

INGRID E. M. EDLUND-BERRY

THE SEATED AND STANDING
STATUE AKROTERIA
FROM POGGIO CIVTATE (MURLO)

GIORGIO BRETSCHEIDER EDITORE

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fragments of life-size terracotta statues were found during the first season of excavation at the site of Poggio Civitate (Murlo) in 1966. Their function and importance became gradually understood during subsequent seasons, and some of the best preserved pieces were put on display at the first exhibit of material from Poggio Civitate, held in Florence and Siena in 1970. As a result of my participation in the excavations from 1967 to 1971, I was able to be personally involved in the discovery of many of the fragments and to follow the steps of their conservation and restoration. Thanks to the constant encouragement of Professor Kyle M. Phillips, Jr., Director of the Excavations, I presented a preliminary study of the statue fragments as a Master's thesis in 1969; this was subsequently expanded into a Ph.D. dissertation, « The Seated Statues from Poggio Civitate (Murlo) » which was completed at Bryn Mawr College in 1971. The best preserved pieces and the main conclusions on the function of the seated and standing statues as ridgepole akroteria were published as an article in *Dialoghi di Archeologia* in 1972.

Since the initial study and publication of the statue fragments, many more have been excavated during the continued exploration of the site. Although the basic interpretation of the statues remains unchanged, new evidence from Poggio Civitate itself and from other sites now allows us to appreciate not only the place of the statue akroteria in the development of architectural decoration in Etruria and other parts of ancient Italy, but also their role in enabling us to determine the use of the Archaic Building complex at Poggio Civitate.

In the following discussion I wish to present the final results of a study of all the statue fragments excavated at the site, combined with an analysis of their style and function. Chapter One introduces the history of excavation and publication of the site insofar as it pertains to the discovery and interpretation of the statues. The primary observations which form the basis for any study of the fragments are presented as a catalogue in Chapter Two, followed by a discussion of technique, distribution, and numbers in Chapter Three. Chapter Four presents the stylistic analysis of the statues. Chapter Five introduces the question of the function of the statue akroteria and their iconography as part of the architectural program of the site.

As is true in all excavation projects, my study and analysis of the seated and standing akroteria are the result of a united effort of all the members of the excavation staff. During the more than twenty seasons of excavation and study, the excavations at Poggio Civitate have served as a training ground for a large number of students. For many of us, the experience of following the different phases of the discovery of architectural features and objects and the subsequent record-keeping and analysis has shaped our ap-

preciation of strict method coupled with innovative interpretation. I am particularly grateful to Kyle M. Phillips, Jr. who invited me to join the excavation staff in 1967, and who provided me the challenge of studying the seated and standing statue fragments for publication. His unflinching trust in my ability to handle this task satisfactorily and his strong sense of fairness in giving his students credit for their work while at the same time taking full responsibility for any mistakes we might make are the qualities which continue to inspire me. Long after the dissertation was completed and the first publication had appeared, my continuous involvement with the site through visits and discussions have enabled me to see my work as a contribution to the overall interpretation of the importance of Poggio Civitate. Erik O. Nielsen, fellow excavator and now Field Director of the site, has always kept me informed of the work in progress, and in particular of new finds of statue fragments.

Only those of us who were part of the excavation team during the first five or so years can fully appreciate the painstaking work involved with handling the vast number of very fragmentary pieces of architectural terracottas and pottery. The architectural terracottas in particular are extremely fragile, and it took the expertise of the professional restorers from the staff of the Soprintendenza alle Antichità d'Etruria and the Archaeological Museum in Florence to develop methods of conservation. Those particularly involved with the initial restoration of the statue fragments were Renzo Giachetti and Raffaele Del Corso, from whom I learned much about the techniques of working with clay. In addition to salvaging the crumbling pieces of statuary, our concern as excavators was also to keep accurate records and to catalogue each piece. Based on the system developed and used at the excavations at Morgantina under the direction of Professors Richard Stillwell and Erik Sjöqvist, the Murlo catalogue file has proven to be rigid enough to provide guidelines for a uniform format but also flexible enough to allow for new finds, new interpretations, and joining pieces. The process of assembling the statue fragments was begun in 1967, and resulted in the restoration of statues such as Inv. 67-411 (I.1.2) and 67-297 (I.5.1). All of us were involved in joining fragments of terracotta and pottery, but special thanks should go to Kyle M. Phillips, Jr. and Timothy N. Gantz. I am also grateful to J. Penny Small and others who were responsible for the cataloguing of the pieces and who made additional observations, as did the photographer, Göran Söderberg, and the architect, Hans Lindén.

