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Egypt beyond representation : materials and materiality of Aegyptiaca Romana

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STELLINGEN

behorend bij het proefschrift:

Egypt beyond representation. Materials and materiality of Aegyptiaca Romana

door Sander Müskens

1. The overarching category of Aegyptiaca and the associated traditional dichotomy between Egyptian and Egyptianising subclasses are untenable from a Roman perspective and inhibit a better understanding of the objects in question.
2. *Egyptianness* was not necessarily a determining factor for the Roman perception of objects that we associate with Egypt today.
3. Materials used and stylistic execution are the two most important selection criteria for the import of Egyptian objects to Rome and the Roman world.
Contra M. Swetnam-Burland, *Egypt in Italy. Visions of Egypt in Roman Imperial Culture* (Cambridge 2015) 30: “Romans living in Italy were drawn to pieces with iconography or texts that drew on Egypt’s Pharaonic past or spoke of its traditions. Yet beyond this, it is difficult to identify patterns in the materials except in a broad sense”.
4. As this dissertation demonstrates, when a research question is precisely formulated and its context well defined, macroscopic analysis is a valuable analytical method for the provenance determination of rocks and this avenue of research should be pursued more often.
5. Multidisciplinary research should become the norm for studying the Roman world considering the wealth of the available sources, which transcend traditional academic disciplines.
6. The relevance of archaeological research questions is at least as important as analytical precision and accuracy for the success of archaeometric studies.
7. Archaeological research should aim for a balance between bottom-up and top-down approaches in order to make comprehensive interpretations of complex data and contexts possible.
8. The willingness to engage with modern foreign languages is paramount to the study of Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology.
9. Was it all worth it? Yes, it was a worthwhile experience, it was worth it.