

**THE BARROW CEMETERY OF THE LATE SCYTHIAN TIME
ON THE TERRITORY ALONG THE DNISTER RIVER**

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During 1995 – 1999, the Dnister archaeological expedition excavated barrow cemetery on the left shore of the Dnister River, near Glinoe village, region Slobodzea. Preliminary, facts shows that cemetery includes more than 100 mounds. Barrows are situated extremely compactly (35 - 40 m) on the plateau of the second terrace of the Turunchuk river (a tributary of the Dnister River). Practically all mounds were ploughed up and are distinguished in the relief as small heights and bright spots. To our days were investigated 39 barrows, each of them containing from 1 to 4 burials chronologically closed. Research is continuing, but even now we can date with confidence this monument by second middle 3 - beginning 2 centuries B.C. and attribute it to late Scythian culture. Generally, cemetery is close to complexes investigated in late XIX by I.Ya. and I.P. Stempkovskii, who excavated 5 barrows near Glinoe village.

Among the funeral buildings dominate catacombs of type III and V (Olhovschii, 1991). Others sorts (undercuts and simple pits) are quantifiably extremely insignificant. During the investigations were revealed common constructional peculiarities. All barrows were filled at once from soil without using stone or wood. The biggest mounds were surrounded by ditches with ruptures on west and east. The traces of commemorative feast were fixed both on natural surface and in mound and were represented by pieces of Sinope and Rhodos amphorae.

Practically in all funeral buildings was fixed ramming of entrance wells by natural clay without or wood constructions. In most cases walls of wells, *dromos* and funeral chambers were daubed with liquid clay. At the bottom of entrance wells, along long walls, were found low batters: their destination is not clear. The bottoms of wells were arranged both plain and sloping towards chamber. Many times both in ordinary and rich burials met skeletons of saddle horses and dogs, which laid on the thin daub of green clay. The ritual role of this daub is undoubtedly.

The entrance in chamber was in west or east wall of entrance well. The entrance form was arch or close to it. The *dromos*' entrance was done from lumps of liquid natural clay: its thickness in some barrows reached 1 m. There are different forms of chambers: they are orientated by meridians. Ornamentation with carved lines on clay was fixed in the walls and vault of *dromos*-es and chambers of some catacombs. This composition has its analogies in I.Ya. Stempkovskii's excavations and on our opinion imitates the real wagons or felt dwellings of nomads. The skeletons of buried were laid by meridians, besides the north orientation dominate the south.

In ceramic complex quantity dominates the pottery of Thracian origin, which prevails over the Scythian forms. Representative group of plaster incense cup decorated on body with vertical and slanting flutes especially picks out. Charred pebbles and hemp's seeds were inside (V.M. Kishlyaruk's definition). Ancient ceramic vessels meet seldom and have traces of protracted using. Adornments meet as a rule in women's burials. It is gold, silver and bronze ear - rings, gold badge belt buckles, different paste and glass beads, pendants, bronze bracelets and so on. From other objects meet mirrors, fibulae, needles, spindle wares and so on.

Weapon were found in each men's and some women's burials. It is represented by spear - heads and arrow heads, fighting axes and mace. In some cases were fixed remains of wood shields covered with leather. Horse harness is typical for men's burials and corresponds with common Scythian types.

Received materials let us suppose that researched burials were influenced by some cultural influences. First of all it is influenced by Thracian world, observed in pottery, some types of adornments and fibulae. At that time, probably, the border of the Scythian and Thracian worlds passed on the Dnister river. Sarmathian influence expresses less, but enough distinctly - crossed legs, chalk adding, north and south orientation of skeletons, underlined wealth of the women's burials, existence of the weapon in women's burials. At the same time influence of the ancient traditions could be observed in constructions of the burials and in cemetery's planning in thorough design of the burials, and in creating of the big necropolises with compact planning. Probably, analogical buildings situated near Tyras and Nikonion were taken into consideration in the time of the cemetery's planning.

It is possible to say that one of the most interesting aspects of monument's research is the fact that its highest date coincides with appearance in Dobrudja of Little Scythia state and with emission dynast Tanusak's coins. It is not excluded that the population of the Lower Dnister took active part in the beginning 2nd century B.C. in forming new state formation beyond Danube.