

CURA AQUARUM IN EPHESUS

Volume 1

edited by
Gilbert Wiplinger



Ephesus, the metropolis of the Roman province Asia, has been the main feature-project of Austrian archaeological research since 1895. The first investigations on the aqueducts leading into the city were undertaken in 1898. However, despite of excavating the great baths and *nymphaea* at the beginning of Austrian archaeological research, between the wars and after World War 2, the Ephesian aqueducts were not studied in any further depth.

Since 2001, the editor of this book has been striving towards an attempt to study the aqueducts leading to Ephesus within a comprehensive interdisciplinary project. The 12th International Symposium on the History of Water Engineering in the Mediterranean which was held by the Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut in Ephesus in October 2004, provided the opportunity to present the entire range of research results to an international forum of experts. The discussions are to initiate a further impulse and subsequently new important insights.

The articles in this publication are the reports of the lectures and presentations of posters given during the symposium. They are split into ten sections. At the beginning of altogether 67 contributions, there was an opening lecture on the river-gods and their attributes on ancient coins. The first section focussed on the city of Ephesus thereby not only introducing the latest results in the research on aqueducts, but also on other current projects which stand in a particular relationship to water engineering. Sections two to five are structured geographically according to the topics and focus on current projects concerned with water-engineering in Anatolia, the remaining Mediterranean regions, the Near East and Mesopotamia as well as Gaul and Germania. The articles concentrate on dams, aqueducts, water reservoirs, wells, urban water distribution systems, ritual pools and basins, and other systems of water-supply. The sixth section includes special hydraulic engineering structures such as castella, pressurised water-supply lines and technical details such as the *colliviaria*. The seventh and eighth sections introduce studies which are currently being undertaken on *nymphaea* and baths as well as thermal baths and latrines. The ninth section includes two contributions on the element 'water' itself as depicted in mosaics while the tenth section is devoted to complementary areas of research.

The two volumes of this lavishly illustrated publication mirror the manifold nature of the articles as well as the comprehensive spectrum of the 12th International Symposium 'Cura Aquarum in Ephesus', thereby encouraging new directions in the research on ancient water engineering, new projects and further cooperation.

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CONTENTS

Volume I

Abbreviations	X
GILBERT WIPLINGER Preface and Introduction	XIII
Opening Lecture	
PETER KOWALEWSKI Flussgötter und ihre Attribute auf antiken Münzen	3
1. Ephesus	
STEFAN KARWIESE ΠΟΛΙΣ ΠΟΤΑΜΩΝ - Stadt der Flüsse <i>Die Gewässer auf den ephesischen Münzen</i>	17
GILBERT WIPLINGER Wasser für Ephesos <i>Stand der Erforschung der Wasserversorgung</i>	23
AKIN ERSOY Water-related Constructions in the Şirince Rural Area in the Eastern Territory of Ephesus	41
PETER SCHERRER Die Fernwasserversorgung von Ephesos in der römischen Kaiserzeit <i>Synopse der epigraphischen Quellen</i>	45
ANTON BAMMER, ULRIKE MUSS Water Problems in the Artemision of Ephesus	61
HILKE THÜR Öffentliche und private Wasserversorgung und Entsorgung im Zentrum von Ephesos	65
URSULA QUATEMBER The Water Management and Delivery System of the Nymphaeum Traiani at Ephesus	73
KLAUS JUNG Das Hydrekdocheion des Gaius Laecanius Bassus in Ephesos	79
MARTINO LA TORRE Das Vediusgymnasium in Ephesos	87
GEMMA JANSEN The Toilets of Ephesus. A Preliminary Report	95

2. Anatolia

- ÜNAL ÖZİŞ
Wasserbauten im Laufe von vier Jahrtausenden in der Türkei 101
- WILLIAM AYLWARD
The Aqueduct of Ilion (Troy) and the Supply of the City's Nymphaeum and Bath 107
- HENNING FAHLBUSCH
Wasserwirtschaftliche Anlagen des antiken Priene 117
- Y. ERSEL TANRIÖVER, N. ORHAN BAYKAN, NESRİN BAYKAN
The Water Supply Systems of Caria
An Inventory Study 127
- N. ORHAN BAYKAN, Y. ERSEL TANRIÖVER
Water Supply System of the Ancient City Tralleis 133
- CELAL ŞİMŞEK, MUSTAFA BÜYÜKKOLANCI
Die Aquädukte und das Wasserverteilungssystem von Laodikeia ad Lycum 137
- MEHMET BİLDİRİCİ
The Cistern and Aqueduct of Keramos in Ancient Caria 147
- EDWIN OWENS
The Aqueduct of Ariassos and the Development of the Roman City 151
- DENNIS MURPHY
The Cisterns and Reservoirs of Rhodiapolis, Southwest-Turkey
A Study in Ancient Water Management 159
- FEMKE MARTENS
The Diachronic Research of Urban Water Management at Sagalassos, Southwest-Turkey 165
- ## 3. Water Management in the Mediterranean
- GEMMA JANSEN
The Unknown Urban Water System at Roman Ostia (Italy) 175
- DOMENICO CAMARDO, MONICA MARTELLI CASTALDI, JANE THOMPSON
Water Supply and Drainage at Herculaneum 183
- MIKO FLOHR
Organizing the Workshop
Water Management in Roman fullonicae 193
- ALEXANDER SOKOLICEK
Wasser und Mauern
Eine Quelle unter den Stadtmauern von Velia? 201
- NICOLE VAN DER HAM
Olynthos
Urban Water Management in Classical Greece 211

