
THE TOMB IN SVESHTARI AND OTHER HELLENISTIC TOMBS WITH BARREL VAULT IN BULGARIA

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(S u m m a r y)

The discovery of tomb at Sveshtari at about 20 years ago was the great achievement not only for the Bulgarian archeology. This tomb has a unique construction. It has very complicated plan (dromos and three rectangular rooms), which enables to put this object to the class of so-called monumental tombs. The walls were built with great stone blocks. The most important element of its decoration is the freeze made of ten women. However, its vault is similar rather to the so-called Macedonian type. We know the similar constructions from the territory of Greece (most important is Vergina). The similar tombs can be found to the North of the Rhodope Mountains in the area of modern Bulgaria and some of them in Roumania and in the European part of Turkey. There are some tombs in Bulgaria in the vicinity of Varna, near Mezek village, two in Sboryanovo, Sashova mogila, Slavchova mogila, and also in Borovo. In the following text author tries to compare the construction of tomb in Sveshtari with other published barrel vault tombs in the area of modern Bulgaria. He tries to compare the plan, construction and the decoration of tombs. The tomb at Sveshtari can be dated on the first half of the third century B.C. The internal decoration of the tomb construction testifies the high level of culture in the area. So, we can notice some connections between Thrace and other centres of civilization in that time (mostly with Greece, Minor Asia and the Northern bank of the Black Sea).