

The mounted warrior and his companions (horse, dog) in Eurasian tombs
(4th–1st millennia BC)

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Abstract:

It is our intention to analyse the importance of the mounted warrior’s companions in the graves, from several key perspectives.

The first perspective refers to the archaeological finds in the funerary contexts, as an expression of the horse’s and the dog’s importance to both fighting and hunting, but also a conveyance to the “afterlife”, and b) another perspective refers to the figurative representations of the horse and dog in the art of the ancient peoples, as a reflection of their beliefs, myths and legends as well as their artistic abilities.

Special attention will be paid to specific manners of the representation of horse in the zoomorphic styles of the peoples of Eurasia.

The analysis of the various types of sources, from the vast area between the Pacific and the Atlantic, throughout a long period (4th–1st millennia BC), will outline both the common and the specific features of the beliefs and mentalities of the numerous peoples and different civilizations of Eurasia regarding these noble animals.