

Preface

In late February 2019, the ERC-funded project DECOR convened the first of two research colloquia dedicated to the exploration of decorative phenomena in the Roman world. Held in the Institut für Klassische Altertumskunde at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, *Principles of Decoration in the Roman World* brought together a group of international scholars who sought to address a range of important, if sometimes overlooked, topics related to various forms of decorative media.

DECOR, which is supported by the ERC consolidator grant no. 681269, aims to provide a holistic analysis of the decorative principles employed in Roman Italy between the Late Republic and Early Imperial periods (2nd century B.C. – late 1st century A.D., broadly construed). In doing so, it is the first programme of research to move away from studies of visual media in isolation, focusing instead on the manner in which decorative elements interact with one another. This comprehensive approach is being applied to a range of spatial contexts, including houses, sanctuaries and streets. The goal of this volume is to expand the analytical scope beyond the geographical and temporal boundaries established by the project, while still adhering to its central principles. Although the papers collected in the book differ in contextual focus, they seek to engage with a theoretical concept situated at the heart of DECOR's research methodology: the relationship between the built environment, decorative media and human action.

The success of the colloquium itself can be attributed not only to this volume's contributors, but also to a number of individuals who provided important organisational and technical assistance. Many thanks to Ruth Bielfeldt, Jens-Arne Dickmann and Patric-Alexander Kreuz, who chaired the colloquium sessions and led discussions throughout the event. Thanks also to Manuel Flecker for helping to coordinate the keynote lecture and subsequent reception, which was held in the Antikensammlung at the Kunsthalle zu Kiel. We are grateful to Torben Keßler, who assisted in the production of various materials, including the colloquium flyer and programme, and to Julia Hagge and Rebecca Hannemann, who organised tea, coffee and snacks.

This book has benefitted substantially from the critical support of Bettina Bergmann and Jens-Arne Dickmann, as well as comments from two anonymous reviewers. Marcel Deckert, Katrin Götsch, Rebecca Hannemann, Daniel Nieswand, Iria Schmidt and Ruth Thormann were responsible for preliminary editing and the production of certain figures; to them we are extremely grateful. Thanks to Douglas Fear, who provided additional editing and proofreading support. We would also like to express our gratitude to De Gruyter, who established the DECOR series for the publication of the ERC project's results, and to Mirko Vonderstein, in particular, who has overseen the production of this book and the others in the series with great care.

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Kiel, Summer 2020

