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GRAVE STELES AND RELIEFS AT DION. THE LOCAL PRODUCTION

The subject of this paper is the sizeable number of grave steles and reliefs from the Late Hellenistic and Imperial age in the Archaeological Museum of Dion. Although several of these monuments have been presented individually in the literature, this paper attempts to rectify the absence of a systematic study of the whole body of material, with the object of placing it within an artistic and production centre context.

The starting-point for this study is the set of monuments known to have come from Dion, which are classified by typology and iconography. The resulting groups are expanded by the inclusion of monuments from the rest of Pieria and monuments of unknown origin with similar typological and iconographical features. These similarities, taken together with the similarity of construction material, clearly show that all these works are products of the same local centre.

It is evident from the study of the typology and iconography that the local workshop absorbed a variety of influences. The basic shapes and motifs adhere to models known from the major local workshops of central Macedonia (Veria, Thessaloniki), but the details display types and iconographic motifs associated with Hellenistic tradition that have parallels in monuments from neighbouring regions of Macedonia and Thessaly. The distinctive physiognomy of these local monuments illustrates the Roman influences that were dictated chiefly by the identity of their owners.