Finch & Co



THREE EARLY BRONZE AGE CARPATHIAN DECORATED ANTLER CHEEK PIECES TO A BRIDLE BIT

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CIRCA 2500 – 1800 B.C
SIZE : 21.5 CM , 12 CM , 11.5 CM – 8½ INS , 4¾ INS , 4½ INS (RESPECTIVELY)

LITERATURE

THESE FINELY DECORATED ANTLER HORN CHEEK PIECES WERE USED FOR CHARIOT HORSES . THE HOLES WERE FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF REINS AND THE MOUTH PIECE OF LEATHER .
IN THE EARLY CENTURIES OF THE SECOND MILLENNIUM THE CARPATHIANS , BENEFITING FROM A VAST HINTERLAND RICH IN RESOURCES OF COPPER AND GOLD CREATED THE MOST ADVANCED 'BARBARIAN' CULTURE OF THEIR TIME . COMBINING THE METALLURGICAL SKILLS OF CENTRAL GERMANY AND THE ORE DEPOSITS , THE TRANSYLVANIAN METAL SMITHS ADDED THEIR OWN CRAFTSMANSHIP AND SKILL AT INCISED ORNAMENT . THEY LIVED IN LARGE COMMUNITIES AND LIKE THEIR STEPPE NEIGHBOURS USED CHARIOTS . THEY TRADED OVER LONG DISTANCES AND THEIR INFLUENCE REACHED ALL PARTS OF THE CONTINENT , TO DENMARK , ITALY , GREECE , AND INFLUENCED THE DESIGN OF WEAPONRY AND FITTINGS AS FAR AWAY AS THE BRITISH ISLES .