

Thesis abstract

Wawrzyniec Miścicki

*The figure of warrior in vase painting of the Archaic Greece. Warfare, symbolism, and social role*

Supervisor: prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka

Date: 17.04.2017

Thesis constitutes the very first attempt in contemporary science to describe warfare imagery in the Greek vase painting of the Archaic Period. The issues discussed in this work pertain to the analysis of warfare, the figure of warrior in art, its symbolism and relations with the community, as well as the relation of perception of the sphere of war to its reproduction in image, both formal and ideological. The main research problem was the confrontation of iconographic analysis with the theories of Greek warfare presented within the academic discourse, primarily concerned with the issue of the existence of hoplite phalanx formation in this period.

The main basis of the study was an analysis of more than 1500 artefacts of Greek vase painting, using an interdisciplinary methodology based on semiotics, theories of Ernst Gombrich, post-structuralist analysis of images and theory of archaeology. Though it, a detailed classification of the scenes was made based on the types of pictorial schemes used for their construction, and this allowed for further study of the changes of the signs on syntagmatic and paradigmatic axes of images. This enabled the creation of system of warfare imagery in the vase painting allowing to better understand both the perception of this sphere in Greek society as well as the patterns of rendering it by painters.

The results of analysis led to revision of the model of reconstruction of Greek warfare in the Archaic Period, confirming the theories rejecting the presence of the phalanx in this era, as well as verifying the historicity of such elements used in the construction of scenes as Boeotian shield or chariot. It has been shown that warfare imagery is coherent and homogeneous, as well as it is dominated by the ideology of the elite. However, the 5th c. BC brings abrupt changes to this imagery which could be linked to parallel changes in perception of war and realities of warfare in the Ancient Greece.

Wawrzyniec Miścicki