

The Hellenistic West

directed by J.R.W. Prag & J.C. Quinn

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Overview

The proposed volume of fourteen papers, together with substantial introduction and epilogue, derives from an extended series of meetings in Oxford, Rome, and Vancouver over the last ten months. The project began as a set of eight seminars in Oxford (April-June 2006), followed by a workshop at the British School at Rome (July 2006), and a special panel at the *Regionalism and Globalism in Antiquity* conference at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver (March 2007). The first two of these were funded by the AHRC Research Networks and Workshops Scheme, and a copy of our Supplementary Report to the AHRC can be made available. Some twenty scholars have been actively involved, with sixteen papers being presented across the various meetings. The Rome workshop involved c.25 people, while the Oxford seminars were attended by on average 50 people each week and the Vancouver panel had an audience of c.80.

It has been our intention from the beginning to publish a volume of papers from this project, and to that end the various seminars and workshops have been designed to enable the full discussion and interactive revision of papers by all of the participants involved (for example, the Rome workshop provided the chance for all eight of the speakers from the Oxford seminars to come together, alongside designated respondents; the Vancouver panel provided the opportunity for several papers to be reworked in front of a new audience with related concerns). This process is ongoing, with drafts of papers to be circulated shortly on a secure website.

The intellectual aim of the volume is both to challenge existing approaches to classical and Mediterranean history, and to bring to the fore previously ignored areas of research; these two elements are to be seen as part of the same process.

The two main problems which we seek to address are implicit in the title of the volume: what does it mean to call something Hellenistic, and to what extent is the western Mediterranean either a region in itself, or distinct from the eastern Mediterranean? These questions are in turn driven by a desire to see a decentralisation of the Greek and Roman narratives of Mediterranean history, which in the 'Hellenistic Period' (traditionally, 323-31 BC) see the Mediterranean divided into a Hellenistic, eastern narrative, of the successor kingdoms and 'Hellenisation'; and a Roman, western narrative of conquest and 'Romanisation'. Some thirty years ago, the volume *Hellenismus in Mittelitalien* (ed. P. Zanker, 1976) changed the face of western Mediterranean history in this period by rewriting the paradigms of hellenisation in the pre-imperial Roman world. This was however only a first step. The papers in this volume address a broad range of questions, regional levels, and material sources (through historiography, archaeology, numismatics, epigraphy, art history), in an attempt to challenge the traditional divide between East and West, but also to raise awareness of the many other cultures and peoples in the western Mediterranean at this time and the extent of their interactions with the rest of the Mediterranean world. Although we are not interested in semantics and definitions for their own sake, the volume will confront and offer new ideas on the extent and nature of both Hellenistic and Mediterranean history.

Contents

1. **'Hellenistic Pompeii': between Hellenistic, Oscan, Roman, and Punic**

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill (Director, British School at Rome/ Professor of Classics, Reading University)

2. **The Hellenistics of Death: Mortuary Practice, Funerary Rites and Identity in Adriatic Italy, 350-100 B.C.**

Ed Bispham (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History, Brasenose College, Oxford)

3. **Hellenism as Subaltern Culture: Rural Cults in the Punic World**

Peter van Dommelen (Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, Glasgow University) & Mireia López Bertran (doctoral student, Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

4. **Hesperides East and West**

Andrew Wilson (Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire, Oxford University)

5. **Strangers in the City**

Elizabeth Fentress (Visiting Professor, University College London/ Research Fellow, British School at Rome)

6. **Negotiating Hellenism: networks of Gods and Trade in Gaul**

Victoria Jefferson (DPhil student, Oxford University)

7. **Kings, Cities, Tombs and Temples: 'Numidian Royal Architecture' in context**

Josephine Quinn (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History, Worcester College, Oxford)

8. **Between East and West: regional idiosyncracies and pan-Mediterranean perspectives in later Hellenistic Sicily**

Roger Wilson (Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire, University of British Columbia)

9. **Epigraphic cultures in the western Mediterranean: a Hellenistic phenomenon?**

Jonathan Prag (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History, Merton College, Oxford)

10. **Africa in Italy: The (Visual) Discourse of Hellenistic Numidia with Rome**

Ann Kuttner (Associate Professor of Art History, University of Pennsylvania)

11. **Heracles in the Hellenistic West: A Study in Methodology and Periodisation using Numismatic Evidence**

Liv Yarrow (Assistant Professor, Classics Department, Brooklyn College (CUNY))

12. **The View from the East**

Andrew Erskine (Reader in Classics, Edinburgh University)

13. **The Far West**

Simon Keay (Research Professor in Archaeology, British School at Rome/ Professor of Archaeology, University of Southampton)

14. **On the significance of east and west in today's 'Hellenistic' history**

Nicholas Purcell (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History, St John's College, Oxford)