

Abstract:

The thesis pursues those aspects of the material culture found in settlements and burial sites that are connected to the manifestation of social elites in the Central European Barbaricum of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. The author will compile relevant sources and critically evaluate various approaches regarding the options for recognising the self-presentation of elites by means of material culture indicators as well as in terms of cultural anthropology. The results will then be compared to the ways elites manifest themselves in the preceding time period. The author will also submit a proposal of possible methodical procedures that would lead to a synthetic understanding of the self-presentation and prestige goods phenomena.