

## **TUMULARY NECROPOLIS OF OLBIA**

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Olbia Necropolis is presented with subsoil tumulus and barrows. None of the ancient Necropoleis of Black Sea North shore has such number of barrows as Olbia Necropolis, which received its name "Big gorge of a hundred graves" in 18th century. Maps of 19th century give the presentation about their number. There are 350 barrows on Uvarov's map (1848), 213 on Korchevnikov's, Mikhailov's, Fiodorov's maps (1871).

Barrows on Olbia Necropolis were spread with light yellow clay 0,5 - 20 meters height. For example, Enbankment of Zeuth barrow, built in 2nd century AD was of 618 m height (Koppen, 1819).

The barrow's height depends on the type of the funeral construction. Barrows' embankments often had crepida or there were cromlechs under them (Kozub, 1968).

The most of barrows of Olbia Necropolis were spread over one-cell or two cell stone crypts with different kinds of two-slope, lock, horizontal and corbelling floors. They were spread over soil crypts, hole and small crypt's tumulus, cinerary urn.

There were from one to three graves under them, cenotaphs are known on Olbia Necropolis too.

One of the specificities of tumulary Necropolis is that there are long, compact hill spread over different kinds of funeral constructions, situates in the western part of the Necropolis.

Barrows of Olbia Necropolis were begun to be spread at the end of 7th century BC. In the 6th - 5th centuries BC they low embankments, which is why they were not saved to our days. In the 4th - 3rd centuries BC great barrows with stone crypts were erected. This phenomenon is connected with the spread of deadmen apotheosis in all ancient Greek world. But in the 2nd - 1st centuries BC the decadence of barrow architecture began and it is connected with the Olbia's crisis in the middle of 2nd century and the first part of 1st century BC.

In the 1st - 2nd centuries AD the tradition of tumulus erection is revived, but in the 3rd century AD and to the end of Olbia existence they are not spread yet, because Olbia polis falls into the lingering crisis.