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THE SCULPTURE OF ANCIENT ORESTIS IN ROMAN TIMES

The paper examines the extant sculpture in ancient Orestis, a region that was part of Upper Macedonia (present-day Kastoria and the Voion district of Kozani). The small amount of sculpture Orestis has yielded to date mostly belongs to the Late Hellenistic or imperial times. The sculptures are either chance finds or come from rescue excavations, and their function is for the most part inferred from their typology.

The picture we have speaks of a production concentrated on votive and funerary reliefs with few free-standing pieces. They are provincial works, obviously the product of local workshops active in the wider Macedonian region, as is evident from stylistic similarities with works found outside Orestis. The consideration of the artistic production of a Roman province in its entirety is an interesting study, from which conclusions can be drawn concerning not only local workshops and their relation to the artistic centres of the Macedonian region but also the function of sculpture in a society that, superficially at least, gives the impression of being isolated on many levels.