The "animal style" was particularly characteristic of the art of the Scythians and of other related peoples who lived in the steppes to the north of the Black Sea. The style was associated with representations of animals in very specific poses and with iconographical variants. It has been discussed in many specialist articles and in general works (see, for example, Borovka, 1928; Rostovtzeff, 1929; Hentze, 1930; Tallgren, 1933; Carter, 1958; Tchlenova, 1962; Jettmar, 1964; Jatzenko, 1971; Artamonov, 1966, 1973; Raevsky, 1995).

The "animal style" is found in antiquities of the Scythians from around the Black Sea, of the Sarmatians from the Volga-Urals area, of the Saca of Khazakhstan and the Pamirs, of the bearers of the Pazyryk culture of the Altai and of the Tagar culture of the Minussinsk depression, and of the populations of Tuva and Mongolia. All these peoples lived in the steppe and mountain regions of Eurasia.

It has been traditionally maintained that objects of the "animal style" were not common among the peoples of the wood zone. The only exception was the Ananyino culture in the basins of the Volga and Kama. During the past few years however materials have been accumulated which suggest that the Scythian "animal style" penetrated into the Siberian taiga zone.

The bronze objects from a hidden treasure or destroyed tumulus near to the village of Burbino on the lower Chulym river—a tributary of the Ob—are an excellent example. The site is located in the Pyshkino-Troitsk region of the Tomsk district. The objects are now in the Tomsk Museum of Regional Studies. They need to be published because many of them are unique and the area in which they were found has been practically unexplored by archaeologists.

The treasure includes 16 bronze objects: two daggers, an arrowhead, a psalia, a buckle, five badges and six mirrors.

1. A dagger with a triangular blade and rib, a bar guard, a ribbed hilt and a flat oval pommel (fig. 1.1). The object is 26.5 cm. long with a guard width of 5.1 cm. In the Altai daggers with a bar-guard belong to the 4th cent. B.C. (Surazakov, 1988, p. 47). Four closer analogues dated to approximately the 5th-
4th cent. B.C. were found by chance in the Minussinsk depression (Tchlenova, 1967, pl. 2, 22/17). The date is based on the fact that daggers with a bar-guard are later than those with a "butterfly" guard. The former are sometimes very small and this diminutiveness is characteristic of the 5th-4th cent. B.C.

2. A dagger with a rib on a long triangular blade and a ribbed hilt. Its bar guard and pommel are ornamented in the animal style. There are two inverted wild-boar heads which share an ear on the guard. Their grinning mouths reveal their fangs.

An inverted beast of prey with a long muzzle (its teeth are shown) and bent legs and a long thin tail is depicted on the pommel. It is not possible to determine the species of the beast. Behind this figure another animal head is visible with a triangular ear and an eye in the shape of a small oval pit.

The dagger is 28.1 cm. long with a guard width of 4.7 cm. (fig. 1.2). An object of almost the same shape object was found by chance in the village of Kamenka in the Krasnoyarsk Territory (Tchlenova, 1967, pl. 23, 29;47, 29(23); Zavitukhina, 1983, p. 49, 129, No. 88a). It differs from the Burbino dagger only in some small details. This dagger belongs to the 5th-4th cent. B.C. (Tchlenova, 1967, pl. 2, 37/34). M.P. Zavitukhina thinks it can be dated to the 6th-5th centuries (Zavitukhina, 1983, p. 49). But among the group of daggers with reversed figures of boars or wolves on their pommels there occur examples of bronze-iron (Tchlenova, 1967, pl. 11, 11,12) or wholly of iron (Zavitukhina, 1983, p. 38, 111, No. 140) which must belong to the end of the Tagar period (Tchlenova, 1967, p. 22; Tchlenova, 1992, p. 221-222). Consequently the dagger from Burbino cannot be dated to earlier than the 5th cent. B.C.

3. A bush arrowhead with three edges belongs to the Kulayka type. Arrowheads of the same type have been found many times together with Scythian types in funeral complexes, including tomb 15 of Kamenni Mys near the Ob river in the Novosibirsk area (Troitskaya, 1974, p. 50, fig. 3, 11, 12) and in tumulus 1 of the Novocheokino II cemetery in the Barabian forest-steppe zone (Polosmak, Molodin 1981, p. 77, fig. 4,1-3, 5, 7, p. 84). Both complexes belong to the 4th-3rd cent. B.C. The same arrowheads are found in Siberian hoards of the 5th-3rd cent. B.C.

4. A bow-shaped psalia with two oval holes and round heads at its ends. It is 14.2 cm. long (fig. 1.4). Psalia with two holes were in use in the Eurasian steppes in the 5th-3rd cent. B.C. Two of them were found in the Aragol cemetery in the Altai mountains together with a one-hole horse-bit and a bar-guard dagger of bronze (Rudenko, 1953, pl. XXX,1,2; Surazakov, 1988, fig. 16,4). They are dated—according to the bronze dagger from this cemetery—to the 4th-3rd