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## Review of *Corpus I: Attic Votive Reliefs of the 6th and 5th Centuries B.C.*, by Elpis Mitropoulou

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CORPUS I. ATTIC VOTIVE RELIEFS OF THE 6TH AND 5TH CENTURIES B.C., by *Elpis Mitropoulou*. Pp. 275, including several charts, line drawings and 218 photographs. Pyli Editions, Athens, 1977.

A proper corpus of all Attic votive reliefs would have been a major contribution to ancient studies, but we must regretfully state that the book under review does not fulfill this need. Dr. Mitropoulou wrote her Ph.D. dissertation for London University on the subject of fourth century Attic votive reliefs and has also produced a number of pamphlets on related subjects. Yet all her works have been published by the Pyli editions, although several of them are shorter than many articles, and even this major Corpus has obviously not had the benefit of a professional editor. The photographs are usually of good quality and their reproduction is in half-tones, but the text is filled with typographical errors and some charts seem printed upside down. In addition, many of the references are wrongly cited, some are duplicated because of different systems of citation, others are untraceable and a few authors are even erroneously quoted. Besides the basic catalogue there is very little discussion, and the many charts in the second half of the book give the impression that the author has simply printed her research cards without developing a proper commentary or drawing conclusions from her evidence. The section on chronology, for instance, amounts to a series of linear comparisons between monuments, without explanation of the grounds on which certain dates are reached. Poses rate schematic drawings with match-stick figures, several lists and a total of *four* lines of comments. All in all, this is not a scholarly work and its usefulness as a compilation of bibliography and photographs is so seriously marred by inaccuracies and imperfections that only a negative judgment of the whole seems possible.

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FOUILLES DE DELPHES, Vol. IV, MONUMENTS FIGURÉS: SCULPTURE, fascicule 6, RELIEFS, by *Mary-Anne Zagdoun*. (École française d'Athènes.) Pp. ix + 160, figs. 151. Diffusion de Boccard, Paris, 1977.

This addition to the series *Fouilles de Delphes* presents reliefs from non-architectural settings which date from the fifth century B.C. to the Roman period. Included are funerary and votive reliefs, decree reliefs, the Marmaria altar, the Meleager sarcophagus

and anthemion stele crowns. Fifty-two pieces are catalogued in all, of varying preservation and artistic quality. Many were found in the nineteenth or early twentieth century excavations of the site. Although a good number have been previously published, they are not all well known, and each is admirably presented here with new photographs, generally of high quality, a descriptive catalogue, and comparative stylistic and interpretative discussion. In some cases old drawings and photographs are reproduced alongside the new to clarify recent losses or gains. Except for a few pieces on the site, most of the sculptures are in the archaeological museum at Delphi.

The author has dealt with this rather diverse body of material in an admirable fashion. Chapter 1 presents three fragmentary non-Attic funerary reliefs of fifth century date: a man leaning on a staff, a portion of a palaistra scene, and the well-known relief of an "apoxyomenos" with his dog and servant.

Chapter 2, on ten votive pieces from the fifth century to the Roman period, includes Dionysiac subjects and reliefs to groups of divinities, to Apollo-Helios and to Kybele. The small number of votive reliefs generally known from the major panhellenic sanctuaries is noted. At Delphi their fragmentary state and summary execution often make dating difficult.

Chapter 3 considers decree reliefs and emblemata from the fourth century B.C. to the Hadrianic period. The two fourth century record reliefs are given detailed discussion and a welcome illustration of comparative material. One (inv. 2707) is interpreted as representing the Demos of Delphi with Athena. Symbols sculptured or incised on inscribed stelai include varied motifs, such as dolphins, shields, prancing bulls, Heraklean clubs, kitharai, amphorai, wreaths, sphinxes, axes and Apollo kitharoidos.

Chapter 4 gives a detailed catalogue and discussion of the altar from Marmaria, adding a sizable new fragment. The excellent series of photographs is among the most important contributions of the book. The drawings by I. Athanassiadi of the architecture (overall plan, section, elevation, moulding profiles and decoration) and sculpture (relief figures and restored position of each fragment) are of excellent quality and should be extremely useful for future studies. The plinth of the monument is restored as rectangular, not octagonal, as previously suggested. Some fragments were found east of the oldest Athena temple. This, in addition to the dimensions and square base, leads the author to suggest that the altar was not situated in the tholos, as once supposed, but outside. A date of ca. 130 B.C. is reached through a discussion of the Lesbian kymation, garland, and the style of the figures, which are compared to the frieze from Lagina, the Archelaos relief (especially Poesis, Comedy) and the Nike akroterion from the Hieron in Samothrace. Fragments of two smaller neo-Attic