

# ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCHES REGARDING THE ROMAN – BYZANTINE PROVINCE, SCYTHIA

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The anthropological studies regarding to the Roman – Byzantine province, Scythia, has an important value for the historical consideration about the funeral discoveries. Despite the large numbers of skeletons discovered during the archaeological excavations, anthropological analyses have not covered all these. Most of them are analyses of the osteological material, such as sex determination, age estimation, stature and some data about paleopathology. The important questions for this period are the artificial deformed skull in many necropolises, the bones of Christian martyrs and the link between historical sources and anthropological results, the human remains from upper levels of living, and different discussions about the previous analyses. These short considerations have the goal to show stage of anthropological studies about Scythia province.

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this article is to make a short presentation of the anthropological analysis regarding the human remains from the Roman–Byzantine period and to discuss some of their problems.

From the chronological point of view, province of Scythia was established after 293 A.D. due to the administrative reforms of emperor Diocletianus and it is considered that the province had existed until 641 A.D. (Rădulescu 2001: 467 and 483). The geographical limits of the province are: the Danube on the West and North side, the Black Sea at East side, Moesia Secunda province in the South (Rădulescu 2001: 468 – 469, fig. 54).

## DISCUSSION

The analysis of the funeral discoveries from Scythia during the Roman – Byzantine period is not complete without the discussion of the anthropological analysis. In the below table there are 2660 individuals from 2839 known graves and 166 skeletons with anthropological analysis.