



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Experimental study of specialized weaponry from the Bronze Age high status burials of the Armenian Highlands

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Abstract

Archaeology of the Armenian Highlands demonstrates a wide distribution of specialized weaponry in the Middle and Late Bronze Age. In Armenian archaeology, no attempts have been made for a comprehensive and detailed study of the metal composition, production technology, and reconstruction of possible usage models of specialized Bronze Age weaponry. The Experimental Archaeology Laboratory team at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the NAS RA has conducted extensive research on Bronze Age weaponry in Armenia using experimental archaeology methods. We have studied the complexity and labor intensity of production, and through field tests and HEMA (Historical European Martial Arts) battle modeling, proposed possible reconstructions of ancient weapon usage techniques. Hypotheses have been put forward about its significance in the life of ancient society. Bronze Age weaponry from the territory of Armenia can be considered evidence of high social complexity, military specialization, and distant economic contacts of the Bronze Age. The professional organization of production indicated by these artifacts suggests the existence of a military aristocracy, and these weapons are found buried together with elite warriors, indicating their status and power.

Keywords

Bronze Age, Armenian Highlands, Warfare, Experimental archaeology, Funeral rite

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