

Preface

This book goes back on a conference “*Funerary Landscapes of the Late Antique oecumene. Contextualizing Epigraphic and Archaeological Evidence of Mortuary Practices*” held from 30th May to 1st June 2019 in Heidelberg, Germany. The conference at Heidelberg housed 25 presentations, 15 of which were submitted in 2020 and are presented here in published form. For various reasons, some papers are not part of our proceedings. Nevertheless, we would like to thank the conference authors Youssef Bokbot, Moheddine Chaouali, Lidewijde De Jong, Ina Eichner, Corisande Fenwick, Jorge López Quiroga, Emilio Marin, David Mattingly, Evelien Roels, Martin Steskal, Laura Willer and Wolf Zöllner, since the discussions of their papers in Heidelberg and their constant help during the process of publication contributed largely to the emergence of this volume.¹ In order to cope with our goal of a Mediterranean-wide overview, we invited additional scholars not present in Heidelberg to contribute to our proceedings. We are very thankful that Claudia Nauwerth and Donatella Nuzzo accepted our invitation to write contributions on two important regions of the Late Antique world.

This volume is deeply rooted in the methodological and theoretic framework of the ‘Sonderforschungsbereich (SFB) 933’, a collaborative research center based at the University of Heidelberg with the programmatic name ‘*Material Text Cultures – Materiality and Presence of Writing in Non-Typographic Societies*’.² This SFB, which is financed by the ‘Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft’ (DFG), particularly focusses on written artefacts from societies in which means of mass production of written texts were unknown or not available. The book is published as the third volume of the newly-established KEMTE-series, edited by the SFB 933 and the Heidelberg Center for Cultural Heritage (HCCH). It appears both as printed book on demand with Heidelberg University Press (heiUP), as well as digital open-access volume in PDF and HTML-format. From the beginning of the publication process onwards, we were willing and happy to exploit – for the first time within this series – the potential KEMTE provides, by cross-linking digital permanent data in the open access-versions of the book. This book contains well over 1000 cross-linked data-entries of inscriptions and funerary monuments from all over the Late Antique world. With this powerful tool, we hope to serve readers with valuable complementary information about the respective discussed artefacts, such as bibliographical notes, find circumstances, pictures, current location, and materiality of

- 1 A comprehensive résumé of all papers of the conference including their titles is available here: <https://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-8375> (accessed 10/06/2021).
- 2 ‘Materiale Textkulturen – Materialität und Präsenz des Geschriebenen in non-typographischen Gesellschaften’; for a broader overview and all projects embedded within this research programme, see: <https://www.materiale-textkulturen.de/> (accessed 11/06/2021).

the inscriptions' supports. We are fully convinced that this kind of *enhanced* publication will considerably enrich scholarly documentation and discussion in the nearer future.

Without the help of many people, it would never have been possible to realize this conference and the publication of its proceedings. First and foremost, our thanks go to all of our speakers, who were willing to put up with long distances as well as time and effort to come to Heidelberg and to present their projects. Secondly, we would like to thank our two former project directors, Stephan Westphalen and Christian Witschel, who supported the idea of a conference on this topic from its very beginning. The SFB 933 provided us with full financial support, so we would like to express our deep gratitude to the scientific board and the SFB's director, Ludger Lieb, who considered this conference to be an important event. Subsequently, Christiane Brosius, Ludger Lieb and Christian Witschel as editors of the KEMTE-series, always supported the idea of publishing our proceedings in this new series. We would like to thank the two anonymous peer reviewers for their worthwhile comments and especially Nele Schneidereit, but also Ute von Figura, Max Sieckmeyer and Silke Engelhardt, from the SFB 933 for their constant organizational help, and Nicolai Dollt as well as Frieda Fiedler for their support in the editorial processing of the volume. Raphael Hunsucker provided careful and excellent proofreading of several articles and abstracts, for which we are very thankful. A special thanks goes to Kate Cooper, who brilliantly concluded the conference. We would like to thank all members of the conference's organization and moderation team: Hanna Berger, David Betzing, Katharine Cubas Díaz, Fabian Göker, Christian Grünert, Lea Hegemann, Nathalie Kettner, Nicolas Jaspert, Solvejg Langer, Ludwig Meier, Yasmin Nachtigall, Arne Reinhardt, Anna Sitz, Kai Trampedach. During the publishing process we were greatly supported by the student assistants Malte Feldbrügge (Göttingen), Don Jansen (Osnabrück), Leon Nicholas Lorenz (Heidelberg), Yasmin Nachtigall (Heidelberg) and Louisa Rebmann (Göttingen). Image permissions were generously granted by the British Museum, Museum of Louvre, Irina Achim, Jelena Anđelković, Francois Baratte, Katharina Bolle, Robert Born, Moheddine Chaouali, Lidewijde De Jong, Ina Eichner, Carlos Machado, Fatma Naït Ygil, Ammar Othman, Philipp Pilhofer, Vanessa Rousseau and Christian Witschel. We are very thankful for this crucial support that largely contributed to the abundant illustration of evidence within this book.

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Hamburg and Göttingen, January 2023



Group foto of participants at the international conference in Heidelberg, June 2019.

