

THE BURIAL OF THE “HORSE WOMAN” ON THE TERRITORY ALONG THE DNISTER RIVER

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Since 1995 collaborators of the archeological expedition have carried out excavation of the monocultural barrow cemetery near Glinoe village, region Slobozia (Yarovoi, Chetverikov, Subbotin 1997a; Yarovoi, Chetverikov, Subbotin, 1997b). It belonged to nomadic later scythian population and judging by amphorae labels it functioned in the second half of III - II centuries B.C.

Gradation of ordinary and aristocratic burial traces clear on the monument. Barrow Nr.31, which contained unrobed single burial was excavated in 1999 researching aristocratic part burial ground.

Funeral building represents, by itself, the catacomb of third type (V.S. Olhovsky, 1991). Entrance well (depth 5.6 m from day surface) was orientated by latitudes and filled with natural clay. Four steps were made on the walls of the well enlarged to the bottom. Finds were not made in the well.

The entrance in the *dromos* situated in the east wall of the well and outside was marked in natural by double fitted line. The form of entrance is arched, it was filled with pounded lumps of natural clay. Design of *dromos* walls doesn't differ from well, vault repeated the entrance's form.

The burial chamber of stretched trapezium form and big size was orientated by the meridians. The height of double slope vault came to 2,2 m. The funeral furniture preserved good in chamber: on its walls and vault were observed marked lines imitating dwelling of the ancient nomad. Skeleton lied stretched on the back, with head on the north near the east wall. Under it were found wood remains from flooring. Green clay is marked under the pelvis bones. A piece of red ochre was fixed near the left foot.

Funeral inventory is enough diverse and is presented different categories. In pottery complex enter Synopa amphora, ancient ceramic jar and massive plaster incense cup. Exceptional bronze lamp, probably of Italic work, is a thing of especial interest. Adornments are few and consist of twin gold ear-rings stylized as lion's heads, 14 badge gold belt buckles, bronze braceled and glass paste beads. From things of work and way of life were found two ceramic spindle wares, stone slab and massive bronze mirror.

The most striking side of funeral inventory is weapon and horse harness. In separate congregation were five sets of iron horse bits and cheek-pieces and more than 200 little bronze adornments of harness *phalerae*, rings and pierces. Finds of weapon are presented by two iron spear-heads, mace, fighting axe and iron arrow heads. Massive wood shield was used for the defiance. Iron umbo of round form preserved as a part of shield. Such a set of weapon have not been met somewhere else in searched cemetery's complexes.

Chronological position of the burial defines by stamp on the handle of Synopa amphora. The activity of Femy magistrates Feopeit's son N.F. Fedoseev dates to 251-212 B.C. This employee worked in 227 - 189 B.C. by E.Y. Turovsky (Fedoseev, 1994, Turovsky, 1997). Composition of the funeral inventory, on our opinion, shows that here was buried an aristocrat woman. About high social position of the buried woman can testify the complex arrangement not far from "tsar" barrow Nr.14 (Yarovoy, 1998). Availability of the warrior equipment and women's burial proves the "amazon" existence in later Scythian society, which were able to use different types of weapons and, probably, took part in fighting activities like men did.

General analysis of all researched barrows shows that men's burials seriously yielded to the women's burials in inventory's quantity and wealth. Barrow Nr.31 was the fifth and richest women's burial with weapons. Its belonging to the aristocratic complexes is indisputable. Such significant representation of similar complexes of late 3rd - early 2nd centuries B.C. could be caused by strong influence of the Sarmatians. In their society horsewomen played a special role. It is accepted, that similar situation appeared as a result of war activity of the Phrygian tribes from the right shore of the Dnister River, which led to the significant losses among Scythian men's population. In such situation reinforcements of the war contingents could happen at expense of "amazon's" detachments.