

SUMMARY

BARANJA IN THE LIGHT OF ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCES OF BIJELO BRDO CULTURE. A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ANALYSIS OF MAJS-UDVAR EARLY MIDDLE AGES GRAVEYARD

Microregional integrity of Baranja, viewed in this paper from the point of view of the archeology of the Early Middle Ages, is a geographical area where - in the long sequence of time from the prehistoric period to the modern age - abundant archeological evidences have settled. Since archeology as a scientific discipline does not know political boundaries, the author has made efforts to include in this learned paper, apart from a number of archeological sites in the Croatian part of Baranja and especially important site - a large graveyard in rows at Majs-Udvar location - in the Hungarian part of the homonymous county. That, by the number of explored skeleton vaults, the largest Middle Ages graveyard of the Carpathian basin represents the important link in the comprehension and evaluation of the Bijelo Brdo culture. Therefore a minute and comprehensive analysis of the movable Majs-Udvar graveyard fundus is an unavoidable effort that leads to the forming of a richer conception of Bijelo Brdo culture, not only in the area of our closer interest - Baranja - but it surpasses by its importance the geographic limits. Majs-Udvar graveyard fundus, and then the inventory of several important Bijelo Brdo burial places in the zone around Pečuh, together with, so far, moderate archeological finds officially recorded on the Croatian part of the Baranja territory, are contributions to the better knowledge of getting accustomed in the community during the Middle Age Europe in the Carpathian basin area.

After necessary geographical terms of reference in connection with the Baranja, the author takes into consideration, in a short catalogue work, available data on archeological sites and finds of the Bijelo Brdo culture discovered until the start of the Patriotic war on the territory of Croatian Baranja. Batina, Suza and the surrounding area of Zmajevac are until now the only known archeological sites at which finds of the Bijelo Brdo culture are officially recorded.

In the continuation the author, on the basis of the material made public so far in connection with the Bijelo Brdo culture archeological site in the Hungarian part of the Baranja county (Giesler 1981; - Kiss 1983), implements a thorough analysis of the large graveyard inventory of the Bijelo Brdo culture near the village of Majs on the Udvar meadows. The graveyard comprises 1130 graveyard units. In even 619 tombs, A. Kiss has come accross different graveyard finds.

The author in this paper takes into consideration the evaluation of the inventory from 99 very distinguished graveyard units (Chart 5), among which he singles out the occurrence of numismatic finds in 16 tombs. It should be particularly stressed that in this paper, as well as in all past

papers of the same kind, the author used verified methodology of the German archeologist Jochen Giesler. This method has shown, as in the case of the Majs graveyard analysis, with some corrections, to be a very useful one. The author in the paper evaluates in detail each group of jewelry manufactures and compares them with the finds from the graveyards in rows at the Bijelo Brdo II of the same period, Vukovar-Lijevo bara (pond), in other words throught the area among the rivers of Mura, Drava, Dunav and Sava, as well as on the territory of nearby Hungarian Dunantul. Especially important finds are certainly the specimens of silver denars (coins) of the Arpad reigning house kings that give as a time span of a burial at the Majs-Udvar graveyard a period from Stephan I. the Holly (1000 - 1038) to Ladislaus I. (1077. - 1095). The evaluation of about hundred graveyard units, that offer large combination possibilities, enabled the author to single out three basic groups of objects characteristic for particular phases of taking graveyard position, in other words singled out burial phases.

The first group of graveyard units is by the topological analysis attributed to the so called early phase of the Bijelo Brdo culture Stage I according to the relative chronological chart of J. Giesler. It has been defined as a Majs Phase I. Characteristic inventory of the first burial phase in Majs represent: rings (type 24, 25, 31 and 38b), bracelets (type 4, 5, 7 and 8), small chainrings (type 13, I - II), two-part pendants (type 9), cast studs with an eye of a needle (type 11), moon-like shaped pendants (type 12), torques-necklaces (type 1), string - necklaces (type 40), perforated Roman coins (type 44a), earthenware pottery (type 50), little knives (type A4), yarn girdle (type 49), flintstones (type 48), and silver Arpad denars (coins) (type 44c). The subject under discussion are denars (coins) of the Stephan I. the Holly (1000 - 1038), of Petar (1038 - 1041) and the king Aba Samuel (1041 - 1044). The manifestation of the coins determines a possible period of time of the Majs Phase I.

The second group of graveyard units in inventory of which there are, as a novelty, cast silver rustic ear-rings of the so-called Volhinyan type (type 17b), and different ring variants (type 32, 33, 34a and 34b), is synchronic with the end of the Bijelo Brdo culture Phase I according to Giesler relative chronological chart. For this phase of taking graveyard position, for which apart from new types of decorative manufactures, noticeable is the appearance of decoration forms persistency from the Majs Phase I (types 8, 13, I - II, 9, 11, 12, 24, 25, 31, 40, 50), and the discontinuity of bracelet grave enclosing (type 4, 5 and 7), rings of the type 38b and torques-necklaces (type 1), we designated it with the term Majs Phase II.

With the disappearance of older ring types and with the appearance of their new variants (type 23, 25, 27, 29 and 30), begins the final phase of taking grave positions of Majs-Udvar graveyard. This phase has been designated as Majs III. In graveyard units comprised in the Majs Phase III there are also forms of jewelry manufactures from the former phases (type 8, 11, 12, 40, 50), but also a novelty - cast crosslets (type 45). In graveyard units of the Majs Phase III there appear denars (coins) of the kings Andreas

I. (1046. - 1061.), Salamon (1063. - 1074.) and Ladislav I (1077. - 1095.). With this, a possible period of time of the duration of the last burial phase in this large skeleton graveyard of the Carpathian basin has been designated. In accordance with the Giesler relative chronological chart, the Majs Phase III is synchronous mainly with the Phase II of the Bijelo Brdo culture.

The author also takes into consideration a number of necessary critic observations in connection with the former evaluation of the Majs-Udvar graveyard (Kiss 1983), that proceeded from the writings of eminent Hungarian and Austrian colleagues. To these observations the author adds the results of his own observation of the graveyard fundus and on the basis of firm points of support gives his own suggestion of the parallel (combination) chart.

At the end, the author tries to make a comparison with the inventory of synchronous graveyards in Slavonia and that in the neighbouring Hungarian part Dunantul, recognizing in it a fraction of a possible picture within Baranja, as a zone of, undoubtedly, strong cultural interfering.

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