

**ETHNO-CULTURAL PROCESSES IN UPPER DON  
REGION IN SARMATIAN TIME  
(2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY BC - 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY AD)**

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The article analyzes three chronological groups of Sarmatian time sites in forest-steppe Don region. Based on their study, it is possible to define how far the Sarmatians spread to the North along the banks of Tanais-Don, which is up to northern areas of present-day Lipetsk oblast. It is also possible to reveal a complex process of Sarmatian culture transformation as a result of its adaptation to natural environment of the forest-steppe and growing contacts with settled forest-steppe population. Therefore it is concluded that these processes in Upper Don region in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD led to formation of a new ancient ethnos, represented by the culture of Upper Don burial sites.