



Photo 19.14 Miniature,
bronze, 7th century BC

merge into a beautiful hybrid style, photos 19.2. (1-3).

- The invention of wine deserves some more attention. Charred grapevine seeds have been discovered on Trakian lands dating as early as 5th millennium BC. However, even more important is to consider the following argument. It is well known that the ancient Greeks borrowed the cult of Dionysus from the Trakians. That cult and the name of the god as well as the orgies associated with his celebrations all point out to the proposition that it was the Trakians who invented the wine and, after experiencing its intoxicating effect, have devised cult celebrations way before the Greeks came on the peninsula and took over the whole package as a chapter in their own book of mythology. It may sound as a conjuncture but one should also consider that in the lands that were first occupied by the ancient Greeks – the coastal strip in the far southwest of the peninsula – hardly much of grapes could be grown: it is firstly rather barren rocky soil and secondly the climate is much too hot and dry for anything but olives to grow.