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Summary

ON THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAMES OF VRANISHTE AND OSMAKOVO VILLAGES

Abstract: *This paper forms part of a more complex scope of research (in addition to archeometallurgical, archaeological, mythological, historical and history of art ? related research) in respect of a figurine from the National Museum in Belgrade commonly known to the general public (particularly to the expert archaeological and history of art community) under the name ? The Blacksmith of Vranishte. The aim of such research is to uncover the genesis and ?birth? of the god of ancient miners and metallurgists, subsequently (adopted in Hellenic mythology) the Greek god Hephaestus. At the same time, the paper asserts a thesis on the possibility that the figurine was crafted in the workshops of autochthonous Balkan tribes gravitating towards Haemus, which is contrary to popular belief that the figurine was imported from Peloponnese. Relying on the etymology of the names of the village of Vranishte (the location where the figurine was discovered) and the neighboring village of Osmakovo, this paper maintains that metallurgy was practiced in these locations in the distant past, of which the current population has no recollection.*

Keywords: *Etymology, Vranishte, Osmakovo, The Blacksmith of Vranishte,*