



March 2019  
 pp. 292, 8 tav. col e 48 b/n, 17x24 cm, bross.  
 ISBN: 9788833130484 | € 55,00

#### SERIES

I libri di Viella. Arte / Studia Artium  
 Medievalium Brunensis, 8

## Zuzana Frantová

# Ravenna: *Sedes Imperii*

## Artistic Trajectories in the Late Antique Mediterranean

Ravenna was one of the most significant administrative, political, and religious centres of the late antique period. This book focuses on the period between the transfer of the imperial court to Ravenna (402) and the last western emperor Romulus Augustus' deposition by the Germanic commander Odoacer (476), a period when Ravenna was the seat of western emperors. The book is premised on the author's conviction that individual surviving examples of architecture, along with their decoration, sarcophagi, ivory, and gold objects, can be best understood not only by examining their historical context and iconography, but also looking at the very material of these objects and how their production was organised. The book therefore focuses primarily on craftsmen and their traditions, and deliberate breaks with tradition, and on the way workmen moved about the late antique world and thereby fostered the exchange and spread of technology and artistic models. It thus presents Ravenna not as an isolated phenomenon (as Ravenna is very often presented in the literature) but as one of many players in the political, ecclesiastical, and social games of the late antique world.

**Zuzana Frantová.** After several years as a research fellow in the Center for Early Medieval Studies in Brno, she now teaches Medieval Art in the Department of Art History of Masaryk University (Czech Republic). Since 2013 she has also been the executive editor of the journal *Convivium. Exchanges and Interactions in the Arts of Medieval Europe, Byzantium, and Mediterranean*.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Preface, by Andrea Augenti
- Introduction
- East or West? Historiographical Considerations
- I. The Creation of a New *Sedes Imperii*
  - 1. Architecture
  - 2. Sarcophagi
  - 3. Glass Tesserae
  - 4. Ivories and Jewellery
- II. The Shifting Hands of Power
  - 1. Honorius (395-423)
  - 2. Valentinian II (425-455)
  - 3. Bishop Neon (451-473)
- Conclusions
- Bibliography
- Index of names
- Index of places