

A GETIC GRAVE WITH GOLD EARRING FROM ZIMNICEA – “CÂMPUL MORȚILOR” NECROPOLIS

ANCA GANCIU,
DRAGOȘ MĂDESCU

Keywords: Zimnicea – “*Câmpul Morților*”, cremation grave in urn with lid, earring with zoomorphic extremity (lion head), pottery (mug) with nervure at the base of the handle, typology, analogies, chronology.

Abstract: This paper describes in detail the **Grave 2** discovered in the Getic necropolis from Zimnicea – “*Câmpul Morților*” during the 2007 archaeological campaign. This particular grave is a cremation one, with a small quantity of bones and the inventory deposited in an urn with lid. The funeral inventory consists in a golden earring with a lion head extremity, obviously an import from the Greek area. This is the first time when an object of this type is discovered north of the Danube. We discuss here some aspects about the association between the imported earring and the local pottery used as urn. We also examine the typological and chronological aspects that are dating the grave at the boundary between the 3rd and the 2nd c. BC.

Cuvinte cheie: Zimnicea – „*Câmpul Morților*”, mormânt de incinerare în urnă cu capac, cercel cu extremitate zoomorfă (cap de leu), cană cu „mustăți” la baza toartei, tipologie, analogii, cronologie.

Rezumat: Articolul prezintă detaliat **mormântul 2** descoperit în necropola getică de la Zimnicea – „*Câmpul morților*”, în campania de săpături arheologice din anul 2007. Este un mormânt de incinerare în urnă cu capac în care a fost depusă o cantitate mică de oase umane calcinate și inventarul funerar. Singura piesă de inventar este în mod evident de import din spațiul grecesc: un cercel de aur cu o extremitate în formă de cap de leu. Este prima apariție a acestui tip de podoabă la nord de Dunăre. Sunt discutate aspecte legate de asocierea dintre podoaba de import și ceramica locală reprezentată de cana utilizată drept urnă, precum și aspecte de tipologie și cronologie, pe baza cărora mormântul ar putea fi datat la limita dintre secolele III-II a. Chr.

The research of the Getic necropolis from Zimnicea originates in the three so-called “archaeological explorations” (1871-1873) carried by Cezar Bolliac on a large area extended east of the point known as “*Cetate*”¹, who also named the site “*Câmpul de morți dacic*”². In the last quarter of the 19th century, two antiquary amateur archaeologists, Dimitrie Papazoglu and Dimitrie Butculescu, excavated the site area in search of antiquities. The first systematic excavations, using modern scientific methods, were organised after the Second World War by Ion Nestor (1948-1949)³ followed by Alexandrina D. Alexandrescu (1967-1974)⁴.

In the second half of the 19th century, there were excavated around 165 graves; other 166 graves were excavated by Nestor – Alexandrescu,

making the Zimnicea necropolis one of the most important known Getic cemeteries, relevant for the understanding of the material culture and the funerary practices, as well as the Iron Age chronology at the Lower Danube⁵.

In 2007, the archaeological research was resumed and continued until 2009, by a team lead by Mircea Babeș⁶. These last campaigns had an emergency nature caused by the rapid extension of the human habitat in the western limits of Zimnicea city, affecting a large area of the site⁷.

⁵ Măndescu 2010, 165-182, figs. 22-30.

⁶ Babeș *et alii* 2008, 331-332; Babeș *et alii* 2009, 232-233; Babeș *et alii* 2010, 208.

⁷ There were build houses, additional buildings, enclosures, new streets and electric networks. The new archaeological researches were requested by the Zimnicea City Hall in the regime of rescue excavations. The four archaeological campaigns were financed mainly by Zimnicea City Hall (September 2007, May 2008, August 2008 and July-August 2009). The last campaign was also financed by Teleorman County Museum and Ministry of Culture.

¹ Bolliac 1872, 2-4; Bolliac 1873, 1-2; Bolliac 1874, 1-2, 4; Măndescu 2009, 205-213.

² Bolliac 1872, 2.

³ Nestor 1949, 116-125; Nestor 1950, 93-102.

⁴ Alexandrescu 1980, 19-126.