

REVIEW ARTICLES

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Scholarly and Eucharistic Mysticism of Origen

The article focuses on the particular issues of the theology of Origen of Alexandria, namely the free endeavor of an individual and its relation to the religious collectivity and the ways how allegorical hermeneutics of the Holy Scripture and, more broadly, of scholarly research relates to the erotic experience with God and to the transfer of this experience on the collective or social level.

Manana Odisheli

Herculaneum, Oplontis, Pompeii, Life before Catastrophe

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 changed the life of a prosperous region of the Roman Empire forever. Pliny the Younger described the catastrophic event in letters addressed to the historian Tacitus. Many people lost their lives during the eruption; the majority of the deceased were buried under a thick layer of ash inside the buildings of Pompeii and killed by pyroclastic flows in the bay of Herculaneum. Archaeological excavations began in the late 16th century and were renewed in the 18th century mainly to extract art objects. Proper archaeological surveys conducted during the 20th century created the ground for a broader understanding of the lifestyle of the population before the catastrophe, and created a firm chronological framework for the vast archaeological material. Modern surveys taken together with the written sources have revealed a complex picture of the populations in Herculaneum and Pompeii, their varied activities, their social mobility and their rich diet. The painstaking efforts of archaeologists and restorers enable us to appreciate the aesthetic and artistic achievements of the inhabitants. The majority of artworks are preserved in the Naples Archaeological Museum, but at some sites such as ancient Oplontis or the House of Mysteries in Pompeii they are still in situ and thus give us an opportunity to admire the opulence of luxury Roman villas.

The cities had magnificent temples where rich and poor worshipped their gods; they bathed in bath houses; they watched gladiatorial battles and entertained foreign dignitaries in the amphitheatre. The urban population of these towns had laundries, bakeries, taverns and shops; their houses often had water supplies, heating systems and gardens with decorative plants, sculpture and fountains. Public buildings and private houses were richly adorned with mosaics and frescoes depicting mythological scenes, historical events and theatrical motifs, imitating architectural features, exotic landscapes, still lifes and gardens inhabited with birds. As many archaeological finds confirm, Georgian elites of Late Antiquity were influenced by Roman practice and were inspired to imitate the lifestyle of the Roman aristocracy.

Alexi Nikolozishvili

Texts of Homiletic Character in Greek Papyri

According to LDAB (Leuven Database of Ancient Books) there are in total fifty-three Greek papyri described as 'homily'. Twelve of these papyri contain fragments from texts whose authorship is doubtless. The other forty-one are fragments of texts that were previously unknown and cannot be attributed to any Christian author. The article discusses four of these fragments to present, on the one hand, the diversity of content of the homiletic papyri and on the other hand, the obstacles that a papyrologist encounters during the work on papyri.

Nino Mataradze, Elene Tatishvili

Western Paradigms of Translation Studies: the Interdisciplinary Perspective. Descriptive and Functional Paradigms

The paper reviews translation theories that emerged in the late 20th century as part of the cultural turn in the humanities. The article addresses two major paradigms in translation studies, descriptive and functional, which cover some of the most influential translation theories of the time: the polysystems and norms theories and the theories of skopos, translatorial action and translation-oriented text analysis.

Evolving along with the emancipation of translation studies from linguistics and literary criticism, the polysystems and norms theories are marked by target orientation and the focus on the sociocultural context of translation. The ensuing theories of refraction and rewriting further foreground the multicultural and multidisciplinary perspective of translation studies as an independent discipline, while the functional theories provide a general framework for translatorial action, allowing for a number of theoretical and practical solutions to meet specific translation goals.