation of the domain concepts, elucidation for the scientific support, and the degree of credibility; III) exploring the spiritual life, religion and burial practice; IV) examining the ethno-demographic picture of the region and of the place occupied by the migrants in this geographic frame work; V) studying Turanic people's basic crafts including settling processes.

e) The degree of novelty

The degree of novelty of the given thesis is coming from the thorough and systematic approach to the problem of the late nomad civilization of the Carpathian-Dniester. There were summed up and examined the results of the archaeological investigations of the Carpathian-Dniester territory made in the last 60 years by the archaeologists from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Romania. In this thesis were systematized the chronological stages, geographic zones and micro medieval archaeological remains of the Turanics from the Carpathian-Dniester. There was made also a cartographic study on stationary areas of nomad tribes held in X-XIV centuries. The present project aimed to fill a gap in archaeology and medieval history of the Romanian area from east of Carpathians, and namely to study the various aspects of the material and spiritual cultures of the nomad herders in X-XIV centuries in the Pruto-Dniester space. Specifically, the research itself is done from the archaeological perspective on the basis of the remains obtained after over 560 graves had been excavated.

The archaeological material found in funerary complexes proved to belong to one of important human communities, some of graves containing tools which showed the high level of their living standards. Though, their main occupation was the animals growing, these communities were practicing various crafts, primarily metal and bone, merchandise, in support of this fact are the coins deposited dead corps, and as prove of their military occupations were a large number of weapons.

f) The originality of the investigations

The scientific value and the originality of the research work is that the antiques assigned to Turanian tribes represent altogether archaeological complexes of particular importance not only for Moldova and Romania, but also for other countries in Europe and Asia (Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan etc.), whose territories during the

medieval era were merged or were in close neighborhood to dominated areas by Pechenegs, Uzes, and Cumans. However, the present study was focused on the specific situation of the area of the author's interest, placed on the west limit of the Eurasian steppe, near Old Kyiv state, Byzantine Empire and Hungarian Kingdom.

At present, there is a world campaign developed within multicultural and multinational dialog, and in the civilized countries are being invested heavily on researches on understanding of the ancestors way of life in different eras, in order to compare the benefits and advantages of human development. In this context, this thesis is concentrated on researching the nomad populations who are an expression of cultural-historical complex phenomena, the infiltration in this space and the influence exercised on the local Romanian population in Prut and Dniester space, and multifaceted contact between them and Turanian tribes of steppe. Studying and understanding many aspects of the relations between indigenous people and migrants are extremely important and actual in conditions of interference and opposition situation under the trend of up-to-date globalization and today's national spirit.

g) Methods and methodology

From the general methods applied in the present thesis the author points out the: analytical, comparative, deductive, statistic, of analogies a so on, and the special methods used are: the systematization, classification, typology and mapping etc.

Thus, special methods have been used mainly on the processing of archaeological remains: mapping enables accurate tracking of burial sites, habitat or certain groups of artifacts, systematic and typological classification for ordering the artifacts initially, followed later, to be included, on the basis of statistical method in various charts, tables and diagrams which would facilitate the assessments chronologically, culturally and territorially.

The modeling and forecasting process provide important opportunities for studying the structure of population sedentary settlements, nomadic funerary complexes and also demographic aspects typical for the Carpathian-Dniester during the early Middle Age.

For the analysis of some late Turanic historical aspects in this area the author applied to the related scientific disciplines. The ethnographic studies gave the author an useful information on spiritual and religious life, offering a great opportunity to treat this problem from other aspects than before. Anthropological analysis results make it possible to determine the race of the dead, their cross-fertilization with other local habitants, and the spread of various humans groups in certain areas.

h) Sources

This thesis is based on two main categories of sources: archaeological and written.

The archaeological feature of the following thesis will privilege the use of the material sources, which are mostly represented in funerary complexes.

The information upon these remains can be found in excavation reports (documentation sites), in which are the results of archaeological investigations in the last 50 years.

