

TUMULARY NECROPOLEIS AT THE END OF THE 2ND MILLENNIUM BC IN THE NORTHERN TRANSYLVANIA

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Three tumulary necropoleis belonging to the Late Bronze Age are known in the northern Transylvania, at Suciul de Sus, Lăpuş and Bicaz.

The necropolis at Suciul de Sus was entirely researched beginning with the last decades of the 19th century. The scarce information regarding this research, as well as the few findings preserved, leads to the conclusion that these tumuli were surely contemporary with those at Lăpuş.

The necropolis at Lăpuş was placed on a high terrace, similarly with the necropolis at Suciul de Sus. It had about 50 tumuli in four distinct sectors, considerably outdistanced to each other.

The first excavations at Lăpuş were also made at the end of the last century. They were resumed in 1961 and continued between 1967 - 1974, but some tumuli were not excavated.

The incinerated human bones spread on the pyre place or gathered in urns were found only in some tumuli. The others were either without bones, or had exclusively animal incinerated bones. Taking into account both their large number, and the existence of the bones in the proximity of some similar constructions, certainly attested as funerary shelters, these tumuli could also be considered as tombs, perhaps collective ones, in which the human bones are not present, due to a precept impossible to be elucidated so far.

The necropolis at Bicaz was placed in a hilly area. There are about 30 tumuli, some of them having heights exceeding 8 m. Only one tumulus was researched to a certain extent. The ceramics discovered here is identical to that discovered at Lăpuş.

These three tumulary necropoleis belong to Lăpuş group. It was developed on the local background of Suciul de Sus structure, in the conditions of cultural changes that took place on large areas. The features of Suciul de Sus structure are more prevalent during the first phase, but in the second one they are joined with others that are characteristic for the communities in the whole area of upper Tisa.