

Thoughts on Funerary Rituals for Macedonian Élites

Burial monuments of Macedonian élites share certain features even as they display baffling variety in terms of size, configuration, and embellishment. Attempts at discerning mortuary customs have heretofore failed to reach generally valid conclusions. In this paper I make no claims to have solved the problem. Rather, I will focus on certain features common to selected tombs that suggest some special activity associated with burial practices. The point of departure is the *ekphora* and reflections on its role in ceremonial activities. Several paths of inquiry involve both practical and ritualistic considerations.

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