

Russian archaeologists in Gnezdovo near Smolensk made discoveries that help better understand the events of the 10th century and even “add” gaps in the first Russian annals – “Tale of Bygone Years”, writes RIA Novosti.

According to historian Vasily Novikov, in the middle of the 10th century, part of the mounds in Gnezdovo was destroyed. Probably, this happened by order of Princess Olga, who controlled Russia on behalf of the young son Svyatoslav. Archaeologists believe that this is how the princess fought with the local nobility, which had her dynasty and power on an important trade route “from the Varangians to the Greeks”. Tearing off the mounds, symbolizing the connection of the clans with the Earth, Olga deprived the rivals of their authority and rights to the territory.

In the nesting, dozens of burials were investigated: both with cremation and with burials, some of the remains were transferred to other places. Scientists note that the destruction of the mounds did not occur for economic needs – the land was needed by residents much later, which confirms the version of the political decision.

Since written sources of the 10th century have almost not preserved, archeology remains the only way to find out the details. It was here that in 1949 they found the most ancient inscription in Russian. New excavations continue and, according to researchers, can shed light into the early history of Rus’ and supplement the annals.