



## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

[Review of: C.-G. Alexandrescu (2015) Cult and votive monuments in the Roman provinces: proceedings of the 13th international colloquium on Roman provincial art: Bucharest - Alba Iulia - Constanța, 27th of May-3rd of June 2013]

Panhuysen, T.

**Publication date**

2016

**Document Version**

Final published version

**Published in**

Caiete ARA

[Link to publication](#)

**Citation for published version (APA):**

Panhuysen, T. (2016). [Review of: C.-G. Alexandrescu (2015) Cult and votive monuments in the Roman provinces: proceedings of the 13th international colloquium on Roman provincial art: Bucharest - Alba Iulia - Constanța, 27th of May-3rd of June 2013]. *Caiete ARA*, 7, 325-326.

**General rights**

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

**Disclaimer/Complaints regulations**

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

*UvA-DARE is a service provided by the library of the University of Amsterdam (<https://dare.uva.nl>)*

*Ulpianum [Kosovo]*; Pilar Fernández Uriel and Marta Bailón García (*Plantae Pedum' à l'amphithéâtre d'Italica. Une représentation des dévots ou une présence directe de 'Nemesis Dea' ?*); Piotr Dyczek (*New Head of Caryatid from Ancient Risinium [Montenegro]*); Marija Buzov (*The Findings of Sarcophagi reused as building material in the Church of St. George in Mateško Selo*); Angela Palmentieri (*Materiali marmorei di spoglio dai teatri e anfiteatri campani*); Licinia Wrench (*Mobilier liturgique paléochrétien. Quelques exemplaires provenant du territoire actuellement portugais*).

**Cristina-Georgeta Alexandrescu (ed.), CULT AND VOTIVE MONUMENTS IN THE ROMAN PROVINCES. Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> international Colloquium on Roman Provincial Art. Bucharest – Alba Iulia – Constanța, 27<sup>th</sup> of May – 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2013, within the framework of Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani, IMAGINES Series Studies in ancient arts and iconography 3, Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2015, 384 pages, well-illustrated, mostly b/w, ISBN 978-606-543-592-6**

This was the first time that the ICRPA-Colloquium so far moved up on the Balkans in south-eastern direction. Even one of the excursions of this Congress led the participants down to the old region of *Scythia Minor* at the mouth of the Danube to the Black Sea, once part of the Roman province of *Moesia*. When it was Romania's turn, the workshops of the Colloquium were divided over three cities, namely Bucharest (outside the Roman Empire!), Alba Iulia (*Dacia*) and Constanța (*Moesia*). The organizing institutions were *Institutul de Arheologie "Vasile Pârvan"* in Bucharest and *Academia Română*. Everything was excellent coordinated by Cristina-Georgeta Alexandrescu of the former Institute, as also the here reviewed Proceedings were edited by her. The book could be presented within two years after the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Colloquium in Bucharest. This happened during the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress in Dijon (Fr.) in June 2015, a wonderful achievement! The bundle is distributed through exchange of libraries and scientists and as donation, but is unfortunately not available from the commercial booksellers.

The themes of the Romanian Congress were: 1) *Cult and votive monuments in the Roman provinces: sculpture techniques, sources of stone material, craftsmanship and decoration – Iconography and symbolism*. 2) *Original display and the afterlife or cult and votive monuments in the Roman provinces in the Roman time and Late Antiquity*. 3) *Recent Finds and Projects*.

The ICRPA-Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Colloquium in Bucharest presents in almost 400 pages a good idea of the variety and depth of the lectures and posters during the

meeting. Eighteen articles are written in English, seven in German, five in Italian and two in French, 32 in total. All are preceded by a brief abstract in one of the other languages. It is a pity that, at the end 35, participants did not produce a contribution for this wonderful bundle, making the geographic balance uneven, with a predominance of studies on the Balkans area (Balkans [18]: *Dalmatia* (4), *Moesia inferior* (2), *Dacia* (6), *Dardania (=Moesia)* (1), *Macedonia* (3), *Epirus* (1), *Achaia* (1); Central Danube [4]: *Noricum* (2), *Pannonia* (2). Furthermore: *Germania superior* (2), *Italia* (1), *Hispania/Lusitania* (2), *Pontus* (1), *Syria* (2), *Arabia* (2), *Africa proconsularis* (1)). In particular the contributions on the provinces of *Gallia* are missing.

