

TONIO HÖLSCHER: *Monumenti statali e pubblico*. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1994. ISBN 88-7062-794-2. 275 p., 40 tav. ITL 130.000.

Gli studi raccolti in questo volume sono stati scritti come saggi preparatori per un manuale sui rilievi statali romani. Gli studi sono sei, pubblicati già negli anni 1978-84, in varie riviste, ma adesso sono stati tradotti in lingua italiana. La premessa porta la datazione del 1991, il volume stesso, però, è uscito solo nel 1994. La novità vera e propria del testo di questo volume consiste della sola introduzione. In una pubblicazione di questo genere si sente la mancanza di un aggiornamento. L'autore si riferisce ai nuovi ritrovamenti e alle nuove pubblicazioni nelle aggiunte in sei pagine, dove egli prende posizione nel fare qualche commento *pro et contra* dei nuovi saggi confrontandoli con le sue idee originali. Questo appare evidente per quanto riguarda la topografia, a proposito della quale si sente la mancanza di molte nuove pubblicazioni importantissime. Nonostante ciò, la raccolta offre comunque al lettore uno studio complessivo della dimensione storica e iconografica nei monumenti statali romani e l'arte di rappresentanza. Non sono, però, convinta della necessità di questa traduzione in italiano, dato che tutti gli articoli sono facilmente accessibili anche come pubblicazioni originali.

*Leena Pietilä-Castrén*

ROBERTA BELLI PASQUA: *Sculture di età romana in "basalto"*. Xenia Antiqua, Monografie 2. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 1995. ISBN 88-7062-885-X. 166 p., 43 figs., 89 pls. ITL 200.000.

Roberta Belli Pasqua has provided us with a mostly welcome study on an unusual group of sculpture of the Roman period, made of the black "basalt", the greywacke of Uadi Hammâmât in Egypt. As the author points out in her introduction, the material of these pieces of sculpture has erroneously often been described as basalt, which is a volcanic rock, when the material in question, greywacke, is in fact a sedimentary rock.

Belli Pasqua has collected for her publication all the known examples of Roman sculpture in greywacke. The Egyptianizing production of the Hellenistic period that imitates the Egyptian greywacke sculpture of the earlier periods is discussed briefly in the book. Both the Egyptian production and the Egyptianizing sculpture are, however, regarded as antecedents to the production of the Roman period. Therefore, the author has collected a complete representative collection of products with Greco-Roman iconography. The book is based on the doctoral thesis of the author, presented in the Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata.

The publication has been divided into three main parts. The first part consists of a synthesis of the results of the study, including, among others, the ancient and post-classical sources, production techniques, workshops, typology, and dating. A short discussion on the use of greywacke in Egypt until the Ptolemaic period is added. The second part is the catalogue which contains portraits, figurative sculpture of various subjects, ornamental sculpture, and fragments. The author has avoided the use of chronological order in the catalogue, since the archaeological context of the finds is missing, and the given dates are based on a stylistic analysis and comparison to similar objects made of other materials. Third, the author has added an appendix with three categories of sculpture: objects made of

unidentified material, objects that could be modern, and objects mentioned in the antiquarian sources. The text is followed by an index of the museums with a list of greywacke products cited in the book. Another index provides the proveniences of the objects.

The presentation of the material is clear, and easy to follow. The arrangement of the catalogue is also understandable, and I have only one question concerning the author's choice of order. Why did she place no. 71, a fragment of a crater, in the group of "Ornamental sculpture", and not in "Fragments" as she did with no. 95 which is another fragment of a crater? To me it seems more suitable to place no. 71 with the group of fragments, not with the ornamental sculpture which contains complete or nearly complete examples.

Especially interesting is the significance of the use of greywacke, which the author discusses on pages 56–58. She suggests that greywacke could have been used for portraits of Augustus to point out via an allusion his power over conquered Egypt; Augustus could have accentuated his power in a symbolic meaning through an allusion. For the same purpose, Augustus could have used mythological statues made of greywacke to decorate the Temple of Apollo to emphasize the victory over Egypt. The same theory of imperial propaganda would then suit the portraits of Livia and Gaius Caesar, Tiberius and other members of the Julio-Claudian family. The first century AD is therefore the most important period for the use of greywacke in art.

The cessation of the use of greywacke took place in the second century AD, due to several possible reasons: Belli Pasqua suggests the change in taste as one possibility. Another reason could have been that specialists who were able to work with this material disappeared, and, as the most interesting alternative, she proposes that the symbolic meaning of greywacke with imperial connotation disappeared when other materials became more popular: porphyry took over the symbolic meaning of greywacke.

The book gives us an important introduction to a special group of objects, Roman sculpture made of greywacke, and we have to be grateful to the author for all the pieces of information she has collected into this volume about this rare group of Roman artifacts.

*Arja Karivieri*

*Petra. Ez Zantur* I. Ergebnisse der Schweizerisch-Liechtensteinischen Ausgrabungen 1988–1992. Terra Archaeologica II. Ed. A. Bignasca, N. Desse-Berset, R. Fellmann Brogli, R. Glutz, S. Karg, D. Keller, B. Kolb, Ch. Kramar, M. Peter, S.G. Schmid, Ch. Schneider, R. A. Stucky, J. Studer, I. Zanoni. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz 1996. ISBN 3–8053–1749–2. 411 pages, 1027 illustrations and drawings, 7 color plates, and 16 plans. DEM 180.

This comprehensive volume which presents the results of the 1988-1992 Swiss-Liechtenstein excavations at Petra is a true milestone in the studies concerning the culture history and archaeology of Petra during the Classical and Byzantine periods. Petra was the capital city of the Nabataean Kingdom, and subsequently the capital of the Roman province of *Arabia* and later, of the Byzantine province *Palaestina Salutaris/Tertia*. The economic significance of Petra as a major emporium in the international long-distance trade in spices and aromatics during the Hellenistic and Roman periods is well-known. Therefore, the volume is all the more welcome since the archaeological exploration of Petra is still