

R.R.R. (Bert) Smith

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Smith is from Edinburgh in Scotland and studied Classics (1973-77) and Classical Archaeology (1977-83) at Oxford University. He was a Fellow by Examination in Ancient History at Magdalen College, Oxford (1981-1986) and a Harkness Fellow at Princeton University (1983-85). He taught Hellenistic and Roman art at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University from 1986 to 1995 and held an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship in Munich in 1991-92. He was Lincoln Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art at Oxford University from 1995 to 2022 and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2010. He was Stanley Kelley Jr. Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton University in 2022-23.

Smith's main research interests are in the art and visual cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world, and his work is mainly directed at the historical interpretation of ancient visual representation and its relationship with contemporary social and political culture. He has participated in fieldwork at Oinoanda and Balbura in Lycia and has been Director of the Aphrodisias Excavations since 1991. In connection with his work at Aphrodisias, he has a particular interest in the art and archaeology of the Greek cities of Roman Anatolia.

Publications

Hellenistic Royal Portraits (Oxford 1988).

Hellenistic Sculpture (London 1991), translated into French and Turkish.

The Monument of C.Julius Zoilos: Aphrodisias I (Mainz, 1994).

Roman Portrait Statuary from Aphrodisias: Aphrodisias II (Mainz, 2006).

Historical and Religious Memory in the Ancient World (Oxford 2012), with Beate Dignas.

The marble reliefs from the Julio-Claudian Sebasteion: Aphrodisias VI (Darmstadt, 2013).

The Last Statues of Antiquity (Oxford, 2016), with Bryan Ward-Perkins.

Antinous: boy made god (Oxford 2018).

Commodus: The public image of a Roman Emperor (Wiesbaden 2023), with Christian Niederhuber.