

PRELIMINARY ANTHROPOLOGICAL DATA ON THE OSTEOLOGIC MATERIAL EXHUMED FROM THE POLOCIN (“ISLAZ” LOCATION) AND POGONEȘTI (“LA MOVILĂ” LOCATION) CEMETERIES (IVEȘTI VILLAGE)

GEORGETA MIU

The study provides some preliminary data on the bony materials exhumed from two (Sântana de Mureș – type) cemeteries (necropolises) of the IVth century, in the Bârlad area, namely: **Polocin (“Islaz” location) and Pogonești (“La Movilă” location)**. The bones under investigation belong to two series, one including 46 individuals (33 buried and 13 incinerated) from the bi-ritual cemetery of Polocin, and a latter one, numerically more reduced, and representing the skeleton-like rests of 26 (buried) individuals from the cemetery of Pogonești.

The biomorphological analysis of all cases has evidenced, in both groups, a certain typological polymorphism within which the ethnical components present, *i.e.*, the Mediterranean (better expressed in Polocin) and, respectively, the Nordoid one (more important in Pogonești) are of majority. There are also present, as secondary structural elements, some Dinaroid, Alpinoid and – in only one case – East-Europoid elements.

At Polocin, the funerary practices discovered, along with the mortality ratios, covering all groups of age, evidence the sedentary character of this population, the main occupations of which had been – probably – agriculture, animal breeding (if considering the amounts of offerings found in the graves) and hand – made goods (if considering the pottery objects digger out).

At Pogonești, where a Nordoid typological component is predominant, suppositions may be made on the possible installation of a migratory group (possibly, Gothic), which might have constituted a separate enclave in the vicinity of Polocin, to be assimilated, in time, by its inhabitants.

Nevertheless, up to an exhaustive exhumation of the two necropolises, this idea should be considered only as a hypothesis.

INTRODUCTION

Several archaeological and historical proofs support the idea that, in the end of the 3rd and beginning of the 4th century, the autochthonous civilization from the extra-Carpathian regions of the old Dacia has suffered a series of important