

Abstract:

The present master thesis focusses on the iconography of the decorative programme of Macedonian tombs dated from the second half of the 4th century BCE to the first half of the 2nd century BCE. The main objective is to detect the artistic principles of the Macedonian art applied to funerary monuments of local elites. To attain this aim it is necessary to adopt a complex approach which would allow for analysing in detail the various tomb decoration types; such an approach has never been applied so far. The main research tool used throughout this thesis is a profound analysis of individual elements of the tombs' decoration. The study is specifically concerned with the frequency of the individual motifs, their chronological development, and their possible meanings. Other questions include the iconographical differences between male and female tombs, variations between royal and aristocratic sepulchres, comparison of profane and funerary art, and last but not least, the possible transference of motives both from or to other cultural areas.

Keywords:

iconography, Ancient Greece, Macedonia, Hellenistic period, tumulus, tombs, wall-paintings