

CONSIDERATION ON THE TUMULARY NECROPOLIS AT TELEȘTI-DRĂGOEȘTI

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The necropolis at Telești-Drăgoești is situated in the Northern Oltenia, Gorj County, in the depression Târgu-Jiu. The necropolis was found in the points "Curături" and "Coasta Frumoasă". A number of 69 mounds was discovered and researched in the period 1979 - 1989.

The only funerary ritual used in the necropolis at Telești-Drăgoești is the incineration. The cinerary remains were brought from the place of the funeral pyre (place that we did not discover yet) and disposed into the tumulus.

The burial ritual used in the most cases in this necropolis consisted in the disposition of the cremation rests directly on the ancient ground. Another type of tombs consists of the disposition of the bones on a bed of stones. The metallic inventory (spears, poniards, riveted swords) was discovered near the burnt bones in the tombs of the tumulus Nos 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 33, 50, 52, 54, 56. These tombs belonged to warriors or military chieftains. In the tumulus No 3 the calcined bones were discovered together with harness pieces. About the ceremony of the incineration, we found a large quantity of coal and ashes (the bed has the thickness of 0.15 - 0.25 m) in the tumulus Nos 7, 50, 53. The coals were mixed with burnt bones brought here from the place of the funerary pyre. In other cases, such as the tumulus Nos 45 and 46, the calcined bones were discovered on a bed of heavy stones or, in the case of the tumulus Nos 29, 52, 55, the burnt bones were disposed within a ring of stones. Sometimes the burnt bones were disposed as little clusters put into a pit with the depth of 15 - 20 cm, with big alluvial stones (tumulus Nos 42, 43, 53). Sometimes we found funerary urns with bones, having tips of arrows disposed on the top. It is the case of the tumulus No 15, where two spears were disposed on a dish with bones; the tips of the spears were directed eastwards. In the tumuli Nos 28 and 36 both the calcined bones and the offerings were disposed among the big alluvial stone. The tumuli Nos 44 and 48 had the vases for offerings disposed on several flat -shaped stones. In the most cases the ceramics inventory was separately disposed of the metallic one.

The ceramics discovered in the necropolis at Telești-Drăgoești is appreciably rich and diverse as shape. All the vases are handmade, the paste is the same in almost all pieces, having sand and pebbles as a degreasing substance. The most frequent type of vase is the handmade dish with an inside-bent rim and a ring-shaped or base-shaped bottom. Some samples have grooves on the rim.

Little pitchers with super elevated ear and cups with two super elevated ears were found in the necropolis. The metallic inventory consists of several riveted swords, iron tips of spears with square or hexagonal shaped section of the nervation.

A bronze bracelet with nodosities was discovered in the tumulus 26 in the necropolis at Telești-Drăgoești. It is decorated with three groups of three spherical prominences equally outdistanced to each other. This bronze bracelet finds its analogies in the necropolis at Atel, Ocna Sibiului, Poiana- Tecuci, Huși-Corni, Murighiol.

Chronologically, the necropolis at Telești-Drăgoești belongs to the end of the 6th century - 5th century BC. Due to the rite of the incineration, ritual, ceramics type, and metallic inventory this necropolis has analogies with the necropolis at Ferigile (third phase), Gogoșa, Bârsești. This necropolis belonged to some Thracian-Getic tribes in the northern area of Oltenia.