

## **BUDINJAK – AN EARLY IRON AGE NECROPOLIS (A CASE STUDY IN “FAMILY TUMULI”)**

Želimir Škoberne

The archaeological site Budinjak is located in the central area of the Žumberak Hills 740 m above the sea level and about 50 km west from Zagreb. Geodetic survey established 141 tumuli on the necropolis which covers the area of 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the Budinjak Field in immediate vicinity, north of the settlement. The size of tumuli varies between 5 – 20 m, and height between 0,50 – 2,20 m. Most of the grave inventory of those tumuli belongs to the Early Iron Age while only smaller number of finds can be attributed to the end of the Late Bronze Age.

Budinjak was by all means large regional centre which had big and probably even dominant role in development of cultural identity of the whole region. Many years of systematic research enabled division of burials at this necropolis (inside or outside tumuli) in ten groups regarding the burial custom and grave architecture. Diameter of the most of the tumuli is less than 10 m and number of burials which vary between 2 and 6, suggest their family character. Only princely tumulus 3 contained 10 burials, while one of the largest tumuli on the necropolis, princely tumulus 139 also had only 6 burials. Although majority of discovered material is still being analysed, we cannot be conclusive, but at this stage we can identify basic elements of social structure, as well as some features related to social status of those buried at the Budinjak necropolis. In some cases there are also indications of their professions or possible family connections.

## **INDIVIDUAL VS. COMMUNAL IDENTITY – INDIVIDUAL TUMULI BURIALS IN THE EASTERN HALLSTATT CIRCLE**

Hrvoje Potrebica

Most of the cultural groups that belong to the complex that we call “Eastern Hallstatt Circle” practice tumuli burials. With notable exception of groups such as Dolenjska or Budinjak, where multiple burials are more rule than the exception, in most cases such tumuli contain single burial. In most of the cases category of “single” was identified with “individual” burials and elements of the grave inventory in such units were interpreted as related to individual identity of a deceased person. In cases like Kleinklein where large number of burials testify that majority of population was buried under tumuli, following more or less same ritual, that identification may seem plausible. However, on many sites number of burials under tumuli is obviously much smaller than general population of the community in question, and that disproportion suggests that burials under tumuli must have been, at least in some part, determined by elements related more to the identity of the community than to the identity of the buried individuals.

## **AMBIGUOUS AFFILIATIONS - VARYING RELATIONS BETWEEN BURIAL MOUNDS AND BURIED INDIVIDUALS IN THE SOUTH SCANDINAVIAN BRONZE AGE**

Mads Holst

In the first centuries of the second millennium BC a number of changes occurred in the burial mound practices in South Scandinavia. Larger monuments were now constructed and an increased variation in the grave inventory emerged. This is generally assumed to reflect a more distinct expression of individual identity and a diversification of social roles and status in the Bronze Age society. These monumental barrows are traditionally considered a direct representation of the position and influence of the deceased individual. There are, however, a number of finds, which suggest an ambiguous interplay between the significance of the mound and the significance of the dead. There are examples of a break-up of the individual burial custom, and occasionally also of the individual body. There are complex relations between the burial inventories, the burial structure, and the size and history of the monument, and there appears to be an emerging emphasis on a communal expression in the location of the barrows in the landscape and in the organization of the construction procedures. This complexity probably reflects differing conceptions of the meaning of the burial custom, the barrows and their dead, and the varied agendas which unfolded around them.