

**Mirjana Vojvoda, Snežana Golubovic, Ilija Mikic, *Mors Immatura. Novac i apotropejsko-profilakticki elementi u pogrebnim ritualima – južna nekropola Viminacijuma/ Coinage and apotropaic-prophylactic elements in funerary rituals – southern Viminacium cemetery***, Institute of Archaeology Belgrade Monographies 72, Digital Art Beograd, Belgrade, 2021, 318 p.

This latest book regarding the discoveries made in the necropolises of Viminacium and presented in the following pages, deals with an extremely important subject both from the point of view of classical archeology and also the documentation of religious ritual and is addressed mainly to specialists. The chosen subject is premature death or *mors immatura*, documented by the research made in the necropolis of Viminacium on child burials, in which the authors analyze the funeral rite and ritual and the inventory discovered in 1828 graves, containing 1866 decedents.

The book is prefaced by an introduction (pp. 7–12), regarding Viminacium in Roman times, briefly presenting the history of Roman settlement during the first five centuries and the history of the province of Moesia along with the history of archaeological research in this area. Included in the introduction, but treated separately, is also a brief presentation of the methodology used and the aims of the work (pp. 13–16). Such an approach was impossible without a serious statistic based on research done in the necropolises of the ancient city.

The first part of the book present the results obtained by the funerary archeology through the study of the children's graves, with a division made on the age structure on the 1828 (pp. 17–28) out of a total of 10768 graves investigated in the necropolis of Vise Grobalja and Pecine, as well as according to the burial rituals and the typology of the graves (plain burials with a simple or more complex pit, burials in wooden coffins, burials in brick-build graves, and less frequent in amphora or covered in amphora shards or in lead or stone sarcophagus, in urns or ceramic pot, type Mala Kopasnica-Sase I and II, grave-pit with etages) (pp. 29–40), both inhumation and the cremations, as well as the number of dead (pp. 41–46). It is thus observed that the highest number of graves belongs to children who died between 0 and 4 years – almost 1/3 of the total, with most of the deceased up to 1 year. It is also noted that most of the deceased were buried and not cremated. Also, very important are the analogies provided for statistics from other Roman sites, among others are presented Ravna-Slog (*Timacum Minus*), Lanište, Mala Kopašnica, Davidovac- Gradiste, Gomolava, Stremška Mitrovica (*Sirmium*), Sviloš (*Srem*), Zmajevac (*Ad Novas*), Osijek (*Mursa*), Vinkovci (*Cibalae*), Pécs (*Sopianae*), Dunaújváros (*Intercisa*), TÁC (*Gorsium*), Budapest (*Aquincum*), Esztergom (*Solva*), Ljubljana (*Emona*),

Celje (*Celeia*), Stara Zagora (*Augusta Traiana*), dated between the 1<sup>st</sup> century until 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. (pp. 19–21). The authors also have a special look at the number of dead in the graves, being highlighted the case in which in the same grave were buried either two or three children, or an adult and a child.

The most important part of the paper refers to the artifacts discovered in children's graves as a way to study the funeral rite and ritual but also the complicated relationships within society and also within the family. Given the importance of the funeral inventory, the share of discussions related to it in the economy of the work is important, and included in in three chapters. In the introduction for this part, we have an overview of the funerary inventory (pp. 47–50), from which we find that the percentage of the graves with inventory is 57%. Most of the funerary inventory objects have been preserved in inhumation type graves with the idea that incineration graves contain the largest number of objects, and one of the reasons given for this situation being the looting of inhumation graves to a greater extent than the other ones. Within the funeral inventory, several categories of objects are individualized and benefit from separate chapters. These are the coins (pp. 51–62), which are analyzed in terms of the distribution, number and position in the burial inventory. Another chapter examines the apotropaic and prophylactic discoveries (pp. 63–134), discussing here the perforated coins, *bullae*, *lunulae*, bells, *phalus* type pendants, Hercules mace type pendants, pendants and jewelry from charcoal and amber, shells and snails, pendants with the image of Chorus, animal fangs and horns used as pendants, pieces of sulfur, iron nails, eggshells. The position in the tomb, the way of associating them with other amulets or other inventory objects, the way of distribution according to age but also the exact functionality and the way that they were worn, were all analyzed in this chapter, because many of these objects were used by the decedents in everyday life.

The paper ends with a consistent chapter of conclusions (pp. 135–174), which presents the ideas resulting from this research regarding the transition rituals related to the life and death of children in Roman times, how these children were mourned after they died, the archaeological research of the burial rite and ritual, the deposition of amulets as a means of protection, the categories of objects classified as magical and prophylactic items, the materials of organic and non-organic origin in terms of prophylaxis, and the so-called *crepundia* discoveries.

The work is completed with ancient bibliographic sources (pp. 175–176), so necessary to establish the functionality of some artifacts or to recreate the funeral ritual. Also, the bibliography (pp. 177–188) illustrates the territory of Serbia and the surrounding provinces and provides a general framework for the Roman world. We regret the fact that Dacia is illustrated very little in this

paper, due mainly to the fact that there are very few situations in which funeral complexes have been researched and, unfortunately, even less necropolises are published from this Roman province.

For clarification the authors have included 37 plates, 56 figures and 36 tables, in colors, completed in writing with the dimensions of the illustrated objects (pp. 189–190), a catalog of graves according to age and funeral rite (pp. 191–315), with the necessary abbreviations.

We welcome the authors' efforts to edit the work bilingually, in Serbian and English, and we believe that this is a tool that should not miss from the specialist's desk. Overall, the subject of the paper is part of the interests expressed by specialists for this age group from the population of the Empire, with the specification that the emphasis is on the materiality represented by the objects from the funeral inventory. Regarding the Viminacium site, this paper completes the series of monographs and articles published in the last 15 years regarding the discoveries made within the site and especially in the Roman necropolises. Therefore, in addition to introducing the findings into scientific discussions, we consider it particularly important that due to the assiduous research and publication of recent years, Viminacium discoveries can give us a solid statistics, which is a particularly important element for understanding provincial social mechanisms and phenomena in the Roman world.

We welcome the publication of a new book about the necropolises from Viminacium and warmly recommend it to specialists.

*Ana Cristina Hamat*

**D. Anghel, A. Timofan, G. Bounegru, C. Tănăsolia, V. Rusu-Bolindeț, I. Lascu, D. Dana**, *Roman Lead- Glaze Ceramics. From the Collection of the National Museum of the Unification Alba Iulia*, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2021, 98 p.

Noua apariție editorială continuă tradiția Muzeului Național al Unirii, de a cataloga și a publica colecțiile pe care le are în grijă, prin străduința specialiștilor săi. De data aceasta, colectivul de autori este unul destul de mare, din el făcând parte și nume binecunoscute în studiul ceramicii romane – V. Rusu-Bolindeț, epigrafe – D. Dana și mai ales specialiști care au efectuat o serie de analize complexe, și aici îl numim pe C. Tănăsolia dar și scanări 3D și fotografii de bună calitate, acestea fiind meritul lui C. Șuteu.

Lucrarea prezintă un subiect mai puțin abordabil și din această cauză, puțin prezent în articolele și lucrările de specialitate și anume ceramica glazurată