

**CELTIC BURIALS IN THRACIA****Mieczysław DOMARADSZKI**

One of the main criteria for defining the Celtic ethnic presence - the flat burials of inhumation or later cremation - is absent in the Thracian lands. The written evidence unambiguously defines the presence of Celtic ethnic elements in the Thracian lands as late as the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

The first burial complexes that could be referred to the Celtic ethnos date from the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. They belong to two types. The first refers to the Celtic presence in the upper Thracian lowlands after the Antiochus' II expedition - Sevtopolis, Philippopolis. The -second one - probably referring to the Tillis Celts - is represented by the Valchanova and Asilbeyli complexes.

The discovering of the Kalново burials gave us the possibility of interpreting in a different way the Branichevo and Kravevo complexes and to try in this way to distinguish the Celtic ethnos inhabiting since the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC the southern regions of the Gets.

The burials from the so called group Padia - Panagyurishte columns - represent a different problem. It was connected in the literature with the Celts while it represents in fact separate ethnic layers and complex cultural characteristics. The development of the Thracian burial practices brings about the forming of a rite, characteristic by the way of this group as well. The strong influence of the Scordic productive centers of the west Thracian regions or in some cases the direct contact with other Celtic elements - e.g., Bastarnoi - causes a great difficulty in the ethnic interpretation of these complexes.