

The current state of archaeological research on Great Moravia can, with a bit of exaggeration, be described as archaeology of two faces. The archaeology of cemeteries and the archaeology of settlement situations in power centres of the Great Moravian state. This seemingly provocative division may symbolize a kind of dualism, represented in two levels. In part, there are naturally two completely different worlds in the sphere of the living and of the dead, but there is also the archaeological difference – in the representation of material culture. We find just a few objects that these two worlds have in common (with the exception of those either with functional and formative perfection or, on the contrary, with simplicity, that, at least till this time, cannot typologically be distinguished, such as knives or spindle whorls), or more precisely these common points are very rarely monitored and evaluated in settlement contexts. In my opinion, this fact can be of crucial importance while trying to create a general chronology of the period in question.

Archaeological evaluations of cemeteries, according to my knowledge, can be considered to be truly archaeological only if carried out on the basis of a stratigraphic analysis and, in the first phase, at least with the elaboration of some relative chronological sequences. The results from individual sites could then be mutually compared, or possibly interconnected, provided that only repeated phenomena with more individuals would enter this process. It is natural, that in the case of contemporary dating of Slavonic material culture, it is not possible to absolutely dismiss something, that has been developed by several generations of archaeologists. However, it all should be verified and divided into data, supported by repeated phenomena or by evaluated stratigraphic relations (if you like relative chronological sequences) and into conclusions, although logical and probable, but in reality still just hypotheses.

In strong contrast to cemeteries, there is the already mentioned other „wing“ of archaeology of „old Moravia“, in the form of a huge, for the greater part still unprocessed find collections from settlement excavations of (pre-, post-) Great Moravian power centres.