

**Thracian Heritage in the Regional History Museum – Sliven: about  
the Semantics and the Functions of the “Female Objects”  
in the King’s Funeral**

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(Summary)

The article comments the semantics and the functions of Thracian metal engravings in the collection of the Regional History Museum – Sliven, acquired predominantly throughout the study of some rich graves in the region of Sliven. Marriage is a form of transition from a particular social status to a different one. Through the marriage the hero joins the goddess and turns into a god-man – the highest position in society which is available only for the king. From ideological point of view wedding is a form of choosing of the ruler by the god. The ritual burial of female objects might be interpreted as a sacred symbolic signifier of a marriage between the diseased ruler and the Great Goddess. Its meaning implies the new birth of the ruler after his death. The elements of the opposition birth-death in the mythological consciousness are equal as elements of the general structure of the rites of birth, marriage, death. This is necessary in providing the main eschatological reason for the existence of the tomb as a cult building – to secure a new birth of the deceased ruler in the outer world.

**Keywords:** “female objects”; *podanipter*; *hydria*; *lekane*; king’s burial

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