



Objects of Mystery

Binoculars

Archaeologists often discover things whose purpose is unknown. In the case of the Trypilian culture, there are hollow, bottomless, bi-conical ceramic artifacts, enigmatic and completely unique to the culture. Their surface decoration is similar to that of pottery vessels, with incised patterns or painted designs. The function of the Trypilian “binoculars” is unknown.

Trypilian Identity

The incredible detail of the Trypilian figurines and facial expressions are so hauntingly expressive. The profile of Trypilian figurines evolved over time, with later figurines more slender than earlier ones. Later figurines also display more elements of individuality. Who made these beautiful artifacts and what did they mean to their makers and owners? The mystery lies in their meaning. Do they represent an offering, a protective ancestor, a deceased loved one, a doll, or a haunting depiction of how the people of the Trypilian culture viewed themselves?