Under the head of the main theme *Cult and votive monuments* (18 lectures/10 written contributions) we only find one contribution on a sculpture from the West (Claudina Romero Mayorga, *A new interpretation of a mithraic sculpture in Augusta Emerita, Hispania*) and an interesting study on the northerly Noricum (Wolfgang Wohlmayr, *Gottheiten und Kulte im nördlichen Teil Noricums nach Aussage der Weibedenkmäler. Ein Blick auf Iuvavum [Salzburg] und sein Umland*). But on the other hand there are eight studies on the Northern Balkans and Greece (Jasna Jeličić-Radonić, *The cult of Dionysos or Liber, votive monuments in Salona*; Marija Kolega, *Sculptures and votive monuments of deities in Aenona*; Ante Rendić-Miočević, *A reconstruction of the central part of the Nymphaeum (fountain) at Varaždinske Toplice (Aquae Iasae) with a relief depiction of Nymphs*; Adriana Antal, *Leventatio in formam Veneris in Roman Dacia*; Iphigeneia Leventi, *The relief statue base of Nummius Nigreinos, sacred herald of the Eleusinian mysteries. The iconography of Eleusinian cult initiates and officials in Roman Imperial times*; Georgia Aristodemou, *Mars Victor, Victoria and Nemesis Invicta. Three votive reliefs from the ancient theatre of Philippi (Kavala) reconsidered*; Aleksandra Nikoloska, *The world of Dionysos on monuments from the Republic of Macedonia*; Exhlale Dobruna-Salih, *Three significant reliefs of grapevine and forest deities in Dardania*).

Within the second theme - *Iconography and symbolism* - thirteen lectures have been presented, of which six were converted into articles, two on the Middle East (Ilona Skupinska-Løvset, *Incense altars and visualization of incense offerings in Roman Syria*; Delphine Seigneuret, *La panneaux sculptés de Khirbet edh-Dharib [Jordanie centrale]: remarques sur la restitution, la technique et l'iconographie*), and four on the Balkans (Sorin Nemeti, *I rilievi dei Cavalieri Danubiani. Spunti per l'interpretazione diacronica delle varianti regionali*; Mirjana Sanader, *Der Januskult in den Provinzen des Römischen Reiches unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Ikonographie zweier Reliefs aus Dalmatien und Dakien*; Nade Proeva, *Les croyances funéraires des Macédoniens: l'héroïsation et la divinisation des défunts à l'époque romaine*; Luca Bianchi, *Edifici*

in miniatura ed esigenze d'apparato: l'edicola funeraria pannonicodacica). A later added article concerns the Mithraic iconography (Maria Weiss, *Der bärtige Rubende auf den Seitenregistern der Mithrasmonumente*).

Within the theme of *Afterlife of cult and votive monuments* were four lectures, two of which are published here by Piotr Dyczek (*Sculptures from the "templum Aesculapii et Hygiae" in the legionary hospital at Novae (Moesia Inferior)*) and Jutta Ronke (*Fortuna-Fragmente aus der Germania superior. Zur 'antiken Glücksgöttin von der Baustelle'*). The lectures on material and technique are missing in the bundle, but that is compensated by the publication of some interesting posters on those areas. Also from the exciting topic *Varia and disputationes* some fine articles are created (Florina Panait Bîrzescu, *Local cult statues or itinerant coin-types? Some remarks on the iconography of the Western-Pontic coinage*; Manfred Hainzmann, *SĀGUM – Zu problematischen Datierungsansätzen eines keltisch-römischen Kleidungsstückes*).

