

by which these objects were fixed to the soil of the tomb, since it seems likely that burial objects were placed with the dead in a certain arrangement. Pairs of animals on a square plaque are also found at the Chinese frontier, and were probably meant for the same purpose. Finally, the subject chosen for this type of figure seems to prove our supposition, since a soliped, an animal that was the food of the nomads procured either by hunting or by rearing, was nearly always reproduced.

The roe is executed in many different ways. This animal, either frightened or resting, is from an artistic point of view, the most successfully treated because of its naturalism. Startled, it is about to rise, or is alert with head turned back, or with head thrust forward scents an enemy. The conventional arrangement of the legs, drawn together or one above the other, has already been found in the oldest art of the Scythians on the shores of the Black Sea.

Many types of resting roe are found in pairs. This is true of the very attractive figure with back-turned head (Plate XXXIII no. 2). The Minussinsk perforations are entirely lacking, the holes which can be seen in the reproduction being due to the decay of the surface. The body is only slightly articulated, a type that does not seem possible before the end of the I millennium. The same date applies to the roe with head straight forward (Pl. XXXIII, no. 3). This figure seems to express a certain calm repose, rather than an animal on the alert and listening. There is no hollow here between the legs and belly, but instead there are two holes, meant perhaps for a transversal peg.

The standing animal is unusual (Plate XXXIII no. 4), but even here we find a hollow so that the legs have only an outside surface.

With Plate XXXIII no. 5 we are approaching mechanically repeated forms, that is, we are entering the II millennium. The tongue can be seen in this example, a peculiarity only to be looked for when a dying or dead animal is figured. But here the straining neck of the roe gives it the appearance of life. Plate XXXIII no. 6 shows us once again the characteristics of a period after 1000. The careless casting of the two halves, the edges of which have not been cleaned, the unmodeled surface, so simplified that it is primitive in form, all point to a late date. The tongue is visible again in a variation of the last example (Plate XXXIV no. 1). It is impossible to determine whether the animal is about to spring forward or is collapsing on the ground. We find a geometric ornamentation on a small animal that originally was reproduced in a naturalistic style (Plate XXXIV no. 2). The decoration is composed of round spiral ribbons on the joints, and an angular spiral on the belly. So conventional a rendering seems only possible in the II millennium.

Plate XXXIV no. 3 is such a combination of incongruous animal forms that it entirely lacks naturalism. Only the legs seem to be those of a roe. The elongated body, the upturned tail, the small ears, all belong to a wild animal.