excerpt

ANTONIO DELL'ACQUA – ORIT PELEG-BARKAT
(eds.)

The Basilica in Roman Palestine

Adoption and Adaption Processes, in Light of Comparanda in Italy and North Africa

EDIZIONI QUASAR

excerpt

The workshop was supported by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation

and by The Institutional Strategy of the University of Tübingen (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft ZUK 63) and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The publication of this book has been funded by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation

excerpt

Antonio Dell'Acqua – Orit Peleg-Barkat
(eds.)

The Basilica in Roman Palestine
Adoption and Adaption Processes, in Light of Comparanda in Italy and North Africa

Workshop 5-6 December 2019, Tübingen

Edizioni Quasar

excerpt

Contexts of this book have been reviewed by:

Fulvia Bianchi (Rome)
Peter Gendelmann (Israel Antiquities Authority)
Benjamin Davis Gordon (University of Pittsburg)
Jacqueline Dentzer-Feydy (Université Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Gianluca Grassigli (University of Perugia)
Barbara Kellum (Smith College Northampton)
Achim Lichtenberger (University of Münster)
Johannes Lipps (University of Mainz)
Niccolò Mugnai (University of Oxford)
Jonathan Prag (University of Oxford)
Fabrizio Slavazzi (University of Milan)

English proofreading: Elise Tacconi-Garman

Cover photo: courtesy of Michael Eisenberg

ISBN 978-88-5491-213-7

© 2021, Authors & Edizioni Quasar di S. Tognon

Roma 2021, Edizioni Quasar di S. Tognon
via Ajaccio 41-43, I-00198 Roma
tel. 0685358444, fax 0685833591
www.edizioniquasar.it

All rights reserved

Printed in Italy by GlobalPrint – Gorgonzola (MI)

excerpt

CONTENTS

Preface

The Basilica in Roman Palestine: Shedding Light on the Penetration of Roman Architecture into the Roman East
Antonio Dell'Acqua – Orit Peleg-Barkat 9

I. The Roman Basilica between Roman Tradition and Jewish Perspective

Decoration and Display in the Roman Civic Basilicas
Matteo Cadario 19

Basilica and Other Colonnades: A Rabbinic Theorization of the Public Sphere
Gil P. Klein 45

II. The Basilica in the Jewish Cities of Roman Palestine

The Royal Portico on the Temple Mount: Between Historical Text and Archaeological Finds
Orit Peleg-Barkat 69

The Roman Basilica at Sepphoris: Initial Thoughts and Interpretations
Shulamit Miller – Zeev Weiss 91

III. The Basilica in the Cities of Roman Palestine and Arabia

The Basilica of Ashkelon between Herod and the Severan Dynasty
Rachel Bar-Nathan – Saar Ganor 109

The Basilica of Ashkelon and its Décor
Antonio Dell'Acqua 133

The Basilica of Hippos of the Decapolis and a Corpus of the Regional *Basilicae*
Michael Eisenberg 153

excerpt

Gerasa of the Decapolis: Basilica and Civic Centre
Jacques Seigne 185

IV. The Roman Basilica in North Africa

The Antonine Basilica at Utica (Tunisia)
Ben Russell 215

Adaption and Autonomy in the Architecture of Roman North Africa. The Basilica of Meninx, a Case Study
Linda Stoeßel 241

V. Roman Basilicas in Italy and Sicily between the Late Republic and Imperial Periods

The Architecture of the Roman Basilica in Sicily: Case Studies from the Northern Coast Cities
Rocco Burgio – Leonardo Fuduli 267

The Basilica in the Region of Latium: The Case of Tibur and Praeneste
Martin Tombrägel 279

The Civic Basilica at Luni: an Update
Chiara Bozzi 293

excerpt

THE BASILICA OF HIPPOS OF THE DECAPOLIS AND A CORPUS OF THE REGIONAL *BASILICAE*

Michael Eisenberg*

Abstract

Hippos was a small Graeco-Roman city in Roman *Syria-Palaestina*; yet, it holds a prominent place in the modern research of Roman provinces thanks to years of orderly exploration, and the state of preservation of its remains. In no other field does it feature more prominently than in the research of *basilicae* – the basilica of Hippos is one of the only *basilicae* in the region that has been fully excavated and preserved with high degree of detail. The excavated material and the architectural characteristics reveal that it was erected at the end of the 1st century CE and destroyed in the 363 CE earthquake. High quality stucco and vivid wall paintings of the inner décor, which covered the walls and the basalt colonnades, attest to the elegant look of the basilica's interior. Some marble architectural fragments point to limited renovations, typical for provincial in-land cities in the 2nd–3rd century CE. The basilica at Hippos almost fully visualizes how this type of building was reproduced outside of the core of the Roman Empire. The short comparative study included in the article not only contextualizes the findings from Hippos, but also reveals a narrative of the regional *basilicae* – they belonged to the 'Vitruvian' and 'Pompeian' types, were constructed between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE, and went out of use no later than the 363 CE earthquake.

Introduction

Antiochia Hippos was one of the Graeco-Roman cities of the Decapolis, founded on top of Mount Sussita, ca. 2 km east of the Sea of Galilee in the first half of the 2nd century BCE[1]. The main excavations at the site began in 2000 under the auspices of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa, Israel[2].

The basilica of Hippos stood in the center of the city, immediately northeast of the *forum*, towards the northern cliff of the mountain (Figs. 1 – 3). Its remains were completely buried, and the archaeologists had no clue as to what they were

* Acknowledgments – I wish to thank Arthur Segal for his valuable insights and Arleta Kowalewska for her language editing and refining of the text. Thanks are due to those who supervised the basilica area throughout the years, mainly to Haim Shkolnik, for their professional work and field reports. I am grateful to the Zinman Institute of Archaeology of the University of Haifa for supporting the excavations logistically in the field and in laboratories.

[1] Dvorjetski 2014; Eisenberg 2017a.

[2] Eisenberg 2019a, 366, footnote 6.