Finch & Co



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

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