The Four Books of Pseudo-Democritus

By Jennifer M. Rampling, Lawrence M. Principe & Matteo Martelli

The Four Books of pseudo-Democritus, written in the first century AD, rank among the very earliest known alchemical writings. In this volume, Matteo Martelli presents not only a fresh edition and translation of the surviving Greek fragments, but also, for the first time, additional materials preserved in Syriac. The volume also presents important examples of the medieval and early modern reception of these writings, including the dialogue of Synesius and Dioscorus – the most influential Byzantine commentary on the Four Books – and previously unpublished Latin translations of both the Four Books and Synesius’ commentary made by Matthaeus Zuber in 1606. Accompanied by a full introduction and commentary, these sources offer new and significant insights into the world of ancient chemistry: practical recipes and lists of ingredients, clues to the doctrinal content of ancient alchemy, and early hints of a tradition that linked the alchemist ‘Democritus’ to the wisdom of Egypt and Persia.
Ammaia I: the survey
A Romano-Lusitanian townscape revealed

Edited by Cristina Corsi & Frank Vermeulen

This book presents the most important results of a European funded project, RADIO-PAST or "Radiography of the Past. Integrated non-destructive approaches to understand and valorise complex archaeological sites". In order to develop non-invasive approaches to investigate, interpret, visualize and valorize complex archaeological sites, the researchers of the project have selected the site of Ammaia, a deserted Roman town in Portugal, as an "open laboratory" for intensive field research. Here innovative approaches ranging from field archaeology to geomorphology, from remote sensing to geophysical survey, from ICTs to Cultural Heritage management, have lead to an exemplary study of a lost Roman town.

This research effort is part of a wider trend all over the ancient world to study abandoned Roman towns using a wide array of modern survey methods. When combined with more established approaches, such as stratigraphic excavations and the study of legacy data, these methods can produce a much more complete vision on urbanism under Roman dominance. The impressive results of interdisciplinary fieldwork undertaken in Ammaia over the last five years add much to our understanding of the organization and character of a newly established town in the Roman West and in the Iberian peninsula in particular. The present study helps to shift the focus of Roman urbanism studies from provincial capitals and larger, more monumentalized or better preserved cities in the West, to mid-sized and smaller urban settlements: they indeed are the backbone of the urban world as the Romans developed it with the help of native populations.
Crustumerium
Ricerche internazionali in un centro latino. Archaeology and identity of a Latin settlement near Rome

Edited by E. Jarva, F. di Gennaro & P.A.J. Attema

This volume is the first of the series Corollaria Crustumina aimed at the publication of conference proceedings, doctoral theses and specialist studies on the Latin settlement of Crustumerium (Rome). It contains multidisciplinary papers of an international group of archaeologists discussing new fieldwork data on Crustumerium’s settlement, cemeteries and material culture in light of the site’s cultural identity.
Funerary Sculpture

By Janet Grossman

Funerary Sculpture is the first volume on sculpture from the Agora in over 50 years, bringing together all the sculpted funerary monuments of the Athenian Agora, Classical through Roman periods, which were discovered during excavation from 1931 through 2009. The wide chronological span allows the author to trace changes in funerary monuments, particularly the break in customs that took place in 317 B.C., and the revival of figured monuments in the Roman period.

The study consists of three essays followed by a catalogue of 389 objects. The author places the Agora sculptural fragments within the greater context of Attic funerary sculpture, moving from a general to a specific treatment of the funerary sculpture. The first essay is an overview of the study of Attic types of sculpture; the second discusses the specific features of funerary sculpture from Athens and Attica; and the third examines the characteristics of the funerary sculptures found in the Agora, thereby forming an introduction to the catalogue that follows. The catalogue includes stelai and naisskoi with female and/or male figures, sirens, decorative anthemia, funerary vessels, lekythoi, loutrophoroi, animals, mensa, columnar monuments, and more. There are separate indexes of museums, names, demes, places, and findspots, as well as a general index.
Industrial Religion
The Saucer Pyres of the Athenian Agora

By Susan Rotroff

This study focuses on the “saucer pyres,” a series of 70 deposits excavated in the residential and industrial areas bordering the Athenian Agora. Each consisted of a shallow pit, its floor sometimes marked by heavy burning, with a votive deposit of pottery and fragments of burnt bone, ash, and charcoal. Most of the pots were miniatures (including the eponymous saucers) but a few larger vessels were found, along with offerings associated with funerary cult. The deposits represent a largely Athenian phenomenon, with few parallels elsewhere. When first found in the 1930s, the deposits were interpreted as baby burials. Recent zooarchaeological analysis of the bones, however, reveals that they are the remains of sheep and goats, and that the deposits were sacrificial rather than funerary. The present study investigates the nature of those sacrifices, taking into account the contents of the pyres, their spatial distribution, and their relationship to buildings around the Agora and elsewhere. In light of a strong correlation between pyres and industrial activity, the author argues that the pyres document workplace rituals designed to protect artisans and their enterprises.
Diva Faustina
Coinage and Cult in Rome and the Provinces

By Martin Beckmann

The coinage struck posthumously in the name of Faustina the Elder, wife of the Roman emperor Antoninus Pius, was the largest such issue ever produced by the mint of Rome. Until now it has been impossible to date these coins with any accuracy, and thus difficult to determine their place in imperial ideology. This study definitively resolves the chronological difficulties of these undated issues by means of die study of Diva Faustina's gold and bronze coinage. This new understanding of the coinage then forms the basis for a study of the iconographic commemoration of Faustina in all media throughout the empire. It sheds significant new light on the changing nature of the cult of Faustina during (and perhaps after) the lifetime of her husband Antoninus Pius, on the nature and mechanisms of family commemoration in the Antonine period in general, on the cult of the divi divaeque, and especially on the role of imperial women, living and dead, in the presentation of the public image of the emperor both in Rome and in the provinces. The volume contains illustrated catalogues of the sestertii and aurei in the name of Diva Faustina, including forgeries and a statistical analysis, co-authored with Warren Esty.