

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE BURIAL "KRAJČINOVIĆI-SLANA VODA" (SOUTH-WEST OF SERBIA, MIDDLE OF II C. B.C.)

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Abstract. *The necropolis of Krajčinovići – Slana voda, with the twenty five half burned skelets of men and women, contents material, pottery, jewelry, weapons and bronze dishes of helenistic, celtic and domestic provenience. It is dated in the middle of the II century BC and in the cultural meaning is relevant with the transpassing from the second into the third phase of the celtic influence in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Marić. The circular position of the skelets with the legs to the center of necropolis and heads to the edge of it, without individual tombs and with regular order of archaeological material behinde them, tell about the changing of old, traditional way of burial in the unregular life condition, the war condition.*

In the year of 1971 was found and researched the necropolis in the village Krajčinovići near the town Priboj in the western part of Serbia (fig. 1). The necropolis was on the locality "Slana voda" ("Salty water"), and until now this necropolis stays in the science as a find of "Krajčinovići - Slana voda". It was published partly (Zotović 1985), and was partly mentioned and descased in some articals (Parović-Pešikan 1988; Zotović 1987), but the presentation of the full importance of this necropolis, the social-economic positions on the way of touch and influence of the ilirian, celtic and helenistic world in the time before roman conquest, unfortunately was never done.

The necropolis was partly damaged by the building of the village's road. But the most of the necropolis was saved, and the position of the skelets and archaeological material which were behinde of the skelets were in regular order, so that it was possible to make conclusion that the position of the skelets in the whole necropolis was in the same regular position. The necropolis was in the shape of the circle, with the first level made of the small stones on which was than put 25 half-burned skelets of male and female sex, without individual tombs, with the legs to the center of necropolis and the heads to the edge of it. The tumul was covered with the stones, bigger in the central position and smaller to the edge of it (fig. 2). The material inside of the tumul were: pottery, the bronze dishes, jewelry and swords and weapons. Among the pottery are the pottery of the older iron age, celtic and helenistic provenience or influence. There were about 50 pottery dishes, and the most of them were putted from the both side of the head of the skelets. The most of the dishes were made on the wheel, made from the fine, clean earth, in the pane yellow or grey couloure, with the thin walls, which mostly belong to the material of helenistic and celtic provenience (fig. 3, 5/1-3, 7). The second group of the pottery made the examples of dishes made by hand, in which shape and work are noticable the influence of older iron age pottery tradition (fig. 5). Among the bronze dishes are also the dishes of the helenistic influence, as well as in the jewelry made of silver. Among the silver jewelry were fibulae, rings, jewelry with the ends in the shape of the snake's head and the jewelry in the shape of filigran work with the granulae (fig.6, 9). The certain number of the swords can be distinguished as a celtic. The whole number of swords were about 60 iron swards (fig. 8). From the other material were mentioned fibulae made of bronze of the middle and late latene period (fig. 10), bracelets made also of bronze with the end in the shape of snake's head. From the other jewelry it should be mentioned necklase made of pasta with the pearls in different couloures, mostly the blue. The necropolis can be dated in the middle of II century BC.

The closest and in fact until now only one analogy with the necropolis „Krajčinovići-Slana voda“ are finds of two necropolis: Mahrevići by Čajniče and Vir by Posušje on the terittory of nowadays Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mahrevići was excaveted in the very beginning of XX century (Truhelka 1909), and Vir later in the middle of XX century (Marić 1962). The common facts between these two necropolis with the

„Krajčinovići-Slana voda“ are the next: 1. the both necropolis were also partly destroyed by the action of the earth and village's working, 2. in the both necropolis were making burial of the man and women, 3. in Mahrevići dead were burned almost completely, 4. the position of the heads and legs' and skeletons in Mahrevići and Posušje show the certain and similar position like in Krajčinovići i.e. that they were put in necropolis with certain order, and 5. the archaeological materials found at Mahrevići and Posušje are similar with this from Krajčinovići. According to the material found in the tumul and the analogy with the material from Mahrevići and Vir, the necropolis Krajčinovići-Slana voda was dated in the middle of II century BC.

