Starosel Newsletter

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The excavations of Starosel Temple-Tomb revealed an enormous entrance and two chambers of the biggest temple-tomb known in the Balkans from classical Antiquity. The architecture and especially the size of the tomb, including the stone surrounding ring at the base of the tumulus, make the tomb one of the most prominent burial monuments of the Balkans from classical Antiquity.

Starosel excavations

In October and November 2000 the excavations of tumuli by Georgi Kitov have continued in the neighborhood of Starosel temple-tomb.

On September 26, 2000 an exhibition with photos and finds from Starosel excavations was opened in the Hall of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia by *the President of Republic of Bulgaria*, **Mr. Petur Stoyanov**. Later (September 29), Mr. Petur Stoyanov visited the newly discovered monument.

Kingship and Nobility in the Odryssian Kingdom

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The Odryssian Kingdom represents one of the most prominent pages in the ancient history of the Balkans. It was the most powerful kingdom between the Carpathians and the Aegean before Philip II (king of Macedon). The archaeological evidence documents a complicated social stratification in central South and Southeast Bulgaria with well-represented nobility of the Odryssian Kingdom. Discovering and exploring of the tombs in Kazanluk area, and the newly discovered temple-tomb of Starosel in Hissar Hollow have generally changed the view on the Odryssian kingship and nobility. The actualization of the characteristics of the Odryssian Kingdom in the light of recent evidence has become obvious.

The Third International Symposium in Karlovo (Bulgaria)

The Symposium in Karlovo (see Newsletter 4) in January 2001 is focusing on the possibility of a political and social interpretation of the archaeological evidence and especially of the newly discovered temple-tomb of Starosel. It is dedicated to Dr. Georgi Kitov whose excavations of Thracian tombs in South Bulgaria in the last decades have represented a completely new stage of the investigation of the Thracian culture in the Balkans. The excavations at Pistiros (modern Vetren) will be also in the focus of the Symposium.

Whom had the newly discovered tombs belonged to? Is it possible to define criteria for political and individual attribution of those monuments, which are mostly known from the latest fifth to third century BC? What is the architectural similarity and differences with the tombs from the neighbor regions? What are the peculiarities between the Thracian tombs themselves? What is their relation to the Greek architecture and art from 5th to 3rd century BC?

These are only some of the questions, which the Symposium in Karlovo will try to answer. Along with them, some more theoretical actual problems like the emergence of the state in the Balkans, the emergence of the institution of the king, the nature if the political and social power in classical Antiquity, etc. will be also in its focus of the Symposium.

Pistiros, on its side, poses important question of the relations between the Thracians and Greeks in inner Thrace.

New books

This section includes new books concerning the topic of the Conference in Karlovo

Kitov G. & A. Atanasov. The Panagyurishte Treasure. Panagyurishte Municipality. Sofia. 2000. 40 p.

M. Rousseva. Thracian Cult Architecture. Ya Publishres. Yambol. 2000. 201 p. Color and black and white illustrations. $ 40 (including the postage). Available by lnikolova@hotmail.com.
The author of this book is one of the best specialists of the Thracian tomb architecture.

Hristov I. Planinska Trakiya. Faber. V. Turnovo. 1999.
Innovative study on mountain Thacians. In Bulgarian with extended summary in French.

Z.H.Archibald. The Odrysian Kingdom of Thrace. Clarendon Press.Oxford. 1998.

Bouzek J., Domaradzki M. and Z.H. Archibald (eds.). Pistiros I. Excavations and studies. Charles University Press. Prague. 1996.

Sponsoring

If you are interested in sponsoring the Symposium or the excavations at Starosel, please contact via e-mail: lnikolova@hotmail.com

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