

not "hiding treasures". The "wealth" of these complexes is alleged. Unification of the composition of a set of ornaments reflects the overall homogeneity and "egalitarianism" of material culture in the third quarter of 1st Millennium in the region in question. On the basis of these materials, it is impossible to draw a conclusion neither an "elite" nor the "Potestarian structure". The existence of such a usage (a cultural norm), as a mass deposition of the elements of ceremonial costume in hoards, is a sign of the cultural unity of the ancient community. This community can not be correlated with "Antes" described in written sources.

But the most important questions still remain unresolved: Were hoards complexes of prolonged accumulation?

How can be characterized the deposition of hoards (gradual, one-time, deliberate, etc.)?

What compelled to deposit the sets of elements of the traditional ceremonial dress in a plurality of treasures?

What is the role of the "treasures of artisans", containing serial things, scrap and ingots?

TH1-31 Abstract 09

Sites of the late stage and the end of the Imenkovo culture in the Middle Volga region

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Keywords: early medieval archaeology, Imenkovo culture, Middle Volga region

Presentation Preference - Oral

The issue of defining the time and circumstances when the one of the largest early medieval archaeological cultures of the Eastern Europe ceased to exist is the most debatable one for the archaeology of the Middle Volga region. For years of Imenkovo culture studies, several completely opposite hypotheses on this issue were developed. The majority of the hypotheses are of historiographical interest, but the issue still remains debatable. According to various researchers, the cessation of existence of Imenkovo culture is related either to the leaving of population from the region at the end of the 6th - the beginning of the 7th c. (Alexey Bogachev) or at the end of the 7th c. (Evgeniy Kazakov) or to the slow dissolution in the culture in the early Volga Bulgarian culture in the 8th-9th centuries (Galina Matveeva, Yuri Semykin).

As a result of the recent research, it became possible to determine at least two stages of the Imenkovo culture: the early one in the 4th-5th c. and the late one dated 6-8th c. The chronological framework of the last stage was determined according to details of heraldic-style belt-sets, Sassanid coins, several furniture and costume details.

The analysis of the collections allowed to determine the late Imenkovo materials from Komintern 2 burial ground and Maklasheevka archaeological complex in trans-Volga area, 'Osh-Pando' hillfort in the Middle Sura region. These sites are very similar in culture and dated 6th - the first half of the 7th c. The common feature of this group is the mix of classic Imenkovo cultural complex with 'eastern' artefacts.

The synchronous group of sites that is culturally distinct was researched in the Ulyanovsk region. Cremation burials of Komarovka burial ground contained relatively 'rich' materials of the 6th-the first half of the 7th c. The ceramics and artefacts found in the site have visible traces of the 'southern-western' direction of cultural ties.

The hillforts 'Ashna-Panda' and 'Sholm' in the Middle Sura region are related to the 'final' stage of the Imenkovo culture. The both of the sites are of the second half of the 7th c. (the beginning of the 8th c. is also possible). These sites have a significant difference in ceramics and artefacts, therefore, the Imenkovo population was inhomogeneous at the 'final' stage.

The materials of the late Imenkovo sites have a clear local specifics conditioned by different directions of cultural relations. It is possible to define stable local variations of culture only on the late stage of the Imenkovo culture. The specific regional types of furniture and costume details and differences in ceramic complex appeared in the 6-7th centuries bear an evidence of this.

The cessation of existence of Imenkovo sites in the different regions was taken place in different periods, possibly, due to different reasons. In the majority of regions with Imenkovo culture remains, the upper boundary does not exceed the first half of the 7th century. However, sites in the western part of Imenkovo culture areal remain later, probably even until the beginning of the 8th c.

TH1-31 Abstract 10

A new view on the chronology of fibulae of Dollkeim/Kovrovo type in the light of new research data

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Keywords: fibulae of Dollkeim/Kovrovo type, Kaliningrad region, former East Prussia, Sambian-Natangian culture, chronological frame

Presentation Preference - Oral

Further development of the existing fine chronology of one of the most characteristic find categories – fibulae, remains an important task in the archaeological research of the Iron Age Sambian-Natangian culture (also known as the Dollkeim-Kovrovo culture) in

the south-eastern part of the Baltic Sea basin. Actual investigation focuses primarily on the verification of the chronological frame of fibulae of Dollkeim/Kovrovo type. For this purpose presumed mutual occurrence of several fibulae types as well as other characteristic artefacts (i.e. chronological markers) in the burial complexes are discussed in detail in light of the latest research data. The transition from the Late Roman period to the Early Migration period and the diachronic typological tendencies within the framework of the later period are demonstrated by means of the comparative analysis results of the so-called big crossbow fibulae, characteristic for the Late Roman period/the very beginning of the Migration period, the so-called fibulae with the star-shaped foot, fibulae of type Schönwarling/Skowarcz and Dollkeim/Kovrovo, which are found in the cremation graves in the area of Sambian-Natangian Culture starting from the Early Migration period. Comparative analysis results of further chronological markers of the periods in question (knife-daggers, shoulder straps, jewelry, belt ends, buckles as well as specific pottery forms) apply to the investigation as well. Most of the discussed burial complexes were discovered during excavations performed in the historical East Prussian districts of Sambia and Natangia on the flat burial sites Bol'shoe Isakovo (former Lauth), Schossejnoe-1 and Schossejnoe-2 and are published for the first time.

TH1-31 Abstract 11

Salt production in the Landscape of the Polish Lowlands in the Roman period

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Keywords: Poland, Roman period, Salt production

Presentation Preference - Oral

The aim of our paper is to present the recent developments and achievements of our project about the study of ancient exploitation and production of salt in Poland, which implies both the study of salt production processes and its role in the organization and articulation of the territory during the Roman period. The geo-historical framework for this study is the north western part of Poland (Kuiavia and Great Poland), during the period of the Roman influences (I-III AD). The essential underlining idea of our investigations is the role of salt as a structuring territorial resource and its importance to understand the complexity of social transformations of indigenous communities in the period of the contacts with Rome. Thus, this study involves both the examination of the archaeological evidence for salt resources and its historical interpretation within a regional context and the global perspective of the contacts between the barbaricum and Rome.

TH1-31 Abstract 12

Langobards necropolis on the Danube: material culture and social identity

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Keywords: Migrations, necropolis, society

Presentation Preference - Oral

During their migration from Scandinavia to Italy, the Lombards settled for about 40 years in Central Europe, in the Danube river area and Pannonia, between Vienna and Budapest, where a lot of burial areas have been found. Here, with Franks people at west, Gepids and Slavs at east, and a lot of autochthonous people of roman tradition, the Lombards feel threatened in their political and cultural independence. Their society was still heterogeneous and various and, to keep their social and political unit, they developed a strongest material culture, that is the expression of different social meanings. This development has a great reflection in the funerary practices. Here, will be analysed few Austrian and Hungarian cemeteries; the study and the analysis of burial customs and material culture of these sites are essential to understand how they developed their identity, through the diffusion of different customs and the integration of people of different origins. These sites, as well as illustrating the more important methodological problems of this type of approach, present the starting point and the further developments of Lombards' culture, and allow to draw some important conclusions about the change of the society, and thus the construction of the ethnic identity of this people, that evolved in the middle of Europe during the migration age and that they took to Italy in 568.

TH1-31 Abstract 13

Was there a contact between Early Slavs and Lombards in the area of western Pannonian Plain?

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Keywords: Early Slavic Settlement, Lombards, Western Pannonian Plain

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