

Baths in Hellenistic and Roman Cyprus

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This thesis is a multifaceted investigation into the architecture, design, technology and function of baths of ancient Cyprus, dating from the Hellenistic to the Late Roman period (4th c. BC - 7th c. AD). The study aims to fill a large gap in the scientific literature regarding baths and their functionality, as well as the role that they played in daily life during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The research evolved along two main avenues: a) the study and presentation of the different bath types, which appear and evolve in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, as these are recorded in the Greek and Roman tradition, with references to the terminology used, the historical context and to important examples of bath-buildings from other areas of the Mediterranean, and b) the analytical study of the Hellenistic and Roman baths that are recorded in Cyprus. This investigation involved the study of excavation reports, articles in journals, conference proceedings and monographs, as well as the study of primary sources, such as ancient texts and inscriptions. In particular, the study of references to baths and bathing in the ancient Greek and Latin literary sources has contributed to an enhanced understanding of various social concepts associated with the baths, and of how these concepts had a direct impact on the parallel development of the baths in the Greek and Roman world. This research was supplemented with the on-site documentation and mapping of the architectural and technological features of Cypriot baths, which included the study and recording of unpublished material, associated with the various heating techniques of Roman baths. Particular emphasis was given to the analytical description of the architecture, decoration, building techniques, heating and water-supply techniques, employed in the baths of Cyprus. Structures associated with baths and their water supply, such as aqueducts, *nymphaea* (or *krenae*) and public toilets, were also examined for a more holistic study of how the baths operated. In addition to the architecture, design and the technology used in the Hellenistic and Roman baths of Cyprus, another important dimension of this research is the study of socio-economic and cultural framework within which the baths were established and functioned. The present study investigated issues of public and private property, social symbolism and influences coming from the Mediterranean region. The ultimate objectives of this study were an as complete as possible assessment and comprehension of the Hellenistic and Roman baths of Cyprus within the wider *orbis antiquus*, and the laying of the foundation work for a future interdisciplinary study for the understanding, protection and promotion of this significant component of Cypriot and Mediterranean cultural heritage.