

The Indo-Aryan Image of “Raja-Sardula” among the Saryarka Nomads

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ABSTRACT This paper explores ethnographic questions of the early Saka (Scythian) tribes in the Saryarka region (Central and North Kazakhstan, South Trans-Urals). Written sources about the early Eurasian steppe nomads are not available. Thus, the aim of this paper is to examine some archaeological data, mainly artefacts with the image of a tiger manufactured in the so-called Scythian animal style, and to provide new insights into the ethnographic knowledge of these tribes. The novelty of the study resides in the interpolation, for the first time, of ethnographic data concerning Indo-Aryan people and archaeological finds of the Saryarka early nomads.