

**THE LOCATION OF THE GRAVES AND THE GRAVE GOODS IN PAULJE NECROPOLIS,
NW SERBIA, BETWEEN 13th - 6th CENTURIES BC**

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At Paulje site near Brezjak village in the western part of Serbia (14 km NE from Loznica, 110 km from Belgrade), between 1989 - 1996 seven tumuli were excavated. All belong to the same necropolis, which was situated there and nowadays contains over 40 well preserved mounds. The tumuli are visibly different by the size: 12 - 20 m in diameter and 0.7 - 1.9 m in height. In the excavated tumuli there was notes only one burial type, the cremation on pyre. Only the different nature and the different forms of grave goods, which have a particular meaning, help us to understand the funerary customs. Thus, we can remark in these findings two main appearances:

I. In the first case, after the burning, the ashes and the small pieces of burnt bones were left together with ash and charcoal on the location of the pyre.

II. The second case is different only in the important detail: the ashes and the pieces of burnt bones were put into ceramics urn and all together located in the central part, in the "heart" of the pyre.

We conclude, from the data, that the location and the rests of the pyre in both cases of burning were the grave, in essential meaning. Also, in both cases of funerary practices, the graves were covered with thin layers of small stones and pebbles. In that way the graves were isolated - in symbolic and magical view - from the earth which came all over of them. The differences in the ceremony and the nature of the grave goods mean in the same time differences between the male and female graves/tumuli.

In the first case of burial, in the graves there were put arms: iron lances (4 tumuli), an iron knife (1 tumulus) and small ceramics pots which were intentionally damaged.

In the second case, the graves contained urns and grave goods with characteristic garments (bronze necklaces, needles, bracelets, brooches), and also fragments of ceramics over the top of the pyre.

The graves with arms, that is the graves from our first case of burial, belong to male. In the same time we notice the absence of the urns. On the other hand, our second case of burial with urns and garments in graves belong to female. Only in one tumulus (tumulus A) we are faced with two types of graves: female and male.

Accordingly to the stylistic details of the garments, we are able to date Paulje/Brezjak necropolis in the period Late Bronze Age, Bronze A - Hallstatt A - B, by Reinecke, or Iron Age I, according to M. Garasanin. A different dating is brought by the pair of bronze bracelets with characteristic style for the middle 6th century BC, found in the secondary grave of tumulus A.

Taking into account of the style and the ornamental decoration of the pottery (pots, jars, urns), we recognize the areal of spreading of this style. In that part of Serbia, the influences came from the north-eastern direction, from Panonian basin over Srem and Macva. In the middle centuries of the 2nd millennium in Srem flourished the Belegish Culture. Therefore, we can note the strong influence from that cultural and artistic space.