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## FUNERARY RELIEFS WITH BUSTS FROM THESSALONIKI

The paper looks at the funerary reliefs decorated with busts that appeared in the region of Thessaloniki in the imperial period. Most of them seem meant for use on a funerary monument. In the examples examined the busts display a relative uniformity as regards shape, part of body included, and arrangement on the field of the relief. We also distinguish a standardisation in the rendering of personal characteristics, while there is usually a pronounced resemblance among the family members in a group portrait. In some cases the busts are combined with other iconographic subjects on the same monument.

The male busts usually adhere closely to pre-existing models, and most are timeless. The female busts more frequently display the contemporary fashion in hair-styles and their faces are rendered more idealistically. In general, the hair-styles on the funerary reliefs of the Thessaloniki region constitute a *terminus post quem* for dating the monuments, as confirmed by some precisely dated examples. One final observation worthy of note is that the iris and pupil of the eyes are rarely rendered, even in the late 2nd and the 3rd century.