The importance of this necropolis is not only in the "mix" of the material of three cultural zone, but also in a few other points. On the first place is the fact that on the territory of the western Serbia since the end of V c. BC until the period of the beginning of the roman conquest, there were no archaeological finds. The necropolis of Krajčinovići-Slana voda was first of it, and shows that the territory of the western Serbia was settled in the pre-roman period. On the second place, the form of the new way of the burial (without the tombs in the tumul, but with the burial ritual which was made in the same time for all dead people), shows that this way of the burial appeared in the conditions of the hurry, in the war conditions, but not in a such hurry that they did not have the time for the burial ritual without certain order. Otherwise, they did not run and they did not leave the place of living. Also, there were no any traces of the living on the territory of the western Serbia until the very end of the I and the beginning of II century. Only traces of living from the first century are more on the south, on the south-west of Serbia and the north of Montenegro, near the nowadays towns Prijepolje i Pljevlja, where were found the necropolis from the I and later on to the beginning of IV century. Why we mention that? Because of the next facts: 1. the archaeological material from the necropolis from Komini near Pljevlja shows, although from the early time of Roman conquest, autochthonic elements and the similar archaeological material and in some cases the way of burial with the far away territory of the middle part of roman province of Dalmatia, the territory of Japodi and later on Dalmati, 2. the all archaeological material including also the epigraphic from the period from I-IV c. on the territory of the western Serbia and north of Montenegro shows very long stays of tradition of older iron age (for example jewelry, pottery, clouths), and 3. the epigraphic material shows, especially from the surrounding of Pljevlja and Prijepolje, appearance and existing of celtic names. So, on the two necropolis around Pljevlja, so-called necropolis Komini I and II, archaeological material shows that the pottery from the period of I c. AD have the shapes which point on the older tradition of halstatt and latene period (Cermanović-Kuzmanović 1980, 231, 228-229). Also, on this territory there are appearance of the celtic pottery, as well as the possible symbiosis of celtic and ilirian cultural elements on the roman grave monuments, if we speak about the style on the relief presentation on it (Зотовић 1995, 83-88). Epigraphic material from this territory, which we can marked as a part of the eastern part of the roman province of Dalmatia, shows also the analogy with the epigraphic material from the middle Dalmatian coast, and with them made the group which Katičić named as the unique group of the south-east name's territory (Katičić 1962;1963). The appearance of the grave monuments in the shape of cube with the pyramide, which is characteristic only for the eastern part of the province of Dalmatia (to which also belongs with the similar cultural and ethnic characteristics the territory of the eastern part of nowadays Bosnia and Herzegovina), belongs also to the inheritance of the older mediteranian type of cippus which get another morphological picture in the time of the roman rule (Zotović 1995, 30-39; 199).

Marić made chronology of the celtic influence on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the three phases: 1. from 370.-260. year BC, 2. from 260.-150. year BC and 3. from 150.-9. year BC (Marić 1963, 65). The picture of the second phase of celtic influence of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Marić has character of the stronger influence of the celtic and greek material, and at the end of this phase is the beginning of the roman conquest of certain part of the territory of nowadays Bosnia and Herzegovina. The beginning of the third phase is the beginning of the stronger connection and communication with the Adriatic coast and because of that appearance the new elements in the cultural picture of Bosnia and Herzegovina. If we look on the cultural picture of necropolis Krajčinovići – Slana voda, this picture is relevant, as well as the dating of the necropolis, with the cultural picture and dating of transpassing the second into the third phase of Marić chronology and cultural relevants for Bosnia and Herzegovina. More than that, the territory

of western and south-western Serbia in archaeological meaning have analogies even in the period of older iron age with the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, not with the inner side of Serbia.

The closest analogy with Krajčinovići-Slana voda, Mahrevići and Posušje, point on the conclusion that such way of the burial can appeared as a way of the burial of the ethnic groups of similar material culture, as the modification of the older way of the burial, as the psychologically reaction of the population on the certain unregular conditions, in this case, the war. The social level of the population which made necropolis Krajčinovići-Slana voda was on the level of the possibility for the import of helenistic material as lacrimariums, the silver jewelry and the bronze dishes. Although they made hand-made pottery in the tradition of the older iron age, and also knew for the pottery made on wheel.

