

THE BURIAL CUSTOMS DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IN MACEDONIA

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The last centuries of the 2nd millennium in Macedonia are defined as: Late Bronze Age, Submycenaean period, Ha-A, Early Iron Age, Iron Age I-A and so on. However, due to various reasons they should be considered as a Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age.

The recent excavations on several necropoleis from the 13th to the 10th cen. BC on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia confirm the necessity of introducing the Transitional period. The needs for this are most obvious in the burials, where at the same time we have two types of necropoleis, with inhumation and cremation. The first ones are an expression of the local heritage and the connections with the South, especially with the Late Mycenaean world. The others represent the north influences and penetration of the Carpatho-Danubian elements, in the frame of the second wave migrations (i.e. Great Aegean Migrations) during the 12th – 11th cen. BC.

So one can say that the local Bronze Age heritage, Mycenaean influences and the northern elements constitute the three basic factors in the creations of the Transitional period in Macedonia. Also, the initials for the tumulus way of burring are situated in this period that is dominant during the next period of the pure Iron Age.

In this occasion we will present the main characteristics of the burial customs during this period in Macedonia through the results of the recent and still unpublished archaeological researches.