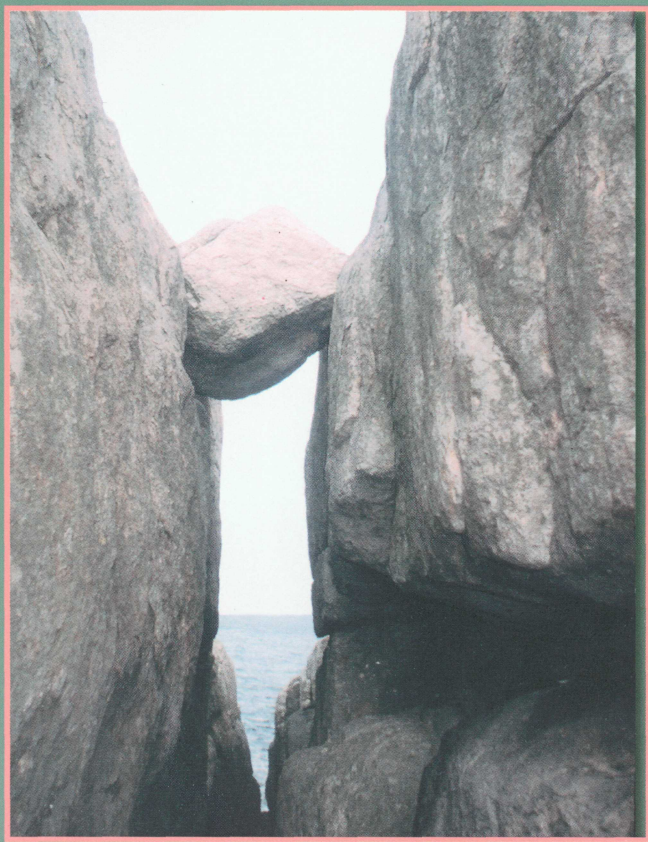


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# ETHNOLOGIA THRACICA 11

Ruzha Neykova  
**Shamanhood  
and the Bulgars**



Professor Marin Drinov Academic Publishing House

# STUDIA THRACICA II

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



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Senior Research Fellow Dr. Ruzha Neykova is an ethnomusicologist and ethnologist at the Institute of Folklore at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and a complex researcher of rites with extensive field experience in different folk music regions in Bulgaria. She is the author of numerous articles and studies on female rites and *nestinarstvo*. Her main research interests are folkloric traditions as a unity of musical and spiritual components cyclically determined over the centuries by the indigenous dimensions of faith.

### *Monographs:*

Фол В., Нейкова Р. 2000. *Огън и музика*. АИ „Марин Дринов“; Изд. „Тилия“. София (author of the second, autonomous section of the monograph);

Нейкова Р., Тодоров Т. – СбНУ 63. „Народни песни от Източното Старопланиние“. АИ „Марин Дринов“. София;

Нейкова Р. 2006. *Имало ли е шамани на Балканите?* – *Studia Thracica* 9. АИ „Марин Дринов“. София.



Fig. 1. Tuvan shaman, 1917  
(Grim 1983: 44)



Fig. 2. Shaman's cloak (leather, fur, fabric,  
metal). Altai, late nineteenth/early twentieth  
century (Alekseyenko et al. 1998: 168)

Fig. 3. Mask representing a shaman's spirit helper used in healing ceremonies (brass, leather), Evenk, nineteenth century (Alekseyenko et al. 1998: 149)

