



GREEK BATHS AND BATHING CULTURE

New Discoveries and Approaches

Edited by

Sandra K. Lucore and Monika Trümper

PEETERS

This volume is the outcome of the first conference to take place on the topic of Greek baths and bathing culture, a central but hitherto neglected area in the field of ancient studies. Fifteen papers by an international group of archaeologists, art historians and ancient historians discuss Greek bathing culture from a socio-historical and cultural-anthropological perspective, resulting in a comprehensive reassessment that elucidates the sophistication of both the architecture and the culture of bathing throughout the Greek world.

Individual papers examine bathing in the context of science, medicine and the cultural discourses coded in images on vases, while the majority focus on the archaeological evidence itself, as the crucial component in this reassessment that removes Greek baths from the traditional category of 'primitive predecessors' to Roman baths. From Greece and Egypt in the east, to Sicily, southern Italy and France in the west, new information from recent excavations is brought to bear on a wide range of related issues, including urban contexts, regional variations in experimental design and construction, innovations in technology, and the social meaning of the rise of bathing culture in the Hellenistic period. This better understanding of Greek baths adds a crucial element to the much debated question of the relationship between Greek and Roman bathing culture. This book also provides the first comprehensive catalog of all known Greek public baths (*balaneia*), including descriptions, plans and bibliographies, as a major reference tool for future comparative research on ancient bathing culture and beyond. Catalog and papers combined make this a rich study of a topic of newly recognized significance in the ancient world.

PEETERS-LEUVEN

ISBN 978-90-429-2897-8



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# B A B E S C H

*Annual Papers on Mediterranean Archaeology*

*Supplement 23 — 2012*



BABESCH FOUNDATION  
*Stichting Bulletin Antieke Beschaving*

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Leuven - Paris - Walpole, MA

2013

BABESCH Supplement Series  
edited by  
G.J. van Wijngaarden

Photo on the cover:

*Aerial view of the North Baths at Morgantina; (Photo American Excavations at Morgantina)*

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ISBN 978-90-429-2897-8

ISSN 0165-9367

D/2013/0602/57

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## Acknowledgments

This volume is the outcome of the conference on Greek Baths and Bathing Culture: New Discoveries and Approaches, held at the American Academy in Rome on April 16-17, 2010 and the first conference ever to be organized exclusively on the topic of Greek public baths.

The archaeological evidence for Greek baths has increased vastly since R. Ginouvès produced his landmark study, *Balaneutikè*, in 1962. As scholars working on this and related material started to become aware of the number of sites and the amount of information available for study, we also became aware of the need to bring this exciting new information together more comprehensively as part of a major reassessment of the field that has been gaining momentum in recent years. The co-editors of this volume would therefore like to thank all of the participants at the conference for their generosity in taking the time to meet in Rome and share their information, and especially all authors whose papers report on work in progress that will appear eventually in final publications on those sites.

All of the papers presented in Rome are published here in a more fully developed form, with the exception of a paper by Skevi Christodoulou on Hellenistic *balaneia* in Cyprus. Four additional contributions have been included on baths that were identified or excavated only at the time the conference was held, or even later, and for these we thank Maria Teresa Iannelli and Francesco Cuteri, Claudio Sabbione, Christian Russenberger, and Vassilis Tsiolis. Discussions in Rome were the catalyst for the catalog of all currently known Greek public baths that appears here as a complement to the detailed studies of individual sites and as a major research tool for future research. This is a collaborative project, undertaken by the editors and Thibaud Fournet and Bérangère Redon, who generously contributed to this with their exceptional expertise on baths in Egypt.

All papers are presented here in English in order to make the recent research on the long neglected topic of Greek baths and bathing culture accessible to as broad an audience as possible. Particular thanks are due to the authors who made the extra effort to submit their papers in English. In addition, the editors translated the papers by the following authors: Giovanna Greco and Carmelo Di Nicuolo, Maria Teresa Iannelli and Francesco Cuteri, Christian Russenberger, Claudio Sabbione, and Vassilis Tsiolis. Furthermore, we are much indebted to the anonymous reviewer of this volume for invaluable comments.

This conference could not have taken place without the generous support of many individuals and institutions, which is gratefully acknowledged here. We thank first the American Academy in Rome for hosting and supporting this conference. Carmela Franklin, director at the time, gave essential support in the early stages of planning. We express special thanks to Corey Brennan, Mellon Professor-in-Charge of the School of Classical Studies at the American Academy in Rome, and to Anne Coulson, Senior Programs Associate in the Programs Department, for their essential help in making the conference a success. The American Academy in Rome also kindly provided accommodation for our speaker Fikret Yegül. Generous funding for travel to Rome and accommodation for all participants was provided by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung and Mrs. Muriel Bell. Sandra Lucore benefited highly in the earliest stages of conceiving of this conference from a two-year Rome Prize Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome and the Oscar Broneer Fellowship at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Monika Trümper profited highly in the planning stages of the conference from her stay as Robert F. and Margaret S. Goheen Fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, and in the final stages of publishing the papers from the conference from a W.R. Kenan, Jr. Research Leave from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Elizabeth Thill was responsible for copy editing all of the texts in this volume.

The editors would like to express their special thanks to Lily Schaafsma, Editorial Assistant at BABESCH, for all of her expert work on formatting this book for publication, and for her care and and patience with what has sometimes been a complicated process.

Sandra K. Lucore and Monika Trümper