Some reports were partially published, but others still remain unpublished. In order to value and place it in the scientific circuit of antique Turanian populations, the author made several documentary trips to institutions from Moscow, Kiev, Odessa and Chisinau, having visited the archives and museums which keep both, information and inventory items discovered. Knowing the Russian language, the author of the work had an access to the excavation reports and publications written in this language, having worked with originals, which is of a great advantage for the present work. The tombs were included in a repertoire drawn up in alphabetic order, each archaeological complex having its own number. For the performing of the repertoire the author kept to recording of all technical data, where most of tombs and parts of inventory were made graphically. The repertoire is a database that was used for the research, hopefully that it could become useful for other specialists in this domain.

The written sources are represented by chronicles, annals, travel notes and diplomatic documents issued by medieval chancellors (leaders, rulers) from neighboring territories. The frequent contacts of the later Turanics with the Byzantine Empire made them to be mentioned in various writings of Greek Chronicles, such as Michael Attaliates, Ioanes Skiliatzes, Georgios Kedrenos, Anna Comnena, Nicetas Choniates, in whose works one can find an extensive information of military, politically and social character. Russian chronicles are of a great importance for the history of the steppe population. The best known, *old story years and Haliciano-Wolhinian Chronicle*, describe in details the relations between Kievan Russia, and later on Russian principalities and steppe world which had known many stages, from state of belligerence, political conflicts, relations of vassalage, up to economic and social ties.

Of the same importance are the stories of Oriental scholars od-Din and Abdul Rashid Ghazi Bahadur-Khan. The latter, in his chronicle entitled *Genealogy of Turks*, gives information about the relationships between Cumans and Romanians. Other sources are represented by papal acts from XIII-XIV centuries, and those issued by the office of Hungary, reflecting the religious situation from that region and the tendency of nomad tribes Christianization.

1. Rites and funerary rituals

Funerary rituals and rites are an expression of religious feeling and they reflect, in one or another way, the individual's faith, and of the whole community on life beyond the grave, being an important part of ancient and medieval people's spirituality. Funerary is followed by all procedures which were used to be applied on a dead body, and was influenced beyond the religious phenomenon, also by random factors such as, the individual's personal wish, determination of the community, local customs and others.

In this paper was made an attempt to analyze and describe the funeral rite and rituals, and a lot of valuable information about the areas of spreading graves, demographic situation, beliefs, religious practices, number of children, men and women graves came into the light.

All complexes were discovered in plain regions, opened areas or in the valleys of the main rivers, while in hilly and forest regions nothing of it was found. East-Carpathian tribes were supposed to have some areas where they were used to stay throughout the year, which means that, at certain stages, they were able to share the grazing lands among certain families.

The Tribes of the East-Carpathian appear to have had some areas where they settled for the whole year, which means that, at certain stages they were able to share grazing areas within certain families. The large number of tombs from the Middle Prut basin and Superior Raut was supposed to belong to some Turanic communities that remained in that area for a long time, giving up moving to south for the winter, as it was believed before.

Most graves were placed in older tumulus, but there could be detected also high mounds of Turanics, this remaining an unexplained fact till present days. The statistics made after the tracking of some digging areas of holes in tumulus gave the scientists quite interesting information: most of the graves were placed in the southern half of Kurgan, this preference having been dictated by means of certain beliefs pertaining to the cult of the sun.

After a detailed research of the tombs which contained horse bones have been established several types of tombs, each of them being dated and signed its ethnicity. Particular attention was paid to the study of the women graves. On the basis of the archaeological material, together with other sources, could help to denote the migratory women status, a subject that hadn't been developed yet for this space.

Children burial became another important aspect for Turanic funerary practices. After a detailed analysis it was deduced that the children graves had the same inventory as for the adults burials, as there were found human and horse bones, pieces of weapons, harness and stirrups. According to the results, one can speak about equality of genders and age toward the beliefs which dictated the burial.

After the investigations of the destroyed complexes was established the habit of exhumation and ravaging of the graves with ritual purpose. The discoveries of destroyed holes from Carpathian-Dniestr area were usually considered as robbing graves. But after the exploring of the rich inventory of these complexes, the further digging showed the contrary.

The dead study guidance, along with other elements of the funerary rituals served on dating and ethnic attribution to the Turanic funerary complexes. The graves facing to the west (head)- east (legs) were considered as an attribute of Pechenegs and Uzes, dated in X- XI centuries, widespread in east- European steppe, as well as in Wallachia, Transylvania and Hungary.