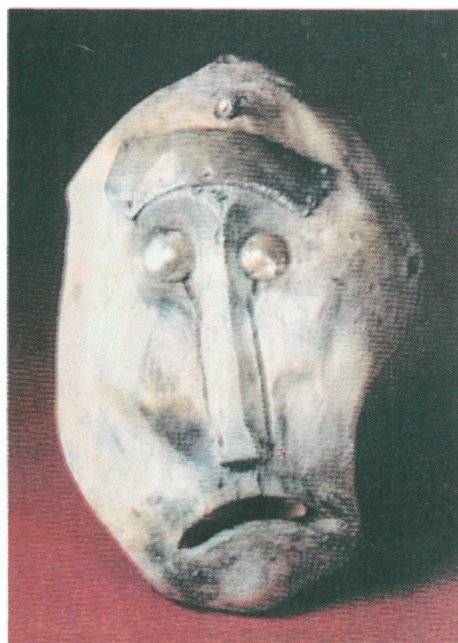
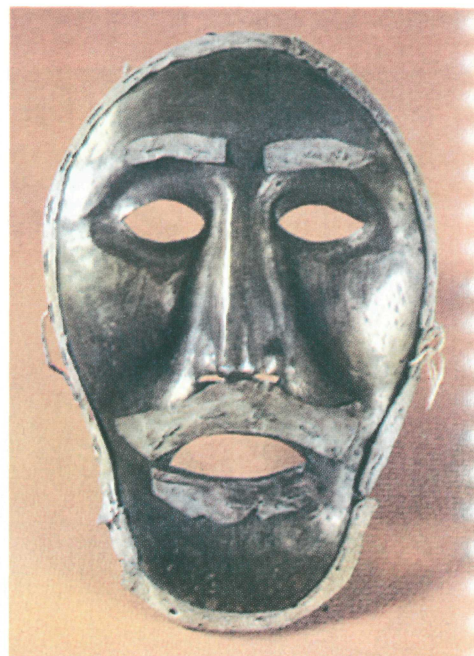


Fig. 4. "Wooden face" mask representing a shaman's spirit helper (wood, copper, bone), Nganasan, late nineteenth/early twentieth century (Alekseyenko et al. 1998: 147)



Fig. 5. "Domestic spirit", Ostyak (Racz 1977, No. 42)



Fig. 6. Drum rattle, Northern Ob-Ugrians (Racz 1977, No. 39)



Fig. 8. Kachin shamaness (Прокофьева 1961: 443)



Fig. 7. Drum rattle with a representation of a spirit helper, Yakut, late nineteenth/early twentieth century (Alekseyenko et al. 1998: 136)



Fig. 9. Ancient Thrace and Greece (Шаму 1979: 25)



Fig. 11. Dionysos and two Bacchantes, Attic black-figure vase, sixth century BC (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)



Fig. 10. Contemporary political map of the Balkans (<http://uk.encyarta.msn.com/encnet/features/mapcenter>)



Fig. 12. Fresco from the Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak, Bulgaria, fourth-third century BC



Fig. 13. Silver coin depicting a cithara, minted by the Chalcidian League, fourth century BC (Шаму 1979: фиг. 194)



Fig. 14. Representation of an aulos on a red-figure bell-shaped krater from Apollonia Pontica, fourth century BC – Archaeological Museum, Sozopol, Bulgaria (Димитров 2004: 159)



Fig. 15. Representation of a cithara on an Attic black-figure amphora, fifth century BC (Шаму 1979: фиг. 154)



Fig. 16. Representation of a tympanon and aulos on a red-figure krater from Apollonia Pontica, fourth century BC – Archaeological Museum, Sozopol, Bulgaria (Димитров 2004: 166)



Fig. 17. Dionysos, Satyros & Bakkhante, marble, first century AD, British Museum, London (<http://www.theoi.com/Gallery/R12.1.html>)



Fig. 18. Skyphos depicting a tympanon, fifth–fourth century BC, found near the village of Starosel, Bulgaria (Китов 2002: 16)



Fig. 19. Find from the necropolis at Apollonia Pontica, fourth century BC (Archaeological Museum, Sozopol, Bulgaria)



Fig. 20. Find from the necropolis at Apollonia Pontica, fourth century BC (Archaeological Museum, Sozopol, Bulgaria)



Fig. 21. Black-figure vase representing Dionysos with a cross-like sign with a dot on the skirt of his toga (Williams College Museum of Art)



Fig. 22. Cross-like sign with dots between the arms of the cross in the band around Dionysos and Maenad (Petropoulou, Dekopoulos 1987)

Fig. 23. Find from the necropolis at Apollonia Pontica, fourth century BC (Archaeological Museum, Sozopol, Bulgaria)

