

The necropolis is a cemetery of the inhabitants of the socio-economic center of the highly developed community having inhabited the Northwestern Black Sea coast in the period 4600-4350 BC. With the variety of burial practices and the huge number of finds of different materials, Varna Chalcolithic necropolis is undoubtedly the most remarkable and significant monument of prehistory not only in the Balkans and Europe, but also all over the world. It illustrates the first stages of the emergence of a society with a complex hierarchical organization and established power structures. For its members, the earliest processed gold articles had a sacred-symbolic meaning and marked the social status of their owners.



THE EARLIEST CIVILIZATION AND THE WORLD'S OLDEST GOLD



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VARNA MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY

50 YEARS
OF NEW HORIZONS IN PREHISTORY
VARNA'S GOLDEN NECROPOLIS
DISCOVERED IN OCTOBER 1972



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VARNA'S GOLDEN NECROPOLIS

5TH MILLENNIUM BC

In the autumn of 1972, while laying an underground electric cable in the western industrial zone of Varna, the excavator operator Raycho Marinov came across a group of metal articles and flint tools. He collected the finds and handed them over to the museum in the town of Dalgopol. From there the find was reported to Varna and at the end of October the objects were collected by associates of Varna Museum. The local authorities in Varna were informed about the find and at the end of October the objects were collected by associates of Varna Museum.

Exploration of the site began in November. With the assistance of municipal and state institutions, the necessary infrastructure was built and working conditions were created. The organization and course of the excavations were the merit of their scientific supervisor Ivan Ivanov, an associate and later a director of Varna Archaeological Museum. It was the merit of the scientific supervisor Ivan Ivanov, an associate and later a director of Varna Archaeological Museum, to organize and run the process of excavations. He found that there was a necropolis on the site of the excavations, dating back to the Late Copper Age. In 1976, at the suggestion of the National Institute of Cultural Monuments, the site was declared by the Ministry of Culture an archeological cultural monument of national importance.



The excavations lasted for 13 seasons, until 1991 with interruptions in 1978, 1983 and 1986-1990/ and finished in 1991 with interruptions in 1978, 1983 and 1986-1990. They were carried out with the efforts of archaeologists from the Varna Museum and anthropologists from the Varna Medical Institute and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Funding was provided from the budget of Varna District History Museum (later "Cultural and Historical Heritage" Directorate of Varna Municipality; and since 2000 –Varna Regional Museum of History).



In 1976 an international scientific symposium "Varna necropolis and the problems of the Chalcolithic" was held. In connection with this event, the most significant finds from the excavated graves have been exhibited for the first time in the museum exhibition hall specially built for this purpose near Aladzha Monastery. On this occasion a special exhibition hall was built near Aladzha Monastery, and the most significant finds from the excavated graves were exhibited. Since 1983 the exhibits are exposed in the building of Varna Archaeological Museum.