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SCULPTURES HALF-WROUGHT, BUT NOT HALF-FINISHED

Half-wrought sculptures are pieces in which the working of the marble has not been taken to the final stages; they are not, however, considered half-finished if they have fulfilled the primary purpose of their creation (the Latin root-word *finis* means 'end', including in the sense of 'purpose'). Our curiosity was aroused by a votive statuette of Asklepios from the sanctuary at Epidaurus and an intact sarcophagus from the NE cemetery of Athens.

That this was a practice and not some isolated instances is clear from similar examples that we managed to locate, particularly in territorial Greece. Without disregarding economic considerations, from the few inscriptions or the place where these works were found and their connection with specific individuals, it is certain that the reasons for it cannot have been purely financial. Why, then, did the users of these works prefer this half-wrought form? In what circumstances did the sculptors leave their work uncompleted? Were there influences from other places? This paper seeks a possible answer to these questions.