
ON THE SCULPTED ZOOMORPHIC IMAGES — CELTIC OR THRACIAN

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(S u m m a r y)

In the early 1960s, a discussion flared in archaeological circles on a specific type of sculpted animal figures, dated most generally to the 4th-3rd century BC. They are schematic and depict the torso of a ram or horse, ending with an elongated rectangular body. Some researchers believed these to be remnants of the ancient Celtic culture in the present-day Bulgarian lands, while others defined them as Thracian, sepulchral, sacral objects. Ten years later, I added two more figures of a similar type from the region of Turgovishte which, however, were images of dogs (definitely belonging to a large breed). Here another dog image is proposed, but it is with schematic outlines and is decorated with incised solar and zoomorphic ornaments (fishes). On the whole, this find is closer to finds known from France, Northern Italy and elsewhere, the only difference being that the animal depicted is a dog, not a ram or a horse. This gives support to the view that their appearance in the Balkan Peninsula was the consequence of the Celtic invasion, but they were accepted by the Thracians, i.e. a natural cultural symbiosis entailed.