

Community, identity, ritual. Interdisciplinary research pattern in studies on cremation cemeteries of the Lusatian culture communities

Due to evidence of Scythian invasion including objects of Scythian provenance, human skeletons and burned wooden constructions, a fortified settlement at Wicina is one of the most recognized archaeological sites in Poland. The community of the site buried their dead at a cemetery located ca. 800 m from the settlement. Cremated bodies were deposited carefully in ceramic vessels and then put it in a grave pit with other items ó mostly other, small ceramics. Such site was excavated but the questions why they practiced such burial rite and how the objects were selected have never been answered. Thus, we argue this site may be a good example of how specialists of various fields work together to answer important questions about past societies.

Material remains of past societies may look like simple collections of similar objects. The graves look similar as well, however they are never the same, they vary in number of vessels, their sizes, position in grave. Some elements are missing while some are added. Thus an interpretation of such activity is needed. That can be achieved by carefully designed analyses and interpretations proposed by specialist from various disciplines.

The analyses carried out by archaeologists, anthropologists, specialists in genetics may give a light on burial rites practiced at the site used for ca. 600 years. Combined results of various disciplines focused on the common research objectives can improve our knowledge about life and death of the local group from today Wicina region.