

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE TOMBS IN THE NECROPOLIS FROM CELIC-DERE

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The necropolis from Valea Celicului is framed within the limits of the 6<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. The variety of the ritual-funeral practices found here, connected both to the rite and to the building of the tombs assigns a heterogeneous aspect to the forms of spiritual manifestations expressed by the community. The various architectural types of the tombs are mainly given by the rite used: the incineration, with the remains laid in an urn, in stone chests or on the bottom of some very large pits, or the inhumation, with the skeletons laid in pits with flat or tumular tombs.

Despite the variety found in the ritual-funeral practices, the necropolis from Celic-Dere has some characteristic features, expressed by the architecture used for the building of the tombs.

All the tumular tombs and most of the flat ones are covered with heavy stones, of various dimensions. The sacred zone of the tomb is limited by a ring, also made of heavy stones, having much larger size than those used for the cover. The placement of these stones does not respect any order regarding the relation with the diameter of the ring. They were placed on the ancient level, either under the stone-cover, or outside this one.

Another feature for some tombs of inhumation consists in covering the pit with stones, generally placed accordingly to a truncated-cone shape, with the small basis over the skeleton and the large one over the pit or at the surface of the tumulus.

All these aspects emphasize the necessity of making some differentiation in the religious beliefs, as well as from the ethnical point of view.