



Styling social identity in Alexandrian funerary painting

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Alexandria was built anew, in the late 4th c. BCE, in order to house a fast-emerging community of Macedonians, Greeks, and many more, and thus become the first mega-cosmopolis of the ancient world. In an environment where ethnic and cultural identities did not quite function the way we perceive and utilize them today, Alexandrians learnt to represent themselves to themselves and others through many devices, including art. Funerary art in particular, comes across as a direct reflection of social and religious norms, even though any similarities with trends and customs we observe today may be misleading. This paper dwells on Alexandrian funerary art from the main necropoleis of the Hellenistic period, wishing to examine what is "Greek" or "Hellenistic" about it, or even what it is that may make it "Alexandrian".