Visits from the Soprintendente, Dr. Guglielmo Maetzke, and Professor Ranuccio Bianchi Bandinelli to the site and storerooms served as an incentive for presenting my thoughts on the statues as fully as possible to be of use to Italian colleagues as well as scholars of other nationalities. Throughout the years, the close cooperation with the Swedish excavators at the Etruscan site of Acquarossa has proved stimulating and important. These colleagues include the late Carl Eric Östenberg, Eva Rystedt, Charlotte Scheffer, Margareta Strandberg Olofsson, Alvar Vidén, Leni Wendt, Charlotte Wikander, and Örjan Wikander.

My Master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation were presented to the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College. In addition to Kyle M. Phillips, my advisor, other members of the College, in particular Machteld J. Mellink, Carl Nylander, Brunilde S. Ridgway, and Russell T. Scott provided much help and encouragement.

At the time of the completion of the Ph.D. dissertation in 1971, I realized that it

would be premature to publish the catalogue and preliminary results of my study. The excavations were still in progress, with new fragments appearing and continuing to appear each season. So as to make known the major conclusions of my work, I gratefully accepted an invitation from Professor Ranuccio Bianchi Bandinelli to publish an article in *Dialoghi di Archeologia* for 1972. Since that date I have kept a close record of the new pieces found at the site, and continued my analysis of Etruscan akroteria. The next opportunity to update the research in progress came in 1985 as a result of the Year of the Etruscans. With the assistance of Kyle M. Phillips, Jr. and R. Lamar Lacy, I presented the seated and standing statue akroteria in entries of the catalogue for the exhibit in Siena, here referred to as SIENA CP, 1985.

In preparing the complete manuscript for publication, I have used excavation photographs taken by the excavation photographers, including Chris Williams. Many photographs were taken by Kyle M. Phillips, III. Other photographs were supplied by the Gabinetto Fotografico of the Soprintendenza alle Antichità d'Etruria and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Rome, as acknowledged in the credits for each. Ill.2 was prepared by the excavation architect, David Peck, and Ill.3 by Deena Berg.

Financial support for participating in the excavations, and for photographs to be used for the thesis and dissertation, came from the excavation funds for the Bryn Mawr College Excavations in Tuscany. Again, I express my deep gratitude to Kyle M. Phillips, Jr. and my admiration for his concern with the success of my work. The continued research was conducted as part of repeated visits to Siena and Rome. A draft of the complete manuscript was completed during my leave of absence from the University of Texas at Austin in 1987, for which funding was provided by the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the University Research Institute at the University of Texas. The University Research Institute also provided funding for some of the photographs.

I am grateful for the hospitality shown to me during my annual visits to Murlo by Erik O. Nielsen and members of the community of Murlo and Vescovado, in particular, Maurizio Morviducci and Armida Ferri. During my stay in Florence in 1984 I benefitted from working in the storerooms together with Kyle M. Phillips, Jr., Kyle M. Phillips, III, and Helle Damgaard Andersen. I am grateful to Dr. Francesco Nicosia, Soprintendente alle Antichità d'Etruria, for his continued interest in the progress of my work. Dott.ssa Carlotta Cianferoni has kept me informed of the storage and display of the seated statue fragments at the Antiquarium at Murlo, and Dott.ssa Laura Orsi very kindly helped me check the Inventory numbers in the Archives of the Soprintendenza Archeologica della Toscana in July 1988. Suzanne Bonefas assisted in checking the catalogue entries.

While in Rome I have used the libraries at the American Academy and the Swedish Institute, and am grateful to the library staff at these institutions, Lucilla Marino and Antonella Bucci, and Kerstin Bellerba respectively. The Directors of the American Academy, Mrs. Sophie Consagra in 1983-1984, and Professor James Melchert in 1985-1987, and at the Swedish Institute, the late docent Carl Eric Östenberg in 1970-1979, and Professor Carl Nylander, the present Director, have greatly facilitated my work.

This study is dedicated to all my friends at Murlo in gratitude for all the work and fun we have shared, and also to my parents, leg. läk. Elly Ohlsson-Edlund and the late fil. lic. Georg Edlund, for their unselfish belief that any intellectual endeavor I wanted to pursue should be encouraged, even if it meant that I would live and work as far

away from my home in Sweden as Austin and Houston, Texas in the United States. In Austin I have been fortunate enough to receive good advice and helpful suggestions from Lucy S. Meritt, and in Houston unfailing and generous help and encouragement from my husband, John L. Berry.

The manuscript was completed in the Spring of 1988. Kyle Phillips read the text and made many helpful comments before his death in August. I dedicate my work to his memory.