
Iconography of the Hero Horseman: Evolution and continuity of the imagery of the horse rider in the plain of Philippi in eastern Macedonia, north Greece, from the Iron Age to the Late Roman and Christian era

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Résumé

The evolution of the iconography of the Hero – Horseman is discussed in the current study. Even though representations of the Hero are depicted on marble funerary stele in specific iconographic types, the majority of which is dated to the end of the Roman period, we should seek those types in earlier iconographies. Several examples are given after studying the rock art engravings in northern Greece and more specifically through the study of the rock art sites located in the plain of Philippi. The figure of the horseman, either as a hunter or a warrior, prevails. Equestrian themes can be identified in sites such as "Prophet Helias" in Philippi, at Mt. Pangaion and along the river valley located in the Agitis Gorge in Serres. The representation of the horse rider and its wider cultural and iconographic context probably survived during the Macedonian and later Roman years where under the general spirit of religious syncretism, he was identified with local Thracian deities and others of the Greek Pantheon.

Mots-Clés: Petroglyphs, North Greece – Funerary Stele – Horse Rider, Sanctuaries

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