



Invitation to the Press Conference

The Thracians Orpheus' Golden Empire 23 July – 28 November 2004

With a selection of c. 1000 artefacts, this exhibition presents masterpieces of the extraordinary art and culture of the Thracians. It presents the Gold and Silver treasures of one of the most influential civilisations of the antique world, setting them in a broader cultural context from the Early Neolithic (c. 7.000 B. C.) until the Late Roman periods (c. 300 A. D.).

The Thracians, one of the oldest and biggest Indo-European peoples, settled in South-eastern Europe and in Asia Minor. Their main homeland is situated in today's Bulgaria. Intense relations and exchange with their neighbours has been characteristic for these people living on the bridge between Asia and Europe. All great civilisations from Asia passed through this area into Europe. Thracian culture developed in exchange with Persians, Scythians, Greeks, Celts, Romans and even the Egyptian Empire.

The most spectacular finds from Bulgarian museums are on view, ritual gifts to the Gods as well as rich burials of kings and noblemen, amongst them the extraordinary gold treasures from Varna, Vălčitrăn, Panagjurište and Rogozen. Another highlight will be the reconstruction of a fresco painting from the tomb of Aleksandrovo from the 4th century B. C., which was discovered only three years ago.

Thracian culture will be explored by different subjects covering Orphic religion, the history of Thracian relations to Greek and Roman history as well as the technology of Thracian metalwork. The archaeological investigations of the region of Drama in Southeast Bulgaria will be a special point of interest. Here, a continuous period of settlement and everyday life in Southern Thracia from Neolithic times well into the Roman period can be studied. The exhibition throws light on the splendour as well as the simplicity of Thracian life.

The press conference will be held on 22nd July 2004 at 11.00 a.m. in the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The exhibition will be opened for viewing by 10 a.m.. Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211). **Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or www.bundeskunsthalle.de. Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.**

We are looking forward to your visit.

Maja Majer-Wallat
Head of the Press Department