amber bead, of cloud blue and other ornaments. With the disappearance of Brushed or Smoked pottery, the entire second half of the first millennium is associated with the use of a new ceramic type - Rusticated ware with a coarse applique surface (IIb. - gubdžaišči keramika).

On the eve of the Lithuanian state

Social and political transformations continue in the Late Iron Age (10th-13th centuries), particularly in western Lithuania. During the 9th and the mid-11th century, much of northern Europe, including the shores of the Baltic tribes, was being ravaged by the Vikings. The Scandinavian route to the East passed through the north-eastern Baltic lands. The rich hoards of the 9th-12th centuries, found in the territory of Lithuania, testify that the Daugava was a segment of the Scandinavian trade route. Most often, Viking attacks were directed at the richest Baltic land - the Old Prussian region of Samland. Conflicts between the Vikings and the Prussians and Curonsians were mentioned in 9th century written sources. Baltic style ornaments are found in Gotland, Helgeland and other sites. In the Baltic lands, the Vikings established colonies. At Viskiai in Semba there is a Scandinavian burial dating to the 9th-11th centuries. A similar colonists were in Grodkwir (near Liapa, Latvia), and a big settlement near Tius (Elblag, Poland). According to recent archaeological data, two sites in Lithuania - Palanga and a settlement in southern Klaipėda, Žandė - may be considered as international trade factories founded to serve 10th-11th century commercial expansion. Both of these settlements occupy an area of around 10-12 ha, both are found on the coast, and their social structure (on the basis of burial evidence) was not related to agriculture. The "Annales Quendlinbursenberg" tell the story of the expedition and death of the missionary Bruno Bonifatius in 1009, and is the first mention of the name Lithuania (Lithuana). The nucleus of the embryonic state was the tribal union of the Lithuanians and their western neighbours, the upland Lithuanians (Aukštaitai). In the narrow sense of the word, the land of Lithuania stretched between the Nemunas and Neris rivers. Some historians propose that the family estate of King Mindaugas formed the southern part of this territory. In this former territory of the Eastern Lithuanian Barrow Culture, between the Nemunas and the Neris, are found the early historical power centres of Lithuania: Kerlavas, Trakai, and Vilna. It is believed that Lithuania’s name originated from the river name "Litava", a small tributary to the Neris, flowing about 25 km north-west of Kerlavas. Originally this name may have been associated with a small bordering tribe, and was later adopted by neighboring tribes. Early in the 10th-11th centuries, in Lithuania and in the entire Eastern Baltic region, great advances were made in the sphere of material culture. The two field and primitive three field rotation systems became dominant in agriculture; more effective sickles, rotating mill-stones, and ploughshares make their appearance, and more productive grain crops are introduced. In the 13th-14th century stratigraphic layer at the hill-fort of Matliaga, a total of 20 cereals cups (both summer and winter crops) have been found. In 1254-1255, the Russian annals note that the Russian army attacked a village in Javoniskis land, which consisted of just two fields, but the amount of grain was sufficient to feed all of the soldiers and horses. In Late Iron Age

hill-forts, around 45-55% per cent of all animal bones belong to domestic animals. A large increase in the number of horse burials shows that horses were raised both for husbandry and for war purposes. Separate crafts can be distinguished in this period. New shapes of instruments and weapons are observed (e.g., axes with a wide blade and a blunt end, battle-knives, swords, simple round helms). German and Russian annals describe Lithuanian weapons as valuable war booty. Artisan homesteads are found in settlements adjacent to the large hill-forts (at Aukštuva, Baisogala, Kėdainiai, Vilnius). Individual jeweller’s graves have been identified. One grave at Sargėnai (Kasanava) contained nearly 220 scrap pieces of bronze, a total of 5 kg. During the 11th century, wheel-turned pottery comes into use in Lithuania. The graves of wealthy men (merchants?) in the 11th-12th centuries contain scales and weights. Local currencies are used in the territory of Lithuania, for example ingots weighing about 100 gr were circulated as money in the 11th century. Hoards of such ingots (over 30 find-spots) are found near the major Lithuanian centres of the 13th-14th centuries. In Vilnius (Rūdiškės and Trinopolis) two hoards have been found, with a total mass of 67.5 kg. Early in the 2nd millennium, the diversity in the material and spiritual culture of separate Lithuanian tribes begins to diminish. Work-tools, weapons, ceramics and ornaments all become more uniform. From the late 12th - early 13th centuries, a common burial practice occurs throughout Lithuania in flat burial grounds. Very large hill-forts and even multiple hill-fort complexes (Kernave, Vilna) begin to appear. Settlements associated with the larger hill-forts occupied an area as large as several hectares (Aukštuva, Birstonas, Imbradas, Kėdainiai, Kernave, Vilnius).

The Paragudis Barrow Cemetery

The Paragudis barrow cemetery is located on the left bank of the Jūra river, in Siaulė district, Aukšteliai area. Excavations of the cemetery were started by Vilnius Pedagogical Institute in 1982, and continued by Vilnius University in 1985-1989. All of the preserved 11 barrows were excavated and a few trenches were made.

The earth piles of barrows were 0.5 to 1.6 m in height. Barrows were in the shape of a circle, a somewhat irregular circle, and, in rare cases, an oval. The majority of barrows were 7-12 m in diameter. Some rings of earth in the shape of a circle, were found at the edge of barrows. In most cases, the stone rings had attachments of one or a few structures, semi-circular in shape. Some barrows had two stone rings, an internal and an external one. The rings were constructed from stones of different size, with no spaces between the stones. Stone rings represented a magic borderline which separated the world of the living and the dead, and protected the buried individuals against evil forces. The buried individuals were supposed to be protected by fire rituals, traces of which are in a tiny charred particles and charcoal - can be seen at the bottom of the barrows. Adjacent barrows of Paragudis were sometimes connected with stone pavements - paths. One barrow yielded a 6563 barrow individual. The first buried individual was laid on the back under the barrow, while other barrows are found in different places of the earth pile. The majority of buried individuals had been buried with their heads directed to the west, quite a number of them were exactly northwest, and a few to the south. A total of 65 barrows dating to the Roman period have been excavated at Paragudis. The barrows were supplied with grave goods, which were pre-determined by the sex of the buried individual. Male barrows included work tools (socketed axes or as axes with a narrow blade and a blunt end, knives with a bent blade), weapons (spearheads), ornaments (bronze eye-type brooches of the Old Prussian series, less frequently - of the primary series, a Roman belt type brooch, iron crook-like pins, bracelets with bound-shaped terminals, bracelets with a round cross-section, bracelets with a quadraangular cross-section and rounded terminals, a neck-ring with loop-shaped terminals). Particularly rich in grave goods was male burial 1 in barrows XX, which yielded 10 items. Female barrows sometimes include working tools (knives with a bent back, and more rare patterned brooch spiral, disk temple ornaments, one spiral temple ornament, an enamel necklace, neck-rings with trumpet-shaped terminals, eye