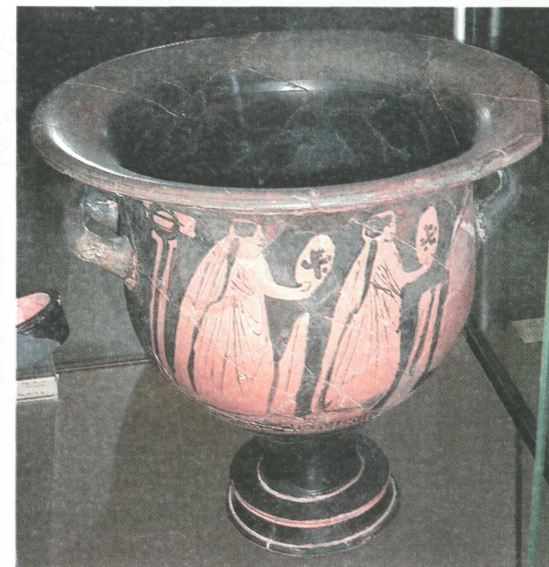


Fig. 24. Find from the necropolis at Apollonia Pontica, fourth century BC (Archaeological Museum, Sozopol, Bulgaria)



Fig. 25. Contemporary map of the Caucasus (<http://uk.encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/mapcenter>)



Fig. 27. Contemporary map of the Volga Region (<http://uk.encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/mapcenter>)



Fig. 26. Contemporary map of the Northern Black Sea Region including the Sea of Azov (<http://uk.encarta.msn.com/encnet/features/mapcenter>)



Fig. 28. The peoples of the Volga Region (Vikár, Bereczki 1989)

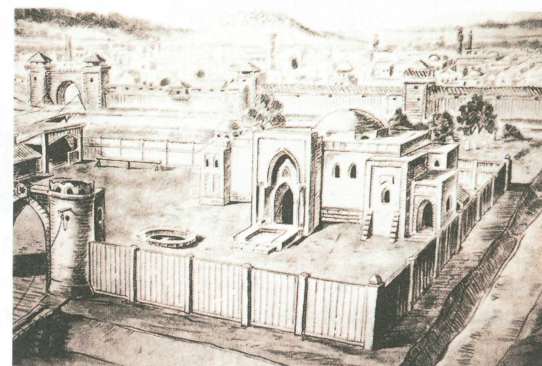


Fig. 29. Bilyar, capital of Volga Bulgaria in the twelfth-thirteenth centuries, reconstruction





Fig. 30. Stone hung on trees for fertility, village of Zayukovo, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005)

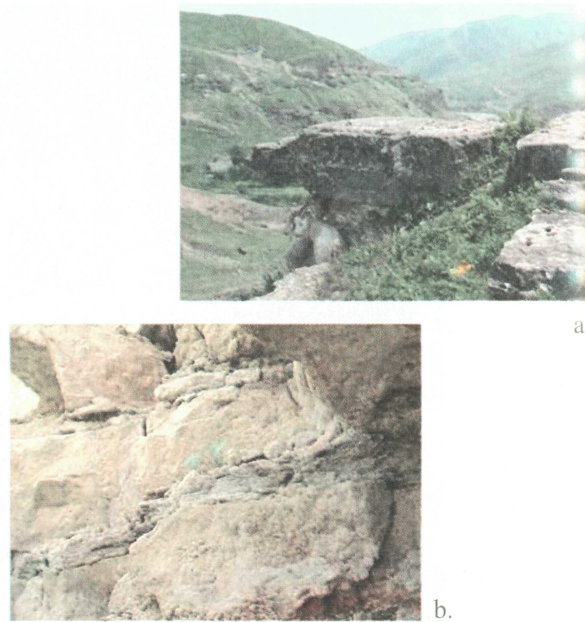


Fig. 31. (a.) Remains of a stone sanctuary near the village of Khabaz, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005); (b.) structure of the wall below the stone platform



Fig. 32. Wooden solar representation of a house, town of Baksan, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005)



Fig. 33. Wooden solar representation of a house, Chuvash ([http://www.cap.ru/cap/foto/old\\_chuvashia/page\\_01.htm](http://www.cap.ru/cap/foto/old_chuvashia/page_01.htm))



