

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the History of Constantinople

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THE STATUES OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Albrecht Berger
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich



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Albrecht Berger
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Author for correspondence: Albrecht Berger, albrecht.berger@lmu.de

Abstract: From its foundation by Constantine the Great in 324, Constantinople housed a great number of statues which stood in the city on streets and public places or were kept in several collections and in the Hippodrome. Almost all of them, except a number of newly made statues of reigning emperors, were ancient objects which had been brought to the city from other places. Many of these statues were later identified with persons other than those they actually represented, or received an allegorical, sometimes even an apocalyptic, interpretation. When the Crusaders of the Fourth Crusade conquered the city in 1204, almost all the statues of Constantinople were destroyed or looted.

Keywords: Constantinople, Byzantine age, ancient Greek art, statues, popular reception

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