

Tomb architecture in Hellenistic and Roman Cyprus

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Subject of the present thesis is the study of the funerary architecture in the Hellenistic and Roman periods in Cyprus in an attempt to cover at least part of the gap that currently presents the archaeology of Cyprus in this area. The text is divided into eight chapters and four appendices. The first chapter gives a general overview of the study, explaining the historical background of the era and determining the geographical study area and proceeds to the clarification of some terms related to tomb architecture. The second chapter contains the literature and sources review related to the funerary architecture of the Hellenistic and Roman period in Cyprus, from antiquity to modern times, followed by an overview of material sources. The third chapter lists all the published tombs of the periods in question, accompanied by a brief description and all the relative bibliographic references. In the fourth chapter the typological division of the hellenistic and roman tombs is formulated, starting with a brief review of the funerary architecture of earlier periods and presentation of typological divisions made in the past on tomb architecture. The fifth chapter examines the main and secondary architectural features governing the hellenistic-roman tomb architecture in Cyprus, as well as their structural and morphological features. The decoration of the tombs as an integral part of the architectural body is being discussed in chapter six. The painting decoration outnumbers the few examples of relief decoration. For this reason, the research does not remain in the stylistic study of the wall paintings, but extends to their technological analysis. The results of the archaeometric study, related to color analysis and manufacturing technology, are presented in Annexes I and II. The seventh chapter examines the tomb markers, as tomb equipment, frequently interfering to the overall tomb architecture. Chapter seven is in conjunction to Annex III, which includes the published tomb markers of the periods under review. The eighth chapter examines various aspects related to the necropolis of the Hellenistic and Roman periods, such as topographic characteristics, chronological evolution and other. Moreover, various organizational and functional elements characterizing ancient cemeteries are being discussed. This chapter is in conjunction to Annex IV, which lists the hellenistic and roman necropolises of Cyprus. The methodological approach followed included various types of research activity at different stages of the study. Initially, literature review and indexing all published tombs was performed. Due to the large amount of tombs, a database was created which listed the information obtained during the indexing of the tombs. The study of unpublished tombs, granted by their excavators for the purposes of the present research, followed. Furthermore, archival study conducted at the premises of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus. In addition, field survey was actuated, which included in situ study and photography of some still preserved and accessible tombs. The research activity expanded in interdisciplinary collaborations between researchers and institutions with regard to the study of wall painting and necropolis.