

## About a Group of Bronze Figurines

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The author presents two unpublished bronze horse figurines from the collection of the Museum of History in the town of Popovo. A very important detail is the fork at the end of the tail that is interpreted as a serpent head on which the horses are standing (Fig. 1). The author comments on three more figurines, which are published but dated incorrectly in the 8th - 9th centuries; these figurines are also standing on a horizontal line (Fig. 3). This line could be interpreted as a serpent body only in one of the cases - the image of a griffin-horse, whose tail is bitten by a serpent (Fig. 3 1). This

subject represents the universal idea of the contradiction and the fight between the two major forces - heaven and underworld, personified by the horse and the serpent. The figurine with the two birds from Veliko Tarnovo (Fig. 3 3) is similar to the scene depicted on the head of a bronze pin from Chersonesus (Fig. 4) representing a simplified version of the early Christian scene of two peacocks drinking from the source of life. This analogy dates it to the 5th - 6th centuries. The rest of the figurines could be dated to the 10th - 11th centuries, a date that is hypothetical due to the lack of analogies.