

HEMEREISIA HIERA. DEPOSITIONAL PRACTICES ON THE PIANO DEL TAMBURINO (HIMERA)

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Abstract

The two sacred areas of the Piano del Tamburino offer a good case study for making observations in the studies on ancient ritual and depositional practices in a Greek colony. Investigations conducted by the University of Bern over the past ten years have identified different types of depositions that captured the dynamics of “religious agency” (Albrecht et al. 2018). Many offerings have been made, in a variety of forms and typologies, and even if we imagine a predefined “infrastructure” made of sequence of procession, hymns, prayers, sacrifice, competitions, and communal banquet, the offering will also have depended on the context and situation where it occurred. Moreover, through votive offerings the reciprocal relationship between the physical aspects of the sacred areas and their “daily life” can be better understood (Van Straten 1990). The sacred precincts were filled with objects dedicated to the deity, they could be protected from the open air indoors in an enclosed environment, displayed for the worshippers to look at, or be out in the open. Old or damaged objects were often buried in pits or could even be melted down and remelted into new cult instruments (IG ii2 839; LSCG 41). The sacred areas were the opposite of a serene, empty, or static space (Dignas 2007).

The contribution will attempt to consider the several aspects of these ancient depositions (morphology, occurrence, ritual associations, different ways of presentation, etc.) in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the ritual performance and worship of the Himera colony.



BETWEEN LOCAL TRADITION AND URBAN INNOVATION
Ritual Space and Religious Dynamics in Ancient Sicily

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