However, Western-oriented graves - East continue to exist throughout the period, including during Mongol rule. Dead head eastward orientation is usually considered Cumans that appears and spreads west from Volga with their entering the Eastern European plain, from the twelfth century. However, it is quite difficult to determine the period of dating and determining ethnicity based only funerary complexes dead orientation. Throughout steppe Turanian many tribes were in constant contact, interacting in various ways, which led to changes in habits, beliefs and funerary practices, including filing tradition deceased in the grave.

The mixture of different ethnicities of late nomads from the space between Volga and the Danube had an unitary character throughout the area. Some of isolated groups, in most cases of Pechenegs continued to practice their own funeral rite which didn't change essentially until the XIV century, despite the Cuman domination. The graves orientated on the southern axis appeared during the XIII- XIV century and it was due to infiltration of new populations in that region, together with the Mongolian invasion and the penetration of Islam that dictated some rules which provided the placement of deads' heads to the south, and namely to the holly city of Mecca. Tombs orientated with the heads to the Northwest, Northeast, Southeast and Southwest during the Mongol domination and due to the process of assimilation and mixture of several groups of nomads. This process brought to the loss of religious and cultural identities, loss of rules that kept alive certain practices of burial customs, such as worship of south or east. This fact has led to diminishing significance of deceased orientation.

Posture analysis in the pit, an unexplored aspect by the scientists, proved the existence of a degree of uniformity. Dead bodies were deposited with arms and legs outstretched. There were found less graves containing skeletons laid back, slightly turned to the right and less, but few complexes were found with inhumation on the abdomen. The arranging of arms and skull

had known several variants to be placed, which were not subject to the general position of the body itself, keeping their feet in most cases in flat position.

Studying the age of the deceased gave the scientist valuable information on the life average, infant death etc. Most skeletons belonged to mature persons, followed by adolescents, children and old aged people. The small number of children skeletons (11 %), in the case of high mortality could have had many reasons. This issue could have been due to natural factors which caused the complete devastation of bones of small children by rotting or their displacement by rodents.

The small number of graves, belonging to the elderly people (2,8%), in the author's opinion was due to the low level of living of the populations of Turanic warriors and poor recording of data on the age of the dead. Because of a lack of anthropological analysis of old people's tombs, they were assigned, probably, to adult's category. Some of the graves (16, 8%) belonged to adolescents-a relatively high percentage in comparison with that one of children and the elderly. High mortality among youth was due to nomadic warrior tribes engaged in many conflicts, both internal and external struggle, and active people for fight.

2. Material culture

Thanks to the land systematic investigations and fortuitous discoveries made in different parts of the Carpathian-Dniester space so far gathered a rich archaeological material assigned to late Turanic from over 560 graves, found in 170 municipalities. A significant part of these remains have been properly published by the researchers in this field. But some of the findings remained unpublished until now. The main objective of this paper is the processing and fullest scientific exploitation of these materials. This chapter deals with the study of archaeological inventory and it includes an analysis on categories and types of different pieces found in tombs.

Since the Middle Ages, in various regions of the eastern European continent take place large population movements accompanied by armed actions, amid the collapse of state constant structures. This era was maybe more marked than any other historical period by force of arms, which had inevitable repercussions in the minds and spirit of the age. In the early Middle Ages several populations make their way in the tumultuous history of our continent being in the statute of so-called "military democracy". The man was tied to his arms, the relationship being personal and subjective, reflected in the spiritual life of nomadic horsemen.

The weapons deposited in graves as inventory reflect the warlike character of the migratory Turanion tribes and the technological development of the studied era in which they were created. Some of these weapons appeared for the first time and have developed and perfected in the world of Turanic, which demonstrated the creative and inventive potential and

high level of craftsmanship. For making swords took extensive knowledge in metalworking. The large number of items discovered that were a part of military equipment indicated on the involvement of a material and human potential for their production strictly military industry with a purpose of defense and survival, as well as the expansion and development of the conquest of new territories.

