

## **Between Deity and Dedicator: Greek Votive Terracotta Figurines at Work**

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The practice of dedicating terracotta figurines as votive offerings in Greek sanctuaries took off in the early Archaic period, blossomed through the Classical period, and underwent various types of local uses before declining and going out of use, primarily in the Late Hellenistic period. But why were these particular objects so popular for votive dedications? When studying the life-cycle of the figurines from their production to commodification, through dedication and mediation, till the end of use and discarding, many aspects are revealed that allow us to understand the multiple benefits of these mouldmade votive clay objects. This paper will go through the characteristics of the figurines that led to their immense use, and discuss how they functioned as both commodities and cultic objects, and through their use actively worked as identity markers, public communicators as well as mediators between the deities and the dedicators.

