

**THE SCYTHIAN FUNERARY CONSTRUCTIONS
OF THE LOWER DNEIPER RIVER AREA.
GENESIS. CHRONOLOGY. THE LOCATION IN THE LANDSCAPE**

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One of the external attributes of societies, possessing the state structures, is the presence of the monuments with monumental architecture. Burial mounds are an original illustration of evolution of the Scythian society. The Scythian buried their deceased in burial mounds in the Bronze Age, in simple holes during the period of developing of the Northern Black Sea area. There was the process of the funeral ceremony in the 5th - 4th centuries BC. Complexes of burial mounds with compound planning schemes, where the size of the construction and the set of the supplementary elements reflected the social status of the buried person, took place in this period.

The concentration of the burial mound-giants on both sides of the most important Dnieper River crossing-place (in the region of Kamenka's settlement) and the absence of the funeral constructions of the same level in other regions of the Steppe Scythia has served as the original index of importance of this place and has marked it as the center of the state during the second half of the 4th century BC. It should be noted that there are the regional centers for concentrations of smaller burial mounds: two ones in Asov Sea area (the Molochna «Milk» River and the Don's Delta), in Crimea (Belogorsk) and other two ones in Ingul River area. Usually, the Scythian burial mounds were built on the most elevated places 2 - 10 kilometers far from humidified zones. The burial mounds quite often were placed by a route of ancient ways.