In nomadic horsemen tombs of the Carpathian – Dniester were found offensive weapons which were more numerous than those defensive once. In most cases of the discovered pieces have been preserved only metal and bone. The following weapons were the swords, daggers and fighting knives, iron, arrowheads bone spears and spearheaded, springs, scabbards for bow and arrows, axes and special maces used for battles.

The Turanic population used, but to less extent the military equipment. Its use was confirmed for the entire area of nomads' domination by archaeological discoveries, literary sources and graphics. In comparison with Ponto- Caspian steppe there were found less armor pieces in Casrpathian Dniester complexes, being represented by two helmets, six pieces of chain mail shirts and two arm guards made of iron.

After the specialist's suggestions, the military equipment represented by pieces of armors began to be widely used together with high military level of organization and state formation. Development of weapons and armors is closely connected to the establishment of feudal power and its relations within socio-political system. The armor became an attribute of military culture, and its presence in archaeological complexes showed high level of iron metallurgy and the capacity of defensive of the people concerned. Number and quality of military parts are a clear indication of the level of development of the society from both, economic and social–economical and political sight.

Besides the weapons, harness tracks are another important category of archaeological artifacts found in burial complexes being assigned to late Turanics. Although, they are coming from graves, the number of objects is much lower in comparison with those discovered in the nomads' complexes from the east–European steppe. Despite the fact that we know a quite varied material consisting of bits, stirrup, rings, buckles, saddles, etc. The discovery of some of these pieces in clear archeological context and in association of various well-dated objects allows to make a more précised chronology. In all cases, the typological and chronological classification of spare harness was made by analogy with similar artifacts discovered in rest area inhabited by Turanics, but also in other neighboring regions too.

Items of clothing and jewelries were represented by the strap seals, brackets, buckles, buttons, earrings, beads, bracelets and collars. A greater part of them are, like other categories of archaeological material, an important historical source that provides information about

Turanics' trade relations with other ethnic tribes or neighboring countries. Also, they allow creating a clear enough image on aesthetic and artistic representation of some sides of their life. Moreover, much of the jewelry and clothing pieces can be used as reliable dating, especially since most of them are imports from other cultural backgrounds.

Like other nomadic people Turanics used in their daily life some tools to manufacture and purchase all necessary for life and to practice their traditional occupations typical to their lifestyle. Like the entire east European steppe, and in the west part of the Dniester this category of parts offer the researchers additional information about the economic life and concerns, and their level of development.

In Turanian tombs found on our land have been discovered objects such as flint, knives, scissors, and some fragments of needles, awls, piercing or awls which forms could not have been established.

In Turanian complexes were met also objects that could not create a separate group. These were few coins from three tombs, pottery, metal vessels and knucklebones. There were also found iron nails and staples from coffins in thirteenth graves, stones with traces of processing, an axle disk from a belly boat, an iron horseshoe with unspecified uses (shoes for or taken from horses), a lock from iron and bronze, a handle of bronze of a bag, and more poorly preserved objects whose function has not been established. Some of the pieces were described by authors of publications, but without illustrations, which made it difficult for the typological classification.

The level and content of the material culture of the Turanics can be distinguished through analysis of the funerary inventory. The research of the parts found in tombs, their classification, drawing typologies, identifying analogies and establishing chronology and ethnic attribution in some cases, allowed, in conjunction with the information on funerary rituals, the dating, ethnic and social attribution and geographic spread, and others, of the late Turanics vestiges from the west side of Dniester. For the first time were widely investigated certain inventory items, like swords, bows, arrows, and quivers for arrows and bows. Each recorded tool was studied separately. The author of this thesis tried to develop a brief history of the emergence and evolution of these tools, using in some cases, written sources as well. This allowed making a classification in categories of parts and drawing typologies for each of them. This method gave the opportunity to make a more exact dating of the most of objects and, in some cases, to determine the areas or populations who made and used these pieces. In the area studied by us, an exploring of material culture and compiling typologies for each category of parts would become a novelty.

This allowed separation into categories of parts and drawing typologies for each of them. Time method allowed accurate dating of most objects and, in some cases, to determine areas or populations who made and used these pieces. In the area studied by us, a study of material culture and compiling typologies for each category of parts is a novelty.

