

**POST-FUNERAL RITES IN SOUTH EASTERN THRACE,
DURING THE EARLY IRON AGE**

Krassimir NIKOV

Recently increasing information about the so-called "fields with ritual pits", especially from the Early Iron Age in the area of Maritsa Iztok, rises the question for their interpretation. More than 70 pits on two archaeological sites near the already non-existing village of Staroselets and the village of P. Gradets have been excavated. Finds of human bones (skull) in the pit's filling, the shape of *bothroi*, one primitive circular low wall of stones, together with Late Bronze Age cemetery on the same place, can be connected with the post-funeral rites during the Early Iron Age. This practice probably can be traced back to the Early Bronze Age and had continued up to the Late Iron Age.