

EAA 2013 abstract

ID: 318

Theme: Interpreting the Archaeological Record

Session: Animal utilized, processed, depicted: large mammal exploitation by prehistoric hunter-gatherers

Title: Large Feline Representations on Chalcolithic Pottery (Cucuteni-Tripolye Civilisation)

Abstract:

Depictions of large felines on Chalcolithic pottery (Cucuteni and Tripolye cultures) are described in terms of morphology and symbolism. In the settlements of the Cucuteni and Tripolye cultures there have been discovered few feline representations, and yet we consider that in the people imagery these animals seem to occupy an important position.

The lion skeletal remains are missing in the Cucuteni-Tripolye archaeozoological assemblages, and are extremely rare in samples of contemporary sites in the neighbourhood (e.g. Usatovo - Ukraine, Karanovo VI - Bulgaria).

Cucuteni-Tripolye feline representations are not painted realistically enough that we can identify with accuracy the specie/s; the painters represented rather fantastic stylised animals illustrating cosmogonic beliefs. The lion depictions on pottery could represent solar and/or power symbols.

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