

**THE CHMYREVA MOGUILA BARROW
IN THE SYSTEM OF BURIAL MOUNDS IN THE SCYTHIAN STEPPE**

Yuri BOLTRIK

We have started the studies of remains of the well-known Chmyreva Moguila barrow in 1994. Excavated by F. Brown in 1898 and by N. Veselovsky in 1909, the barrow is known for its grave with horses having rich bridles and for two deep graves (12.4 and 9.6 m). During the excavations ten silver vessels were found in hiding places of the side grave and, unfortunately, they were lost in the years of the Second World War. Excavations made in that period have left discrepant information as the structure of underground buildings of the barrow and a significant part of the submound space remained unstudied. Nevertheless information available has permitted determining the place of the Chmyreva Moguila in the system of burial mounds of Scythia.

The volume of the Chmyreva Moguila mound attributes it to a range of barrows which present the third social stage. It includes Gaimanova Moguila, Toistaya Moguila, Krasnokutsky barrow, Zeltokamenka barrow, Lemeshovs and Babina Moguilas. Between the group of the largest barrows and Chmyreva Moguila there are barrows of the second social stage: Tsimbalka and Kozel.

Many details of the burial ceremony and stock make Chmyreva Moguila similar to other barrows of the second half of the 4th century Be. Bronze pommels (adornment of a carriage) found in that barrow looking like deer are analogous to findings from Gaimanova Moguila. Pommels decorated with gryphon have analogies in Gaimanova and Toistaya Moguilas. Analogies of round and figured plates made of sheet bronze and used to embroider a tent of the carriage were found in the above-mentioned barrows and in the Krasnokutsky barrow, as well as in 11 mounds more. Golden applicative plates and silver-made dishes are similar to those from barrows of three higher social stages. The greatest number of analogies was found in Toistaya Moguila, which is due not only to the social factor, but also to the time factor.

During new excavations of the Chmyreva Moguila a grave of a youth, a dependent person (a ritual assistant ?), was found in the south-western part and nearby was arranged a ground with traces of the funeral feast: broken amphoras and bones of animals. The repeated study of the horses' grave has permitted specifying its orientation (North-South) and confirming observation made by F. Brown that horses were buried alive.