

THE METAL AGES AND MEDIEVAL PERIOD

V.V. Bobrov¹ and P.V. German²

¹*Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences,
Pr. Akademika Lavrentieva 17, Novosibirsk, 630090, Russia
E-mail: klae@kemsu.ru*

²*Institute of Human Ecology, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences,
Pr. Leningradsky 10, Kemerovo, 650065, Russia
E-mail: lithos@mail.ru*

**AN ANTHROPOMORPHIC HORNFIGURINE
FROM THE NORTHERN FOOTHILLS
OF THE KUZNETSKY ALATAU, SOUTHERN SIBERIA***

The article introduces an unusual anthropomorphic horn figurine, found out of context in the foothills of the Kuznetsky Alatau and owned by the Tisul local museum, Kemerovo Region. The iconographic and stylistic analysis of the figurine suggests an Okunev attribution (early 2nd millennium BC). Given the archaeological situation in the Kuznetsky Alatau at that time, an Okunev migration is possible. Certain artistic devices have not hitherto been described in the prehistoric art of Siberia.

Keywords: *Prehistoric art, portable art, anthropomorphic representations, iconography, Bronze Age, Okunev culture.*

A unique artifact that was accidentally discovered in the Dudet River is kept in the Tisul local museum**. It was found by N.N. Tarasov, a Tisul citizen, while fishing. The artifact was located under the water, approximately 10 m from the bank. The area of the find represents a peculiar combination of natural features. In the Tisul District, Kuznetsky Alatau, the largest and most picturesque lake in the Kuznetsk-Salair mountain ridge is situated: Lake Bolshoy Berchikul. The southern and western banks of the lake represent the mountain taiga environment, while the northern bank is formed by low hills alternating with

pediment terraces vegetated by mixed forest and birch groves. The eastern bank represents a lowland adjoining the Dudet floodplain. The river comes close to the lake. The small town of Gorodok is situated on this neck of land. Here the river is dammed, raising the water level in Lake Bolshoy Berchikul.

One of the authors made archaeological surveys and excavations on the lake-banks in 1973–1978 and 1984. The sites were mostly located on the western and northern banks. The established short-term sites were attributed to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze period. Small technocomplexes were dated to the early Middle Ages. A burial mound was assigned to the Tagar Culture of the early Iron Age (Bobrov, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1983, 1986, 1997). It should be noted that during survey works in Gorodok in 1984, V.V. Bobrov revealed

*Supported by the Russian Science Foundation (Project No. 14-50-00036).

**The authors thank M.V. Banshchikova, Head of the Museum, for the opportunity to examine this artifact.

two late Bronze Age sites belonging to the population which originated from the Middle Yenisei. Recently, field works on the western bank of the lake were resumed, and two archaeological sites yielding Bronze Age artifacts have been discovered (German, Savelieva, 2010; Marochkin et al., 2011).

The available data have made it possible to form a general concept of the historical stages of human occupation of Lake Bolshoy Berchikul during the early historic and medieval periods. However, there are still some “blank spots”. How should we correlate the incidental Dudet find with the historical-chronological picture of the area? This is a rather complicated question, because the artifact was found outside of the archaeological context. Therefore, examination of the artifact should be limited by the iconographic and stylistic analysis and by the analogue method. In this situation, it is hardly reasonable to employ the comparative-typological approach.

The Dudet artifact (Fig. 1, 2) represents an anthropomorphic figurine that was carved on a large horn with its tip cut off. The shape of the artifact follows that of the horn. The figurine is 120 mm high. The lower portion of the figurine was broken in antiquity. Some parts of the horn were exfoliated. The cross-section of the upper portion is nearly circular (23×27 mm), the middle and lower cross-sections are ovoid (27×18 and 35×16 mm).

The artifact can be tentatively divided into four surfaces. The upper end of the narrow arc-shaped surface shows a carved relief image of a human head (31 mm high and 23 mm wide). The top of the head was intentionally flattened and a cone-shaped depression was made (16 mm deep and 11 mm in upper diameter). Despite the flat top, the outline of the face is close to oval. The slightly prominent cheekbones are noteworthy. The face was made through concave relief. The forehead, nose, and mouth are in one plane. The large almond-shaped eyes, with big pupils in the form of pits, represent the most expressive part of this anthropomorphic image. Their concave relief is made by cutting the outlines that simultaneously form the straight and short nose and eyebrows. One of the eyebrows is slightly uplifted and curved; the other is wavy, and additionally accentuated with a shallow line on the forehead.



Fig. 1. Anthropomorphic horn figurine from the Dudet River (Tisul District, Kemerovo Region).

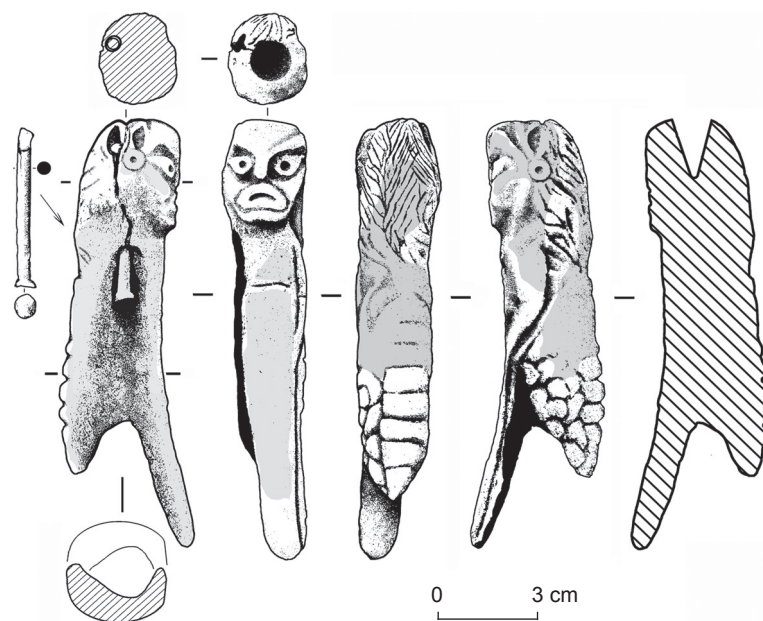


Fig. 2. Drawing of the anthropomorphic figurine (damaged areas are shown in gray).

The carved line shows a crescent-shaped mouth with disproportionately thick lips. This carved line also emphasizes the slightly protruding cheekbones. The corners of the mouth are turned down, which, together with the expression in the eyes, adds a fierce look to this anthropomorphic character. The lower lip-outlines stress the heavy mandible with a straight and wide chin. The lower part of the face is formed by the relief transition to the neck and body. A concave dimple is shown on the chin.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1034261>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1034261>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)