Art and Inscriptions in the Ancient World

The ancient visual environment was packed with instances where words and images appeared side-by-side: statues with dedicatory inscriptions, labels on paintings or mosaics, or complex juxtapositions of images and engraved texts on funerary monuments. In the past these elements have often been divorced from one another and studied in isolation. In this volume art historians and epigraphers have come together to look at the complex ways in which images and words interacted with one another, illustrating, explaining or reinterpreting each other or, conversely, making competing demands upon the viewer. Their essays range widely in their focus from archaic Greek pottery through Hellenistic honorific statues and Pompeian wall-paintings to late Roman mosaics. The insights that emerge contribute to our wider picture of the relationships between art and text in the ancient world, as well as illuminating the complexity and variety in ancient material culture.

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Art and Inscriptions in the Ancient World

Edited by

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Preface

This volume arose as a response to the increasing interest in recent years in the study of art and text. While other works have taken a broader approach, incorporating both visual responses to literature and textual accounts of images, our desire was to test out some of these ideas through a narrower focus on the ways that texts and images interact within specific defined contexts or monuments. The essays collected here were all initially commissioned both with this volume in mind and as a conference panel at the UK Classical Association Conference at the University of Warwick in April 2003. Some were also presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology in New Orleans in January 2003. David Fredrick also presented a paper at both panels and Kathleen Coleman acted as respondent in New Orleans. We would like to thank them both for their involvement and constructive comments, as well as the British Academy for funding our travel to New Orleans. The conference panels provided an invaluable opportunity for the contributors to engage with one another’s ideas and to refine their views in the light of the wider discussion. We are most grateful to all those who contributed to the debates.

As editors, we extend our warm thanks to all the contributors here, who have shown patience and attention in responding to our various queries, and to the readers for Cambridge University Press for their reports which helped us to refine our ideas. Michael Sharp has been an enthusiastic and supportive editor throughout. We are also grateful to all those institutions and individuals who have provided illustrations. They are too numerous to list here but will find themselves acknowledged in the list of figures. With regard to the spelling of ancient names, we have tried to adopt the policy of keeping to Greek forms in discussions of inscriptions but Latinate forms for well-known names and placenames. However, there will inevitably be some inconsistencies for which we apologise in advance.

On a personal level this project has been something of a family undertaking. We would like to thank David and Jean for the timely gift of a new computer and software. Shirley (often assisted by Richard) has been
an invaluable source of childcare and support, and Nick and Andrew have endured numerous 'classicists' symposia'. Our thanks and love go to all of them. The gestation of this project has coincided almost exactly with Sarah’s first years and she has provided us with both distraction and entertainment throughout. We dedicate this book to her.
Abbreviations

Abbreviations follow those in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3rd edn (for ancient sources and collections of inscriptions) and *L'Année Philologique* (for Journals), with the exception of the following:

- **ALA** C. Roueché (1989) *Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity: The Late Roman and Byzantine Inscriptions including Texts from the Excavations at Aphrodisias conducted by Kenan T. Erim*. JRS Monograph 5. London
- **Bull. Epig.** *Bulletin Epigraphique* in *Revue des Etudes Grecques*
- **ICos** W. R. Paton and E. L. Hicks (eds.) (1891) *The Inscriptions of Cos*. Oxford.
- **ILindos** C. Blinkenberg (1941) *Lindos II. Inscriptions*. Copenhagen.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAAR</td>
<td><em>Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MonInst</td>
<td><em>Monumenti Inediti pubblicati dall’Istituto di Corrispondenza Archeologica di Roma</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGIS</td>
<td><em>Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RE</td>
<td><em>Pauly’s Realencylopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</em>.</td>
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