Fig. 34. Sacred oak-tree of Tūrā (struck by lightning or burned?) at the sanctuary near the ancient town of Bilyar, Tatarstan (RN August 2002)



Fig. 35. Sacred oak-tree of Tūrā struck by lightning at the sanctuary near the village of Staroe Timoshkino, Aksubay Region, Tatarstan (RN August 2002)



Fig. 36. Yupa, oak – tombstone of a man in the old graveyard of the village of Sabakaevo, located on an ancient kurgan, Mele-kess Region, Chuvashia (Трофимов 1993b: 161)



Fig. 37. Yupa, lime – tombstone of a woman in the graveyard of the Chuvash village of Yerepkino, Aksubay Region, Tatarstan (RN 2002)



Fig. 38. Yupa, oak – tombstone of a man in the graveyard of the Chuvash village of Yerepkino, Aksubay Region, Tatarstan (RN 2002)



Fig. 39. Yupa, lime – tombstone of a woman in the graveyard of the Chuvash village of Yerepkino, Aksubay Region, Tatarstan (RN 2002)

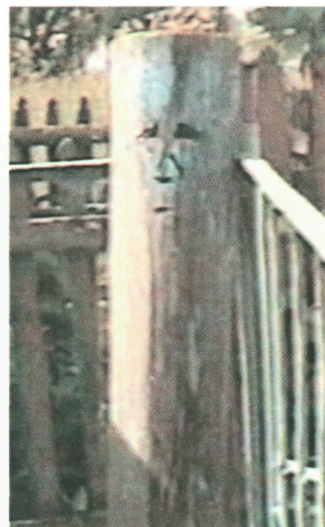


Fig. 40. Yupa, oak – tombstone of a man in the graveyard of the Chuvash village of Novoe Aksubaevo, Aksubay Region, Tatarstan (RN 2002)



Fig. 41. Yupa, stone – tombstone of a woman with a stylized *ama* breast ornament in the graveyard of the Chuvash village of Novoe Il'movo, Cheremshan Region, Tatarstan (Трофимов 1993b: 119)



Fig. 42. Yupa laid out in the home of the deceased ([http://www.cap.ru/cap/foto/old\\_chuvashia/2\\_10.JPG](http://www.cap.ru/cap/foto/old_chuvashia/2_10.JPG))



Fig. 43. Tombstones of a man (foreground) and a woman in the Khulam-Bezengi Region, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria; the middle part of the man's tombstone depicts two knives, a dagger and a rifle; the upper part of the woman's tombstone has traces of a breast ornament. Legend has it that a pair of lovers died here; the two tombstones are outside the graveyard, at a small crossroads (Кузнецова 1982, Fig. 77-1)

Fig. 44. Tombstone of a woman in the village of Rakevo, near Vratsa, Bulgaria, seventeenth-eighteenth century (Любенова 1996: № 45)



Fig. 45. Chartak house on a grave in the graveyard of the Chuvash village of Novoe Aksubaevo, Aksubay Region, Tatarstan (RN 2002)



Fig. 46. House-grave, village of Novo Bulgary, Astrakhan Region (on the estuary of the Volga River at the Caspian Sea), (RN 2002)

