

## **BURIAL PRACTICES AND SOCIAL HIERARCHY IN ORGAME NECROPOLIS (4TH CENTURY BC)**

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This paper will try to emphasize some aspects regarding the funeral ritual related to the necropolis of incineration of the ancient Orgame-Argamum polis, situated on the promontory limestone named Capul Dolojman, in the proximity of Jurilvoca commune, Tulcea County.

The results of the excavations are relevant to the stress of the different intentional attitudes of the community in the customs related to the defunct.

The criteria of selection brought to light both the position of the individual within his family and the family's position within the community. These aspects are present in the use of some specific elements of "funerary archaeology", mainly characterized by the situation of the tombs within the family complexes and the arrangement of these complexes in relation with the road network, having mainly an East-West orientation, consequently to the inhabited zone.

The family complexes consist of incineration tombs situated in stone precincts. Their arrangement respect the usual pattern: the main tomb with the inner diameter of 6 – 7 m, surrounded by other arrangements with or without stone precincts, having the diameter of only 1 - 5 m.

The differences are also present in the interments. In the main tomb we found the incineration of the defunct on the place of the tomb, on "beds" of beams along with offerings, which point out the different stages of the ritual. In the other categories of tombs the incineration was outside the tomb, and on its place we found symbolic quantities of bones, ashes, coals, and offerings gathered from the pyre.

If we corroborate these elements with an examination of the grave goods, we obtain a rich source of information about the Greek colonial population, which can reveal much not only about the physical features of the inhabitants but also about their social organization.