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# At the crossroad of cultures - an early Hellenistic chamber tomb with paintings on the Western Black Sea

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## Résumé

One of the most spectacular monumental funerary assemblages currently under research on the northern peripheries of the Macedonian Kingdoms is *Documaci* Mound. Built around the end of the 4th c. BC on the outskirts of Kallatis (a Greek city established on the Western Black Sea), the monument consists of a 50 m diameter tumulus, surrounded by a stone retaining wall, rising to 8 m in height, which was topped by a statue visible against the horizon of the Greek city at the edges of the antique cemetery. An 8 m long *dromos* was leading to a chamber tomb bearing still the traces of the oldest surviving polychrome wall painting in modern Romania. A complex and unusual array of constructions identified in the embankment suggests the implementation of a coordinated construction program structured around the monumental statue – resembling the contemporaneous architectural and political strategies of early Hellenistic royals known from Amphipolis, Chaeronea and Belevi. The monument represents an occasion to discuss the various cultural influences coming from the Thracian, Scythian, Greek and Macedonian environment at a time of increased elite expressivity. The complexity of the structure called for an equally multifaceted interdisciplinary investigation combining excavation with architectural studies, IR imagery, pigments and plaster analyses, 3D scanning, photogrammetry and geophysics, the results of which will be presented here.

**Mots-Clés:** black sea, funerary monument

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