

The coronation of the deceased in the Hellenistic funerary painting of Macedonia and Thrace

This paper will deal with the iconography of the coronation motif in the “Bella Tomb” in Vergina and the Caryatid Tomb in Sveshtari, both dating from the third century B.C. The deceased is represented as a warrior, being crowned by a woman and accompanied by subsidiary figures. The deceased in the Sveshtari tomb is thought to be a king of the Getae, while the woman offering him a wreath may be Persephone. The identity of the woman in the “Bella Tomb” remains problematic, while the man seated behind the deceased warrior has been explained as Ares or Alexander the Great. Further possibilities will be investigated in light of other art works from Alexandria and Aphrodisias.

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