



Preface

This volume brings together the contributions to a colloquium held in Ingelheim upon Rhine in November 2022 entitled “Colour Schemes and Surface Finish of the Roman Architectural Order”. The meeting was prompted by the observation that, while the painting of ancient sculpture is being intensely discussed and published, research on the polychromy of Roman architecture has not yet gained comparable momentum. Questions about the original appearance, the aesthetic effects, the semantic implications and, above all, the functional, chronological and regional variation of coloured building elements have hardly been asked so far, although they are of decisive importance for the understanding of Roman architecture.

Twenty-five archaeologists, ancient historians, art historians, and chemists from twelve different countries convened in Ingelheim to present and discuss evidence on Roman architectural polychromy. The meeting was made possible by the generous financial and logistical support of the Gutenberg International Conference Center (GICC) at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. We extend our gratitude to Christine Walde and Alexander Pruß for including the event in the “Mainz Ancient Studies” programme, as well as to Kumi Kost and her team for the organisation of the conference. The evening lecture on November 8th was kindly given by Matthias Müller, whose stimulating observations on medieval architecture and its modern exploration have also been incorporated into this volume. Additionally, the event was skillfully moderated by Debra Hawhee, Marietta Horster and Anja Klöckner.

We would like to thank Elisa Schuster for editing this volume and Amélie Alena Hof for compiling raw

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Mainz, June 2024

Matthias Grawehr and Johannes Lipps

1 The additional lectures in Ingelheim include: Mark Bradley, “Why was Roman Architecture Colourful?”; David Scahill, “The Use of Bronze for Corinthian Capitals”; Orit Peleg-Barkat, “Herod the Great’s True Colours – The Colour Scheme(s) of the Ar-

chitectural Decoration in King Herod’s Construction Projects” and Penny Coombe, “A Veneer of Empire: Coloured Architectural Stone in Late-Roman Colchester”. These have already or will be published elsewhere.