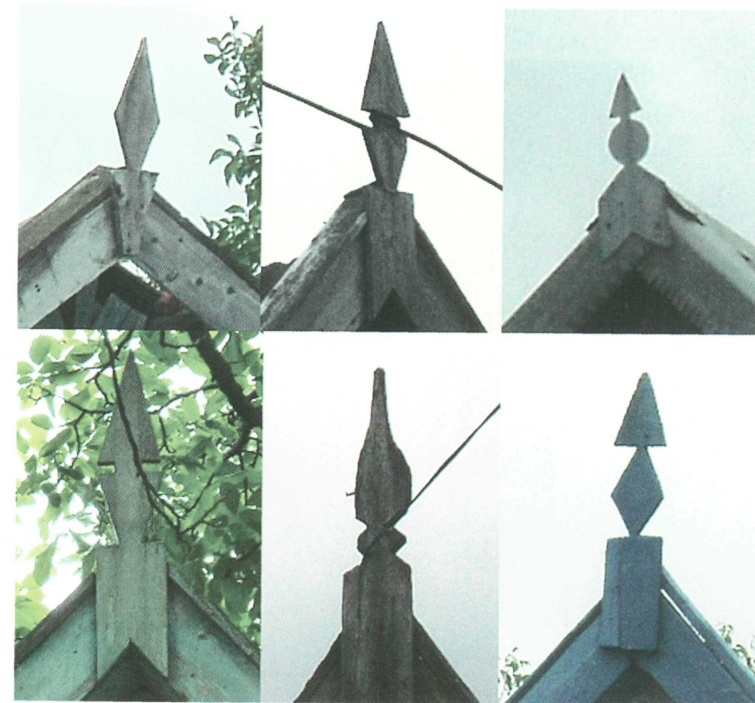


Fig. 47. "Spear points", Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005)

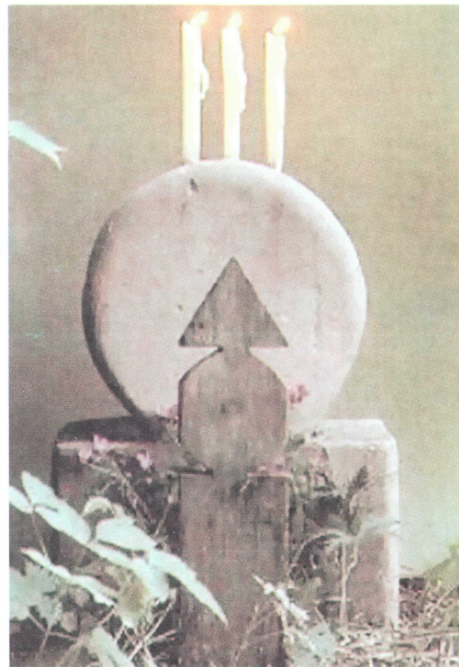


Fig. 48. Chuvash temporary tombstones placed on the day of the funeral, wood (Трофимов 1993b: 142, 231)

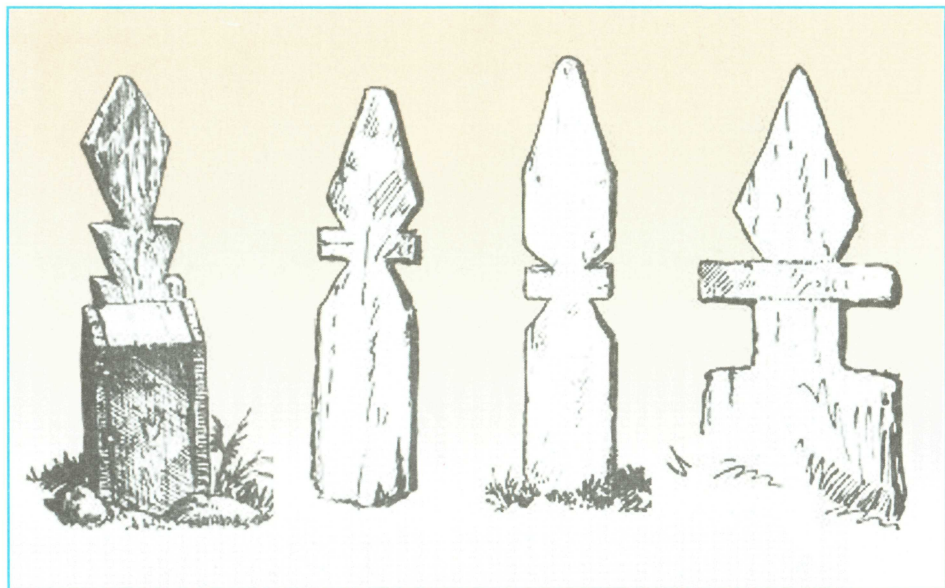


Fig. 49. Bulgarian temporary tombstones (Bulg. *kukli*, "dolls"; wood) placed on the day of the funeral (Енчев-Видю 1994: №: 271, 544, 646, 876)



