

Cremation cemeteries in western Pontic space sec. II BC. - III AD.

Summary

Keywords: cremation graves, funerary events, cremation, funeral tumuli, tombs in simple pit, stone box graves, graves with the remains of the burning plane left partially in place, flat urn burials, secondary combustion, secondary gift, stone rings.

The research theme that we propose bring to the fore study incineration graves (between Century II. BC and the third century p. Chr) in the area west Pontic space comprising both old world Greek colonies that begin to maintain relations politico-economic captains of the Geto-Dacian local or trace, but with the new power will start to impose the Balkan Peninsula. I opted for a title with a geographical area to highlight the complexity of the problem addressed by the work; but for objective reasons of methodological standpoint we will devote particular attention to some Greek colonies and their administrative territory, such as Histria, Tomis, Callatis, Dionysopolis, Odessus, Anchialus and Appolonia. During exposure we reported in territories near them that are of interest to study the issue of cremation graves of typological or ethnic terms. Regarding the chronological limits drawn, Century II. Chr., Should be placed in the beginning of the Roman conquest in the Balkan Peninsula (since 217 a. Chr., United Macedonian, after the battle of Pydna in 169 had been divided in four parts placed under the vigil of Rome, it is abolished altogether and turned into a Roman province (year 146) and Century III p. Chr. Following the Edict of Mediolanum (313), there is a progressive increase in the rite of burial to the detriment of cremation, but also change their typological order.

Increasing knowledge about the behavior of Dobrogea funeral Greco - Roman (II century. BC - III. P. Chr.) Was not only possible after initiation of systematic research. Research Mircea Babes necropolis Daco-Roman Enisala, those of Constantin Preda Mihai Irimia, Michael Bucov Vasile Lungu Constantin Chera in Tomis of Elena Bârlădeanu-Zavatin Callatis, of Petre Alexandrescu tumular necropolis from Histria and Gavrilă Simion's and

Victor Heinrich Baumann Noviodunum brought significant contributions to the problem of Dobrogea funeral rites and rituals of that period. For better management of data in terms of time, we have structured the history of research on the proposed topic, in alphabetical order of discovery. At the same time, we can do a history of funerary archeology, unless we take into account both discoveries cremation graves and tombs of burial.

The methodology adopted to address this issue involves collating information with archaeological historiography order, which implies a coherent approach to written sources and outlining a new stage of archaeological research. The goal we want to achieve is precisely to achieve a more comprehensive picture on the spiritual life of a territory quite legally troubled politico-military and administrative, and presents metamorphoses faces in the funeral.

A first step in the study of the topic is the study of ancient sources, followed by a further phase of work which consists in treating exhaustive bibliography on the subject of research, but also in the interpretation of archaeological sources. This is the novelty of the work aimed at addressing descriptive material elements that are found in a diverse area in terms of funerary events.

The paper proposes, first, to define the geographical and historical context of western Pontic space and then, set milestones related to the use of cremation in the studied. This third chapter covers Geographic. I felt useful writing this chapter, because they established the spatial limits of the analyzed territory. There are reviewed relief, climate, hydrography, vegetation, wildlife and soils, as well as communications network in ancient times.

The next chapter, the fourth refers to historical-political context of the study area, making an analysis of political and administrative organization of the west Pontic space.

The fifth chapter discusses cremation, proposing a classification of graves cremation: A classification of the funerary complexes Roman, tombs with incineration dead on the spot: 1) barrow tombs, the remains cremațiunii: a) left free on the site combustion; b) placed in the box of stone; c) deposited in a rectangular pit, as for inhumation; 2) dished flat graves in the pit: a) simple b) coated or covered with slabs; 3) flat graves with the remains of burning left partially in place, partially deposited in the ballot box instead of remaining on incineration. And the dead in graves with incineration ustrinum:

1) flat urn burials: a) simple pit; b) in box stone; c) under podium slabs

2) flat graves (without urn) with debris deposited directly Funeral: a) simple pit; b) simple pit lined with stones; c) oval-shaped pit bed; 3) over rectangular pit graves with mounds made as to inhumation.

Cremation cemeteries dating to the Roman era have benefited, especially in the second half of the twentieth century, a thorough research. Funeral rituals are part of religious beliefs.

Archaeological studies suggest a great variety and differential treatment within the same group, depending on the status of the deceased, age and cause of death. When choosing a rite or another competing various factors, mostly economic. Be it religion that prescribes a certain ritual funeral can be no question of a social nature (social position of the deceased) or be it by accidental causes (Death from conflicts). Practicing a ritual is not exclusive as evidence of birtualism, which is the expression of transition rituals or representing a differentiation of social hierarchy, or for groups with multiethnic structure, differentiating between ethnic groups. Regardless of the rite, the burial ritual acts involving an amount of carried out before, during and after înormântare. Archaeology Of these only capture part related to planning how grave the body in the hole, number, type and arrangement of offerings, sacrifices and nature. All of these practices on the treatment of the body after death, the place and role of exposure before burial, carrying the pit or bush type of stake and the kind of ceremony during incineration or burial, funerary banquet can be reconstituted only in the antiquity Greco-Roman, where literary writings and complement the archaeological monuments.

Special attention should be paid funeral inventory, confirming the number and nature of objects made suggesting the social status of the deceased, and the existence of ritual practices.

One problem is how to build ritual of bush wood used, how to place the body at the stake during combustion, treating calcified bones.

Very important to reconstruct the funerary practices constitute a grave typology that can record the presence of elements for practicing rituals.

The last chapter discusses the cemeteries analyzed Archaeological and is divided into four chapters: 1 funeral pit burned; Two graves with the remains of the pyre burning deposited into the pit; Three graves with the remains of the pyre cremation deposited into the pit; 4 graves with the remains of the pyre cremation urn submitted. The information archeological was

organized and edited as an inventory analytically, to be the basis of the study funerary practices, the specific behavior of the universe sepulchral, and the particular elements that appear within facies provincial, these criteria can highlight certain socio-economic conditionality. Description funeral must be limited to technical data (dimensions, orientation, treatment of the pit, conservation status), data about the phases of filling and internal organization. It was prosecuted and functional distribution of the inventory reported at the time and mortuary gesture of submission and comments on post-cremation treatments would Indication relating cremation rituals.

Concluding, we can say that we plan to do a burial archaeological monograph western Pontic space, by relying on published data. After completion of drafting work, we can say that we hit the way of publishing complexes, and the destruction of ancient and modern that made a large number of graves can not be parsed as type.

Overview of inventory funeral took into account not only the pieces from the tombs determined that guy, but also those belonging to the category of undetermined type.

The results of archaeological research conducted in the area west Pontic revealed that cemeteries have certain characteristics by which a detailed analysis of the elements of funerary rite and ritual can be obtained new information regarding the configuration of ethnic and social populations that were colonized area. Thus, in addition to being visible predilection for burning the place of the dead, cemeteries are individualized and character, and tumular plan, the funeral arrangements. The presence of stone rings and burial chambers in a large share certain features of archaeological inventory, furniture funerary complexes (presence of amphorae in offering deposits, the presence of amber pieces, etc.) and the low share of graves cremation residues are deposited in various types of container (cistae, ceramic urns) may indicate, we believe, a number of influences from the Balkans to a great extent.

I have not proposed a detailed analysis of each necropolis, but an overview that could serve as a basis for future discussions.

Regarding the dating cemeteries entire archaeological material discovered is representative of Century II. BC, having in the present state of research, any argument based on which it can be postulated operation of the site in Century III. p. Chr.