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Rezumate/ Abstracts/ Résumées/ Zusammenfassungen

ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE HUMAN BONES FOUND IN THE CRYPT FROM HALMYRIS

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INTRODUCTION

During the late summer of 2002, the excavations at Murighiol (Tulcea county) undertaken by Mihail Zahariade and Octavian Bounegru lead to the discovery of a crypt with human remains situated under the altar of the antique Halmyris basilica.

The crypt, which it was robbed in antiquity, comprised a funeral chamber and *dromos* with descent steps. The painting and inscriptions suffered obvious important destructions (Zahariade, in the present volume, p...).

The existent bones were found scattered, without anatomical connection. The human remains were assigned by the discoverers as remains of the Christian martyrs Epictet and Astion executed in 8 July 290 A.D. at Halmyris (Zahariade & Bounegru 2002). This was the third discovery of this type on the former territory of Skythia Minor (Bauman 1972: 189-202, Barnea 1978: 182-188, Mirițoiu & Nicolăescu-Plopșor 1978: 189-207).

It is not necessary to say more about the importance of this discovery. Further on, in solving the problems arosed by it, it was necessary to complete the archaeological facts with an anthropological analysis, and furthermore to compare the results with historical sources. It was for this reason why the bones, which were set down in the church of Celic – Dere monastery (today they are found at Tomis Archiepiscopate from Constanța) became the subject of this analysis.

Before the presentation of the results it must be specify that the bones display a yellowish – brown patina, and belong to the intermixed skeletons of two individuals. Due to the dimensional, ages, and pathological differences it was perfectly possible to separate all skeletal elements and reassign them with accuracy.