

**THE RITUAL OF THE INTERMENT DURING THE LATE BRONZE AGE -  
THE EARLY IRON AGE IN THE STEPPE REGIONS**

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The Late Bronze Age revealed so far in this region only some interments in kurgans. The architecture of the tombs is various - pits, catacombs, cysts. The corpses are laid in crouched lateral position. The inventory either is insignificant or is not present. Therefore, the chronological or cultural assignment of these tombs rises certain questions. Their connection to the local cultures of the Late Bronze Age (Sabatinovka and Belozerska) is also under the same uncertainty.

Excavations are only made in the present time in the region certainly dated for the period between the 12<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> century BC, that is the colony "Dikii Sad" (The Wild Garden), in Nikolaev Town, within the lower side of the southern Bug River. During the excavations the remains of human skeletons from the colony were found. These remains can be allotted to two basic groups: skulls found in special pits under the floor of the dwelling and in the filling of the establishments. There was also found an interment containing a beheaded skeleton outside the limits of the 4th dwelling. It was laid in a simple superficial pit, covered with a large stone slab.

The proper facts reveal the penetration of some new customs obviously expressed by the practice of the inhumation during the transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age, different from those of the previous period of Sabatinovka Culture (15<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> centuries BC).