CHAPTER 5

The Inventory of the Burials and their Contents

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Introduction

At the cemetery male, female and children’s graves were registered, anthropological analysis was conducted on the 52 preserved skeletons. For 35 of them it was possible to determine the sex (14 men and 21 women). Among the 17 skeletons which were too poorly preserved to determine the sex of the deceased, 14 were of children and young people and 3 of adults (cf. A. Drozd-Lipińska, T. Kozłowski in this volume).

A certain number of the burials contained grave goods, typically limited to the costume of the deceased (temple rings, beads made of glass, precious stones, silver, and glass covered with gold foil, as well as knives, kaptorgi, rings, bracelets and belt fittings). Other kinds of artifacts which were quite frequent are coins and buckets. Parts of weapons were quite rare whereas merchants’ and weavers’ tools as well as and broken clay vessels were discovered sporadically.

The cemetery also contained features with rich grave goods but no human remains, as well as several pits that contained neither bone remains nor any grave goods. The shapes, dimensions and orientations of these pits suggest that they were cenotaphs. The burials uncovered at the Bodzia cemetery (Fig. 5.1) are presented individually in this section according to four basic groups of data.

The first group of data includes the features of the burial pit: 1—the absolute height of the upper preserved level, 2—the state of preservation, 3—the geographical orientation, 4—the outline and the filling, 5—the dimensions, 6—the structures inside the pit, 7—the stratigraphy.

The second group concerns the results of the anthropological analyses of the human remains conducted by Alicja Drozd-Lipińska and Tomasz Kozłowski.1 The following elements are listed for each feature: 1—the age and sex of the deceased, 2—the state of preservation of the bones, 3—the orientation of the body and its location in the grave as well as the position in which the body was

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1 Drozd 2007; Drozd, Kozłowski 2009.
The third group of information concerns the grave goods, grouped into the following categories: 1—costume and ornaments, 2—tools, 3—coins and equipment for trade, 4—weapons, 5—other categories (small finds which have inventory numbers).