Corroborating information obtained from the analysis of archaeological material that provided by the study of funerary ritual allowed safe dating more than half of graves recorded.

3. Chronology, ethnicity and geographical distribution of some groups of graves

Till present, funerary complexes assigned to late nomads, discovered in the Carpathian-Dniester, were not investigated as a whole. Analysis and study of archaeological inventory, preparing typology, mapping of components and their dating was carried out only partially. The same situation faces the case of funeral rites and ritual. After a detailed analysis of archaeological material coming from tombs and funerary ritual performed in the present study, through the confirming of all the accessible information, the author set out a chronology of all the funerary complexes. The dating of nomad's medieval tombs determines the dynamics and intensity of the infiltration process of the migrants from Prut and Dniestr space between X- XIV centuries, and detecting the living areas at certain periods of time. The determination of time of the existence of the funerary complexes was made by linking archaeological data with written sources, establishing their ethnicity in certain periods and areas of the Carpathian –Dniester.

Taking into account the given information provided by the inventory and funerary ritual, funerary complexes of late Turanics were divided in four chronological groups. Framing graves at certain times aimed to show clearly on the basis of data field, the issues related to the presence of Turanics on the west side of the river, the domination of some ethnic groups in certain periods, being outlined their touch with the local population.

As it was mentioned above, the thorough analysis provided by archaeological sources and preparation of details types of parts of inventory and tombs contributed to the classification of complexes into four chronological groups. The suggested by the author of the present work division differs to some extent from those of other researchers, as it was dictated by the local and specific and different conditions in which late Turanic tribes existed in the Carpathian –Dniester area.

Group 1: tombs of the tenth century and the first half of the eleventh century;

Group II: tombs during the second half of the eleventh century and the first half of the next century;

Group III: tombs from the period of the second half of the XIIth century until the first half of XIIIth century;

Group IV: tombs from the second half of XIIIth century till the middle of XIVth century;

Due to the lack of datable material or of full information on it, about half of the graves could not be included in chronological groups mentioned above, broad dated in X-XIV centuries.

The first group, which included the earliest tombs (Xth century-beginning of XIth century) are assigned funerary complexes belonging to Pechenegs who reached the west side of the river Dniester after Hungary's leaving. The number of monuments which have been dated at this time is 27, all of them being situated in the South –West (Lower Prut, Barlad) and in the northern half (near the river Vilia, Ciugur, Cainari). First tribes of Pechenegs entered there from the northern part Dniester liman, going to the west near the adjoining marine lakes and the Danube. Newcomers didn't stay near the coast too long, but preferred to occupy the west and north areas. Occupying the northern half of the area by the Pechenegs led, inevitable to conflicts with local population and glory between Raut and Dniester Rivers, and as a result have been destroyed the fortified settlements of the latter.

In the first period, on the west side of the river Dniester came a small number of migrants Pechenegs seeking to obtain new lands for cattle feed, while the bulk Turanian population remaining on the east side of the river.

In the second group (the second half of the XIth century – the first part of the XIIth century) were included remained in that space Pechenegs graves, of new communities of Pechenegs coming from east, and also those of Uzes people emerging in the mid-eleventh century.

This is due to political changes influenced by a new wave of displacement of the Uzes tribes, caused by Cumans pressure from the eastern boundary. The funerary complexes can be separated from the previous group on the base of inventory items, ritual funerary, unchanged remains, as the Uzes people were practicing the same funeral habits. The division of the Pechenegs graves in the area studied by the author is still difficult to accomplish, as the complexes from the second group were assigned to pechenegs-uzes.

Despite the fact that this period coincided with the first entry of Cuman tribes, but these ones didn't influence too much the ethnic situation. Apparently, Cuman nation hadn't passed their flocks on the right bank of the Dniester, being limited by the political administration of the given space.

The number increase of graves, beginning with the mid-eleventh century, reflected a demographic increase which resulted in expansion of the used territories by nomads for grazing cattle. During this period was explored extensively the southern region, keeping on maintaining a constant number in the northern half. In the given period was noticed an increasing density in some regions, and there were registered rising tumulus of Turanics and mounds containing by two modern complexes. Also, there have been scattered graves rituals. All these data point to a degree of living and long-lasting standing in some areas, which meant that there were some regions with distinct nomadic population.

