

## SUMMARY

### Some archaeological monuments of Papilė and their research /PAPILĖ I

*By Birutė Salatkienė*

*Šiauliai University*

Papilė and its environs' archaeological monuments have been known in literature since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. though they have been little investigated. This paper tries to review their research and the prehistory data accumulated already at present since the Late Neolithic Age (the 3<sup>rd</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> millenium B. C.) till the formation of the Lithuanian State.

Papilė archeological monuments are Papilė I mound (castle hill) and the settlement at its foot, Papilė II mound and Papilė burial-ground, Būriškiai, Klaišiai and Skabeikiai finding places. Papilė middle school museum collection has accumulated all the Stone and Bronze Ages archeological handicraft wares found in the environs of Papilė–Duobiškiai, Dusai, Klaišiai, Papilė itself, Skabeikiai, Rimšiai, Griežiai. The stone hatchets found in the mentioned finding sites testify that the most ancient people's life traces in Papilė environs found so far reach the Late Neolithic Age.

Papilė I mound is located in the southwest town outskirts, on the left bank of the Venta River, at its confluence with a nameless rivulet; the acting cemetery is here at present. The settlement at the foot of this mound was investigated by A. Varnas in 1998 and 2000. 160 finds in all were found here, they are glued ceramics items with coarse and flat surface, ceramics items made of clay, iron work implements, bone and brass ornaments. The researcher dates the settlement and the mound as well on the basis of those finds the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> millenium A. D.–the first ages of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millenium. Papilė II mound is located on the right bank of the Venta, beside the old cemetery 1 km distance east from Papilė I mound, it is also called the Benefit Mountain. The mound ground hasn't been investigated and A. Varnas having researched the protuberant northwest part carrying out reconnaissance excavations in 1986 didn't find neither cultural stratum nor archaeological finds and other traces of human activities.

A flat level burial ground was found on the Eastern Venta bank in front of the mound situated on another bank, it was excavated by J. Naudužas in 1955 but he didn't announce his research material. Summing up, 180 m<sup>2</sup> area was researched in all and 16 graves and one pit with earlier destroyed graves bones were found, some accidental finds were found as well. The graves are situated in rows directed northeast and southwest. The grave holes are oblong, quadrangular, with rounded corners, of 2.8 × 0.95 m and similar size, of 54–70 cm depth. 5 male and 9 female graves were researched; the others are badly destroyed. The graves are oriented in two directions–north–northwest and east–southeast directions. All the dead were buried lying on their backs, with stretched out legs, with arms folded on their chests, breasts and waists, though there wasn't any strictly established order of folding arms.

It is seen from the review of Papilė burial ground finds that most of them are rather well known—one-edged swords, fixed into and cased spearheads, axes, knives, awls, strings, pins, buckles, bracelets. Some rather rare finds were a spiral collar wound with wire, a collar with unbent loops, a twisted collar, a string of kauri cockle-shells, a spearhead out of Damascus steel, a flat lacework buckle, zoomorphic hooks, amulets out of animal bones and teeth. Kauri cockleshell strings, the collar with unbent loops and the flat lacework buckle should be without any doubt assigned to the imported articles. Papilė burial ground finds are dated the 7<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> c.

There is no unique opinion concerning the ethnic dependence of the burial ground. I. Vaškevičiūtė attributed Papilė environs to the southern Semigallian region. R. Volkaitė-Kulikauskienė agrees with this archaeologist's opinion. R. Jarockis defines the borders of Semigallia along the rivers of Lielupė and Mūša, he doesn't attach Papilė to Semigallia. The analysis of burial ground finds show that a greater part of them are characteristic of North Middle Lithuania region. May be that Papilė environs were an ethnically mixed region, and the Samogitian and Semigallian influence in it during the burial ground exploitation period that extended for almost the whole millenium from the 7<sup>th</sup> until the 16<sup>th</sup> c. could change and fluctuate.

Only one archeological find from every-Būriškiai, Klaišiai and Skabeikiai-site from the 6<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> c. A. D. is known. The circumstances of their finding allow to guess that burial grounds were in the mentioned villages.

It should be stated while we have no other reliable data so far that people were living in Papilė environs in the Late Neolithic Age, so the data available by us show. Papilė environs belong to the region that enters the Littoral culture area (the last quarter of the third millenium B. C.–the middle of the second millenium B. C.). During the first ages A. C. Papilė environs enter Samogitia and North Lithuania burial-mounds culture territory. During the period of the 5<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> c. Papilė environs are assigned to a mixed region in the northern part of which the Semigallians lived and in the southern one—the Samogitians. The similar situation survived in the 10<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> c. The problem of Papilė environs dependence remains finally unsolved so far.

It is necessary to discuss Papilė environs archaeological monuments relation in the end of the review. Papilė I mound with its foot settlement and the cemetery situation and their dating allow to state that both these monuments were left by the same community. Two Papilė mounds so close to one another also attract attention. Papilė mounds are too little investigated to allow to make more concrete conclusions about their purpose, however the concentration of archaeological monuments in nowadays small town and the absence of other mounds in the vicinity show that Papilė was a significant economic (trade), military, administrative and cult (religious) centre of a large area. Papilė survived as such local centre during the state formation period, too, when the mounds entered a wider defense system during the time of fights against the Livonia Order. The latest finds of Papilė burial ground reaching the 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> c. show that after the destruction of the mound (in 1339), life didn't stop here, the settlement survived.