Fig. 50. Tombstone of a man, village of Karagach, Prokhladny Region, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005)

Fig. 51. One of the columns (*yupa*) at the gates where sacrifices are offered (Chuvash) ([http://www.cap.ru/cap/foto/old\\_chuvashia/page\\_01.htm](http://www.cap.ru/cap/foto/old_chuvashia/page_01.htm))

Fig. 52. Bulgarian temporary tombstones (Bulg. *kukli*, "dolls"; wood) placed on the day of the funeral, town of Troyan, early twentieth century (Енчев-Видю 1994: №: 179, 180)

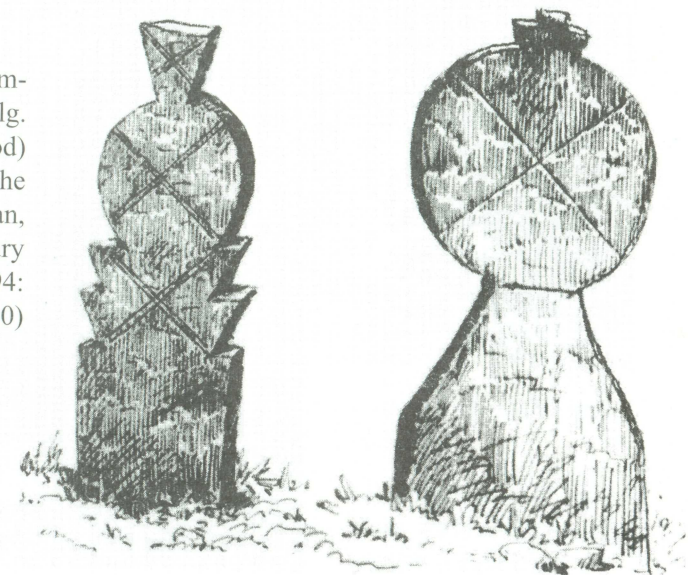




Fig. 53. Underground family tomb located near the remains of an old house, village of Verkhnyaya Balkaria, Cherek Region, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005)



Fig. 54. Another underground tomb in the same village – interior



Fig. 55, 56. Overground family tombs in the village of Verkhniy Chegem, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (RN 2005)



57. Mediaeval "town of the dead" by the village of Dargavs,  
Ossetia (Northern Caucasus)  
(<http://gallery.darial-online.ru/01.shtml>)

## ABBREVIATIONS

- АНТ – Татарска Академия на Науките  
 БТР – Български тълковен речник. София, Наука и изкуство, 1994.  
 ЕИМ – Етнографския институт с музей при БАН  
 ИИМ – Известия на Института за Музика  
 ИТТ I – Извори за историята на Тракия и Траките. Т. 1. С., АИ „Марин Дринов“, 1981  
 ИТТ II – Извори за историята на Тракия и Траките. Т. 2. С., Институт по тракология, АИ „Марин Дринов“, 2002  
 ИФ – БАН – Институт за фолклор към Българска академия на науките  
 КЧЭ – Краткая Чувашская энциклопедия. Чебоксары, Изд. Чувашский государственный институт гуманитарных наук (ЧГИГН), Чувашское книжное издательство, 2001  
 НПСС – Стоин В. Народни песни от Самоков и Самоковско. С., АИ „Марин Дринов“, 1975  
 СбНУ – Сборник за народни умотворения и народопис  
 СИБ – Качулев Ив. Народни песни от Североизточна България. Т. 2. София, АИ „Марин Дринов“, 1973  
 ТВ – Стоин, В. 1928. От Тимок до Вита. Изд. София, Министерството на народното просвещение  
 ТМ – Кацаров Г. И., Дечев Д. (съставители). Извори за старата история и география на Тракия и Македония. С., АИ „Марин Дринов“, 1949  
 ЧГИГН – Чувашский государственный институт гуманитарных наук  
 ЧНА – Чувашка национална академия  
 С.Е.Д. – Cassell's English Dictionary. London. Cassell & Co. Ltd., 1964.  
 О. Т. Д. – Oxford Talking Dictionary. The Learning Company, Inc. Copyright © 1998