

**FUNERAL RITE AND RITUAL AT ICLOD.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL DATA**

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The Neolithic cemeteries from Iclod are considered between the largest ones from Transylvania. The discovery of 41 tombs in the cemetery A and of 53 tombs in the cemetery and the settlement B, as well as of a very rich funeral inventory and of certain customs connected to the funeral rite and ritual, required the reappraisal of the hypothesis regarding the ancient beliefs and customs.

The study of the population, accordingly to the anthropological analyses of such a group of materials (although incomplete, since less than 1/3 of the skeletons is badly preserved and many skulls are destroyed) allow to make demographic valuation and observation about the food, customs, way of life and activities.

A general view gives the possibility to remark the existence of certain rituals connected to the cult of the dead and ancients. In the cemetery A there is a necropolis in the proper sense of the word. In the cemetery and settlement B the tombs are grouped sometimes in the zone of the settlement dated for the first phase (Iclod I) and for the last one (Iclod III). In other situations, the tombs are also placed in the settlement, near the dwellings, between these ones, in the abandoned dwellings or abandoned and set on fire, during or along with the funeral ceremony.

From the study of the vases found as funeral inventory it was remarked that for a period of time it was strictly designed for funeral purpose. The statistic study of the forms reveals that certain types, frequently found in the tombs, have not a cult function.

In the central zone of the site several pits were discovered, having a cult inventory and remains of human skeletons. In one situation, in the palm of a defunct a fragment of a human skull was found.

The findings from Iclod belong to the Iclod Group, cultural group of the Late Neolithic, as the final phase of a Neolithic complex with painted pottery (named Cluj-Cheile Turzii-Lumea Nouă-Iclod, abbreviated as CCTLNI), spread in the central and northern zones of Transylvania, including the Western Carpathian Mountains. The findings from Iclod Group are dated for the period 4400 - 4200 BC.