From the category *Architectural decoration* the best lectures are returning as fine publications in this volume (Walburg Boppert and Christine Ertel, *Ein frühkaiserzeitliches Konsolengesims aus dem Theater in Mogontiacum [Mainz, Germania Superior]*; Klaus Stefan Freyberger, *Funktion und Bedeutung monumentaler Steinmale in Heiligtümern der östlichen Mittelmeerküste aus römischer Zeit*). Both articles are exemplary documented and illustrated.

It has become common practice to give space on posters to new finds and subjects that don't quite fit within the themes of the Colloquium. In this bundle researchers have also been given the opportunity to rework their subjects into articles, which has led to a significant enrichment of the content: Lea Stirling and Nejib Ben Lazreg, *A new portrait of Septimius Severus in the Musée Archéologique de Lamta [Tunisia]*; Fulvia Ciliberto, *Un rilievo con zodiaco nabateo a Gerusalemme*; Alexandru Gh. Sonoc and Mihai Chiriac, *Brief comments on some Roman provincial sculptures from the Sibiu County*; Adam Jarych, *How the Romans looted works of art from the third to the first century B.C. The case of Ambracia's plunders in 189 B.C.*; Filomena Limão and Miguel Pessoa, *Sculpting space. The iconography of the architectural sculpture in the Roman Villa of Rabaçal (Portugal)*; Paola Ventura and Annalisa Giovannini, *Sorelle, spouse, madri. Il mondo al femminile nei monumenti funerari di Aquileia*.

The contributions on the stone materials used in Roman Dacia (Irina Nemeti, Luminița Săsăran and Emanoil Săsăran, *Monumenti scultorei nelle collezioni del Museo Nazionale di Storia della Transilvania. Studio sulle officine e le cave di pietra della Dacia Porolissensis*) and on the possibilities of identifying Mediterranean marbles (Judit Zöldföldi, *Conditions for successful provenance studies on marble*) will prove their value in the years to

come. Both the Colloquium as the publication are closed off by a major basic study for further research on the Roman sarcophagi in the Balkans area by Guntram Koch: *Some considerations on the sarcophagi of Roman Imperial Times in the Provinces of the Balkans, especially Moesia Inferior*.

In the articles that fit within the main themes, iconographic and other aspects of the gods world are discussed with regard to Asclepius, Dionysus, Fortuna, Isis, Janus, Jupiter, Mars, Mithras, Nemesis, the nymphs, Saturn, Venus, Victoria, but also subjects like architecture, sacrifice, cult and processions (Eleusis). Methodically the topics usually are treated within a geographically defined area, whereby also aspects such as Romanisation and identification with regional gods are coming in. Two contributions are dealing with aspects of the funeral art, one on the hero worshipping of the dead (N. Proeva) and a second is a typological-chronological study on the Dacian-Pannonian *aedicula* tomb (L. Bianchi). Here we should also mention the research about the *Heros Equitans* (S. Nemeti). During the Congress M. Hainzmann lashed out against the hard *terminus post quem*-dating of the representation of the Roman *sagum* on reliefs in Noricum, as recently published by his Austrian colleague E. Pochmarski. In his article he is elaborating his arguments in a scientific and neutral manner, making his written contribution to an important part of the book.

Browsing in a bundle with conference proceedings like this evokes memories and provides us a lot to go on with our investigation. It is good to note that the book has a nice format and is carefully edited. Some contributions are illustrating how beautiful such a book could be (Boppert/Ertel; Freyberger), when the authors would deliver all necessary illustrations (for example maps with place names are now sorely missed). It should be a condition to use only photographic illustrations of the best quality, which should be printed in colour when possible. With regards to the graphic quality the Bucharest-Proceedings are not quite up to the Pula-Proceedings. But what can the reader be surprised by nice drawings in some contributions (for example A. Antal). Irritating indeed is the exclusive use by some authors of ancient place names, without any reference to the modern one and also without an indication on a map. Since the contributions are usually treating sculpture from the period before the fourth century, one should avoid administrative names, such as Dardania, which was only officially introduced under Diocletian. In our times, in which the heritage of Syria is under heavy pressure, it is gratifying to find some contributions in this volume, in which Palmyra and Dura Europos are playing a prominent role.

Titus Panhuysen