4. Water Management in the Near East and Mesopotamia

ZENA KAMASH Recent Research on Dams in the Roman Near East: Some Dating Issues	219
ULRICH BELLWALD The Hydraulic Infrastructure of Petra <i>A Model for Water Strategies in Arid Land</i>	225
MATHIAS DÖRING Römische Wasserversorgungstunnel im Norden Jordaniens	237
NOOR MULDER-HYMANS The Water Reservoir of Khirbat al-Mudayna	245
ALEJANDRO EGEA VIVANCOS The Aqueducts of Hierapolis, Syria <i>New Archaeological Evidence</i>	249
YOSEF PORATH What was the Purpose of the Low Level Aqueduct to Caesarea Maritima?	255
TSVIKA TSUK New Discoveries in the Ancient Water System of Sepphoris 2002-2003	259
KATHARINA GALOR Roman and Byzantine Period Ritual Pools on the Sepphoris Acropolis	265
ARIEL M. BAGG Ancient Mesopotamian Sewage Systems According to Cuneiform Sources	273

Volume 2

Abbreviations	X
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5. Water Management in Gallia and Germania

JEAN BURDY The Four Aqueducts of Lugdunum (Lyon)	283
HORST GEIGER Rekonstruktionsversuch der inschriftlich belegten römischen Wasserleitung von Öhringen	287
MARTIN LAUTH Trinkwasser für die Legionen <i>Zur »Heidenmauer« in Aquae Mattiacae / Wiesbaden</i>	295

6. Roman Hydraulic Engineering

AMANDA KELLY The Impact of Aqueduct Construction on Demographic Patterns in Crete	303
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ISABEL BESTUÉ CARDIEL, IGNACIO GONZÁLEZ TASCÓN Roman Siphons in Spain	311
CHRISTOPH OHLIG Vitruvs <i>collivaria</i> und die <i>vis spiritus</i> - (keine) Luft in Wasserleitungen? (!)	319
MARTIN SCHWARZ Vitruvs geheimnisvolle <i>collivaria</i> entschlüsselt?	327
KLAUS GREWE Der Aquädukt von Siga (Algerien) und sein bemerkenswertes Castellum	335
YEHUDA PELEG Castella are not Reservoirs	343
PAUL KESSENER Frontinus and the Castellum Aquae at Pompeii and at Nîmes	349
FRANCESCO D'ANDRIA, LORENZO CAMPAGNA The Castellum Aquae of Hierapolis of Phrygia	359
HÉLÈNE DESSALES Castella privata: Water Towers and Tanks in Roman Dwellings	363
JAQUES SEIGNE Water-powered Stone Saws in Late Antiquity <i>First Step on the Way to Industrialisation?</i>	371
7. Nymphaea	
CLAUDIA DORL-KLINGENSCHMID Brunnenbauten als Medium des interkommunalen Wettbewerbs	381
LORENZO CAMPAGNA Monumental Fountains at Hierapolis of Phrygia during the Severan Age <i>The Nymphaeum of the Tritons and the Nymphaeum of the Sanctuary of Apollo</i>	387
SUSANNA A.G. PIRAS Façade Nymphaea in Asia Minor <i>Aspendos, an Example of Massive Urban Water Imprint</i>	397
CORINNE SANDOZ The Nymphaeum of Sabratha and the Great Severan Nymphaeum of Lepcis Magna (Libya) <i>Supply and Hydraulic System</i>	401
FABIAN ZENS Das Nymphaeum von Gadara/Umm Qais in Jordanien <i>Vorbericht zu den im Sommer 2004 durchgeführten Arbeiten</i>	409
8. Baths, Thermo-Mineral Baths and Latrines	
NATHALIE DE HAAN, KURT WALLAT The Water Supply of the Central Baths at Pompeii	417

UMBERTO PAPPALARDO, IVAN VARRIALE The Suburban Baths of Herculaneum	423
MERCEDES UNZU, PAZ PRIETO, M. JESÚS PERÉX, AMPARO HERNANDO Roman Baths in Pamplona (Navarra, Spain)	431
JENS KÖHLER Forschungen zu römischen Thermalbädern	437
AHMET YARAŞ Wasser in der Heiltherme von Alliano	443
JEROEN VAN VAERENBERGH The Latrines in and near the Roman Baths of Italy <i>A Nice Compromise with a Bad Smell</i>	453
ONUR GÜLBAY Western Anatolian Public Latrines	461
RINO D'ANDRIA The Latrine in Hierapolis of Phrygia	467
 9. Illustrations of Water	
M. PILAR SAN NICOLÁS PEDRAZ Gods and Other Mythological Beings in the Roman Mosaics of Hispania in Relation to Water	475
GUADALUPE LÓPEZ MONTEAGUDO Oceanus on the Roman Mosaic Pavements of Spain	485
 10. Complementary Areas of Research	
KATRIN MEYER, BENJAMIN HEEMEIER Erstellung eines computeranimierten 3D-Modells des Serapeum-Canopus-Komplexes in der Villa Hadriana	497
GRAZIA SEMERARO, BARBARA PECERE Nymphaeum of the Tritons <i>Geographical Information System for the Management of Archaeological Data</i>	503
WALTER PROCHASKA, URSULA QUATEMBER The Analysis of Sinter Samples and Hydraulic Mortars from the Nymphaeum Traiani at Ephesus	509
GIOVANNI RIZZO, LAURA ERCOLI The Lining of the Ancient Cisterns in the Volcanic Island of Pantelleria	515
List of Participants and Addresses	525