

STUDIUL ARHEOLOGIC ȘI ANTROPOLOGIC AL MORMINTELOR DE LA GARA BANCA – ȘAPTE CASE (JUDEȚUL VASLUI)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE GRAVES OF GARA BANCA – ȘAPTE CASE (THE COUNTY OF VASLUI). The archaeological diggings performed in the village of Banca – Șapte Case (the county of Vaslui) revealed 6 inhumation graves, dated – according to the analysis of the funeral inventory – in different periods of time, as follows:

– in the case of **G1 and 2**, the chronological growing of which has been established between the Xth and the XIIIth centuries, they were attributed to nomad Thuranian riders (the studies devoted to these graves have been already published in the Archaeology of Moldavia – 1987).

– **G 6**, specific to the early Bronze Age, shows the architecture of the graves with pit and niche. The funeral inventory includes 3 vessels – evidencing analogies with the previous Horodiste framework –, while the funerary practice is specific to the tumular tombs preceding the pre-Jamnaia phenomenon. The grave shelters a skeleton, found in crouched position, with north-south positioning, who belonged to a relatively young (30–35 year old) male. The biomorphological analysis (incomplete, in the absence of the facial skull) has evidenced elements characteristic to the proto-Europoid type.

– the north-south oriented **G 5**, dated as belonging to the IIIrd – IVth centuries (large-sized, rectangular pit) has in its funeral inventory a bronze fibula, a glass pearl and a Sarmathian glass. It shelters a skeleton lying on her back, belonging to an adolescent woman with obvious Mediterranean characteristics, combined with some, more archaic, proto-Europoid ones (a proto-Mediterranoid type).

– if considering their (north-south) orientation, and also the funeral inventory (fine grey pottery, a fragment of a comb, a bronze fibula – in **G 3**, glass pearls in **G 4**, **G3** and **4** seem too belong to the IVth century. **G3** belongs to a mature (40-45 year old) woman, that may be attributed to the Mediterranean-type, with slight nordoid-type influences, while **G4** contains the bony rests of an about 6–7 year old child, of indetermined sex (probably feminine, if considering the presence of pearls).

– above **G4** – a circular animal pit, in which traces of *Bos taurus*, *ovicaprinae*, *Sus domesticus* have been found.

Most probably, tombs **G3–G5** belonged to a necropolis partially destroyed by the new bed of the Bârlad river. A few fragments of human bones, mixed with animal rests, have been also found in some surface dwellings.