

GEORGIOS I. DESPINIS: *Hochrelieffriese des 2. Jahrhunderts n.Chr. aus Athen*. Deutsches archäologisches Institut, Athenische Abteilung. Hirmer Verlag, München 2003. 3-7774-9870-X. XXII, 217 S., 91 Taf. EUR 68.

This book is simultaneously an homage to Margarete Bieber, who started working on Athenian relief friezes of the mid-Imperial period in the early 20th century under difficult circumstances, and a proof of other researchers' perseverance in finalizing the task some ninety years later.

The central part of the material was formed by the familiar high relief slabs of the Theatre of Dionysos, taken from an earlier building and incorporated in the bema in the early 5th century by archon Phaidros. Corresponding fragments, many of which have been known since the late 19th century, were traced not only in the storerooms of Athenian museums, but also in European and even North American collections. Most of the material is only now being properly published; the catalogue is arranged according to the museums, and then according to the subject, naked or robed males, and clothed women forming the majority.

After detailed research, the material was divided into five different entities, two of which were of Dionysian subject and separated according to the slabs' measurements, technical features, iconography, and style; the fragments were thus connected to Hadrian's building activity. Another crucial problem was the attempt to identify the buildings once adorned with these series of high reliefs. In this, the original whereabouts of storing the fragments before their removal to the National Museum in 1875 was of great importance. Several candidates are presented, from temples to choregic monuments, mostly in the northern side of the Acropolis, but reaching a definite solution is hardly possible. The workshops are pondered over, including all those outside Athens and in the area of Corinth, taking into consideration, among others things, sarcophagi, statue bases, and altars.

It is a pleasure to hail an expert sculptural study, profoundly researched and well written, which enlarges considerably our knowledge of Attic art in the Roman period.

Leena Pietilä-Castrén

GLORIA S. MERKER: *The Greek Tile Works at Corinth: The Site and the Finds*. With a Contribution by CHARLES K. WILLIAMS II. Hesperia Supplement 35. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens 2006. ISBN 978-0-87661-535-5. XIII, 185 pp. USD 55, GBP 35.

PHILIP B. BETANCOURT: *The Chrysokamino Metallurgy Workshop And Its Territory*. Hesperia Supplement 36. The American School of Classical Studies at Athens 2006. ISBN 978-0-87661-536-2. XXII, 462 pp. USD 65, GBP 40.

The excavation report is undoubtedly the most common archaeological publication. Sometimes the report comes long after the actual fieldwork has been completed; this is the case with Gloria S. Merker's book on the Tile Works at Corinth. The excavation took place in 1939, long before Merker herself even became an archaeologist. Sometimes the time gap is much shorter and the fieldwork at Chrysokamino on Crete, directed by Philip B. Betancourt,