

Abstract

In this diploma thesis I will deal with symbolism and meanings of exotic cat beasts in different spheres of the Roman Empire. First part will emphasize cat beasts in general. Familiarization with species and subspecies of these beasts and their appearance in time of the greatest territorial expansion of the Roman Empire. In the next main chapter, which contain several sections, I will look into their effect on different parts of people's life (art, funerary context, entertainment etc.). Part of these chapters will be also comparison of the impact of cat beasts on cultures around Roman Empire, on the basis of which I want to evaluate which parts of this impact Romans could adopt and which part are their own. In the end part of thesis, I will focus on archaeological findings related directly with exotic cat beasts. In the very end this work contain also bibliography list of used literature and list of illustrations.

Key words

Cat beasts, Roman Empire, culture, art, propaganda, arena, gladiator, lion, leopard, tiger, impact.