

OLBIAN NECROPOLIS: FUNERAL RITE OF THE FIRST CENTURIES AD**Julia KOZUB**

1. Brief characteristics of Olbian necropolis: its territory, chronological frame.

2. Necropolis of the first centuries AD.

a) Its parts were located quite close to the western and northern borders of the city. Opening up this territory a necropolis started in the 2nd century BC, but intensive use of it dates back to the 1st - 2nd centuries AD. As Olbia had lost its significance as an antiquity center by the 3rd century AD, only few graves, which date back to this time, can be found in the necropolis. They are the latest there.

b) In the 1st - 2nd centuries AD the funereal rite was not subject to such strict regulations as it had been before. This fact is most vividly depicted in various orientations of different burials.

c) Burial constructions are very diverse. The majority of graves are regular pitfalls. Infants were buried in amphoras as well as under their fragments or in other vessels. Besides these lined graves (side-chamber graves), soil and stone crypts were used, above which burial mounds were made.

d) As well as all mentioned above cremation was also a tradition. Cremation was performed in small squares or in special constructions (a kind of "crematorium"). To bury the ashes they used urns of various shape.

e) The accompanying stock had a lot of diversity, including all kind of ceramics, arms and jewelry.

f) Burial places were marked with various tombstones. The memories of the dead ones were implemented in the remnants of funeral feasts, botroses and altars for libation and cremation.

g) Olbian necropolis is the most important source of information about social and economic status of Olbia, trends and intensity of its connections in antiquity. Necropolis allows the conclusion about the ethnic structure of the city population, the extent of its barbarization and romanization on the finishing stage of its existence.