In the cultural meaning, the ethnic group of "Krajčinovići - Slana voda" is on the transpassing from the 2-nd to the 3-rd phase of the celtic influence in the Bosnia and Herzegovina (according to Marić), the period when the influence of the greek as well as the roman culture was remarkable. It is possible that this ethnic group also had the contact through the valley of the river Neretva with the cities on the south-east of the adriatic coast.

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Fig. 1. Map - the position of Krajčinovići

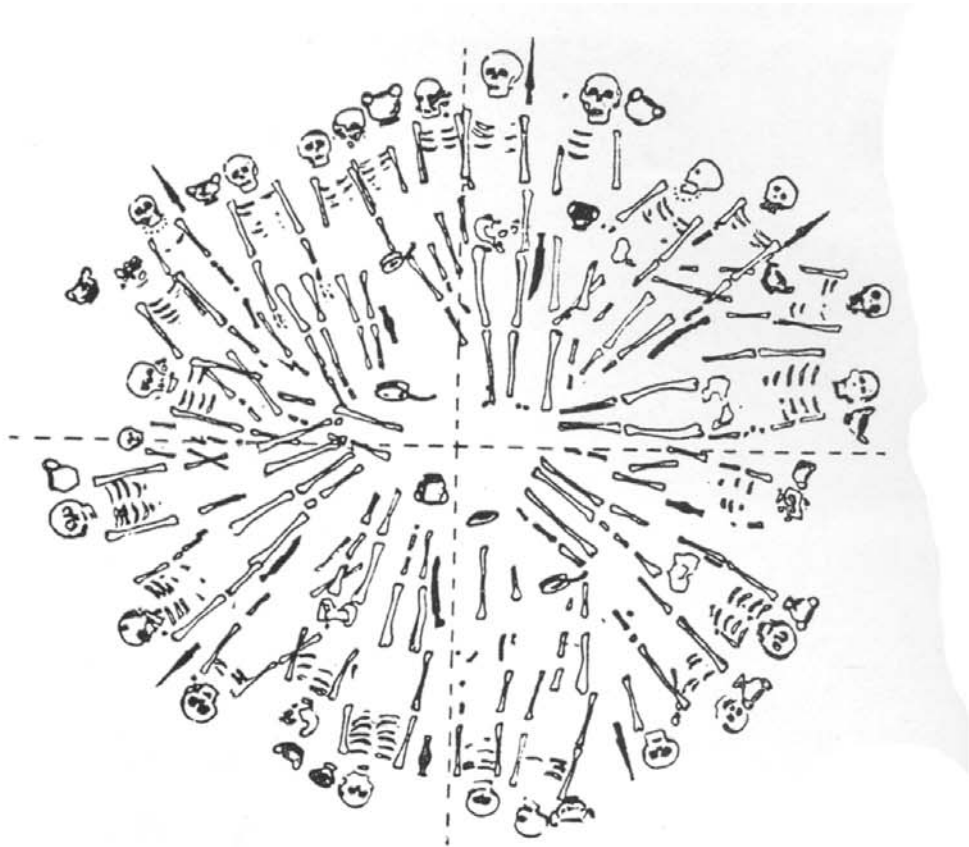


Fig. 2. Necropolis Krajčinoviči Slana voda.



Fig. 3. Hellenistic pottery.



Fig. 4. Hellenistic pottery: 1-3 Krajčinovići, 4 Mahrevići.



Fig. 5. Domestic shapes of pottery



Fig. 6. Bronze dishes.



Fig. 8. Weapons.



Fig. 9. Jewellery.

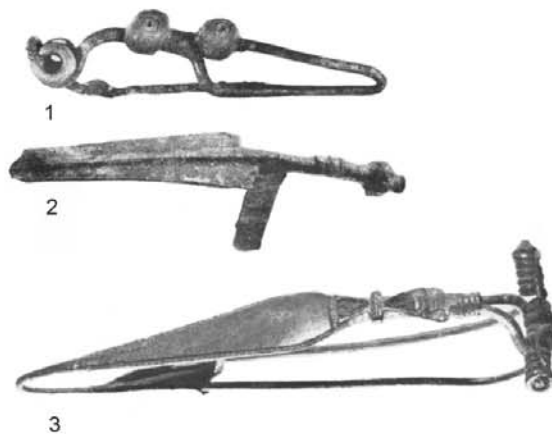


Fig. 10. Fibulae.