Since mid-twelfth century until the middle of the next century, the number of graves significantly lowered down, and in the third group were included only 17 funerary complexes. The situation was caused by the Cumans domination on pecheneges-uzes, who underwent Cumans leaders. Cumans political control exercised in this region did not imply a direct presence of cuman population, most of tombs of that period, as inventory and funerary, ritual being similar to those of the first group. The nearest Cumans centers were concentrated on the left side of Dniester, where was noticed an increasing number of Cumans vestiges dating from that period. Decrease in population led to the release of favorable grazing areas, which allowed and encouraged the arrival of a new Turanian group represented by Berindei. Their presence in that region was reflected in archaeological data in written sources and toponymy.

The last group of tombs, the fourth, differs essentially from the previous ones. Including the space in the domination area of Mongols led to significant changes within political and ethno-demographic field. The number of population was significantly increasing (there could be included 105 graves), a phenomenon caused by a mass displacement in certain steppe regions. The results of the moving human groups' politics promoted by Hani Golden Horde were reflected in burial practices. Besides the well known tombs of Pechenegs, was increasing the number of Cumans' complexes and appeared types unknown to the Carpathian-Dniester. The high diversity due to the different ethnicities inhabiting and rituals changing under a reciprocal influence, and the islamization of nomadic pastoralists. The number increase of people under the Mongols domination in certain areas resulted in decreasing of favorable grazing areas. High density of graves in certain regions, but also the large number of tumulus at the same, made it clear that every community in that period was limited to nomadic shepherd territory with clearly defined borders. Insufficiency of grazing herds led, unavoidably, to a decay of flocks and decline of economy based on nomadic shepherding. Perhaps, some of Turanics started to feed from land cultivations. Some of them settled in the newly founded settlements, thus becoming merchants or craftsmen. According to the written sources, most of horsemen were taken into Mongols armies.

If until the thirteenth century the traditional economic system was maintained regardless of the political situation, and the settling cases were treated apart, then, beginning with this century, due to the changes caused by the Golden Horde, the phenomenon of sedentarisation knew a mass character.

Although, one can broadly outline the picture of Turanics migrants presence on the west side of river Dniester, and further was imposed and extension of territories under study, and interdisciplinary interpretation of artifacts and archaeological complexes. This fact is necessary in order to understand the aspects of social life, hierarchy, contacts with the local population, in one word, to see the Turanic man and his relationship with outsider environment where he sat.

Conclusions

The author of this thesis considers that the chosen subject for this work became a new and very necessary orientation for a further research of the history in the Carpathian –Dniester space. The study is based on assembly of all the funerary complexes of the late nomads, and contributes to the elucidation of some historical issues regarding the populations who lived in the area under study.

The present research represents a good attempt of analysis of all vestiges belonging to the nomad herdsmen, and as a result it brings series of explanations about the period of Turanics' domination at the east side of Carpathian Mountains.

The author tried to fulfill all the given tasks and objectives which he aimed to realize in this work, though there were some difficulties in elucidation of certain aspects. The impossibility to touch upon various nuances linked with the study of some nomads on the base of given archaeological material, determined the author to specify the subject under study, and namely the research of funeral rites, material culture, chronology classification and geographic spread of antique Turanics, including the questions about the political life which were examined tangentially.

In the approaching to the subject, its analysis and synthesis, also assessment and built up conclusions, were led by the principle of scientific objectiveness and the conclusions were drawn by the analysis of a reach archaeological material taken from a wide research of funerary complexes of medieval nomads.

Various publications with the reference on the Turanics graves contained an incomplete description of the discovered material. In most cases the graves were mentioned usually in works published as a result of researches of elder tumulus. The author had put efforts on studying those complexes again, one by one, taking into account the opinions of the authors of digging. Some of data regarding the archaeological material were taken from the

reports of the digging kept in archives of the institutions from the same field from Ukraine, a fact that facilitated the summing of all graves studied till now and registered in a kind of complex repertory. This one contains entire existing information linked with funerary complexes belonging to late Turanics.