PROGRAM OF STORING. PROCESSING AND ANALYZING THE FUNERARY AND SACRIFICIAL DISCOVERIES

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The accumulation of numerous human remains – hundreds of individuals sometimes, for some of the cemeteries of thousands for some epochs – requires their automated processing and a fast data exchange between those that hold them.

It is in this respect that, especially for the Thracian world in the Iron Age, we have put together: a) a dictionary of terms; b) list of terms (general lexicon); c) manner of ranging (branches) the data and d) types of records.

The statistical analysis of the archaeological data is a difficult enterprise as its result is influenced by any new discovery, and the accomplishing of such a task, that would range data in the funerary domain, is thus evea more difficult.

Still, the present state of research not only that allows but also requests the building of a database, which would give as an overall view of the funerary domain. As any other database, the programs we have designed have the merit of gathering and ranging, according to principles defined clearly from the theoretically speaking, a huge amount of data, that are not visibly linked.

This database will include all the "positive data", that is, the raw data, the way in which they were made public by those that made the excavations. We do not intent to introduce data of a "qualitative info", but only field observation, as the purpose of the program is to compare the concrete situation met during the excavations and the after analysis.

For the database to be efficient, it must be filled with "similar data", that is why we have been compelled to create *General Lexis (List of terms)*, according to the explanations in the dictionary of terms. Thus, the data, the way as they have been published by the authors of the excavations, must be introduced into the database according to the list of terms. As there were numerous confusions according to the names of the ceramic vessel, a separate catalogue was created, containing their type and characteristics.

The way of ranging the database (*the tree*) starts from the archaeological realities and is structured on several levels. Our desire is that the data be structured both horizontally and vertically, so that comparative analysis has the highest accuracy possible.

The database is split into two parts: a) the funerary domain and b) human noncremated bones in non-funerary contexts.

Each domain is structured on three levels, so that the data in them can be compared: a) the first level includes data referring to the type of monument and their essential characteristics; b) the second level contains data about the archaeological complexes in which the dead have been discovered and c) the third level is designed for all the data concurring to the building of a clear image about the dead (personal characteristics, inventory, offerings).

Unifying criteria are used for the two domains. Thus, one creates the true possibility of comparing, after unifying criteria, the data comprised in the two main domains of the database, which will allow both emphasising characteristics referring to the funerary or sacrificial ideology and the separation of the human remains of which the communities have merely got rid of, as prophylactic actions.

We have come across a series of difficulties in this enterprise. For the time being, there isn't either an authentic program or a necropolis analysed in this system.

Most of the discoveries do not contain all the data needed for a full, complex analysis, due both to objective circumstances (discoveries made by accident or dating from the heroic period of archaeology, the back of anthropologists or zoologists on the archaeological excavations site) and to the confusing or ambiguous character of the data (e.g. several names for the same item).

It is because of the above that we are aware that the analysis of the already existing data will have many empty or incomplete "fields". We hope that, at least from now on, both the field research and the publishing of the results will be made according to precise criteria, allowing complete analysis and taking to the proper results.