

## XII. ENGLISH SUMMARY

### **Anthropological Study of Old Slavonic Inhabitants of Fortified Settlement Břeclav – Pohansko (Demographic and Anthropometric Study)**

The study presents results of anthropological examination of bone material excavated in the period of 1959 to 2004 at several burial grounds of the fortified settlement Pohansko near Břeclav. The sites were: The Burial Ground Around the Church, The Forest Arboriculture, The Burial Ground II and isolated graves, Forest Mound, The North-East Outer Precincts, The South Outer Precincts, and graves found at exploration of fortification of the settlement, of the all dated back in 8 to 10 century A.D. Altogether 797 skeletons were examined; 208 were recognised as masculine, 167 as feminine and 379 as children; the sex could not be identified in 43 skeletons.

On the basis of sex and age diagnoses, the demographic structure of the particular burial grounds was assessed. On the basis of some dimensions of the skull and dimensions of postcranial skeleton, the distinctive features of Slavonic inhabitants of the four Pohansko burial grounds - The Burial Ground Around the Church, The Forest Arboriculture, The Burial Ground II and isolated graves, The North-East Outer Precincts and The South Outer Precincts - were studied. These physical features were compared with those of inhabitants of some Old Slavonic sites in this country (dated back in 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries) and then with inhabitants of some Old Slavonic sites from neighbouring European countries dated back in 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

As one of the goals of the work was to create an accessible database of metric traits of examined individuals of Pohansko ready for further research, up to 102 absolute standard measures on the skull and 111 absolute standard measures on the postcranial skeleton were taken wherever it was possible.

The following results are presented:

1. At all examined burial grounds, the number of children skeletons predominated over the number of adult men and women skeletons. At The Burial Ground Around the Church and The North-East Outer Precincts the numbers of men predominated over the numbers of women; while at The South Outer Precincts and graves found at territory of the fortified settlement it was the other way round. The situation is reflected by extremely high values of masculine index at the two former burial grounds (1859, 1833). The highest number of inhabitants died between 7 months and 6 years of life. At all burial grounds men and women died most often between the age of 30 to 40. The average age of men ranged between 38 (The Burial Ground Around the Church) and 43 (The

South Outer Precincts). Women reached the average age of 38 years at The Burial Ground Around the Church, the graves found at territory of the fortified settlement and South Outer Precincts up to 39 years at the North-East Outer Precincts. The average age of children at all burial grounds was 5 to 6. The estimated settlement period at The Burial Ground Around the Church being of 100 to 50 years, the population could range between 98 to 196, at graves found at territory of the fortified settlement it was 67 inhabitants for a 50-year-settlement period, at The North-East Outer Precincts it was 18 inhabitants for a 50-year-settlement period and 45 inhabitants at The South Outer Precincts for a 100-year-settlement period.

2. The height of the men buried at The Burial Ground Around the Church was absolute (171,4 cm), while at the other three burial grounds the height of men was above the average (168, 1 - 170,3 cm). Also the height of women was above the average (157 - 158,8 cm). Based on average values, the skull of men and women of the Pohansko burial grounds can be characterised as medium elongated to elongated, narrow to extremely narrow, in both absolute and relative values. The height of the braincase was medium. The face of men and women was medium high, the same applying to the upper part of the face. Medium high eye-sockets and medium sized nasal apertures achieve the basic metric characteristics of Pohansko inhabitants.

The sex differentiation was manifested in the following features: men had significantly longer, wider and higher braincases, their noses were higher and wider than those of women.

The postcranial skeleton was characterised by a strong clavicle with a significant bend, the men's scapula was long and the women's was of medium length with a kidney-shaped *cavitas glenoidalis scapulae* showing a concave depression. The forearm of Pohansko men and women was, compared to the humerus, of medium length. The humerus and the ulna were rounded at the cross-section. The sacrum was usually long and narrow in men, and short and wide in women. The femur of men from all Pohansko burial places was characterised by a weak pilaster. All the women had femurs without pilaster, except for those from The Burial Ground Around the Church. The upper cross-section of male femur diaphysis was flat, in females it was (with some exceptions at The Burial Ground Around the Church) extremely flat. The tibia was triangular at the cross-section. The sex differentiation in the dimensions of postcranial skeleton was mostly significant to statistically relevant.

3. Comparing 7 skull dimensions of men and women from the 4 Pohansko burial grounds by cluster analysis with 11 Old Slavonic burial grounds from other sites in the Czech Republic, it was found that men of Pohansko (Around the Church) were closest to the men of Mikulčice - Klášterisko, 11th Church and Stará Kouřim. Women from The Burial Ground Around the Church were quite far from those of the other compared sites. Men and women of the other three burial grounds of Pohansko showed extreme values and were therefore excluded by cluster analysis to the edge as being the least similar to all other compared sites. Comparing four sites of Pohansko and 34 Old Slavonic sites of the whole Europe (6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries) (on the basis of the same skull dimensions as in the previous analysis) showed the homogeneity of old Slavonic male population in this country and especially in Moravia.