

Abstract

Achaemenid adaptations in Late Classical and Hellenistic silver vessels from Macedonia

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Late Classical and Hellenistic silver vessels from Macedonia form a corpus of both local products and possible imports from other metalworking centres of the ancient world. This paper focuses on the presentation and discussion of the Achaemenid forms and decorative motifs adopted in silverware from Macedonia, in an attempt to investigate the various influences which contributed to the formation of a Macedonian style in the metalworking craft. In examining the evidence offered by the study of silverware, this paper also discusses the question of the routes through which Achaemenid art penetrated ancient Macedonia. Given that Macedonia was in close contact with the Persians from an early period of its history, namely since Archaic times, and as a result of the expansion of Alexander III in the East, were there direct influences from Achaemenid Persia? Or did Achaemenid artistic trends reach Macedonia via the Ionian coast, a region where the indigenous (Greco-local) art was a ready recipient of Achaemenid influences at the time of the Persian expansion and beyond?