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CENTRE AND PERIPHERY

**Lion as a schéma migratoire and the representation of a power-symbol
in the Bulgarian and Avar archaeological material**

(Abstract)

Since the very beginnings the representations of lions have transmitted the *cliché*, or bear the meaning, that – similarly to the lion being the king of animals – the owner of this representation also stands above others in the hierarchy of power of human beings. Because of this symbolic meaning the representations of lion appear on several buildings and pieces of jewellery. The golden brooch from Preslav is an important part of the archaeological heritage of the First Bulgarian State, well known at international level. It is most likely a masterpiece of a Byzantine jewellery-workshop. This brooch is not only a masterpiece of art, but it also testifies the aim to represent the power of the rulers of Bulgaria. The second Avar Khaganate was the Northern neighbour of Bulgaria in the 8th c. This Khaganate frequently appeared in the earlier Byzantine sources of the 7th c. as a specific military power-centre of nomadic character. A part of the population on the border of this Khaganate (Vörs–Papkert, county of Somogy) had been living a sedentary life and dealing with agriculture for a long time by the turn of the 8th to 9th c. e. But they were most likely also charged with the control of the nearby borderland. The cemetery of this society rich in material remains emphasises its equestrian and well-armed character. In one of the plundered female graves (No. 347) two round brooches were excavated, with representations of lions closely resembling to the Preslav-brooch. The present study will show how the artefacts from Preslav and Vörs with the representations of lions can be brought into a relationship, despite the differences in chronology, material and the jewellery-techniques used.