

Beyond Demeter. Objects and Votivs from S. Anna (Agrigento)

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In the past Sicilian sanctuaries were often accessed through presumptions deriving from ancient written sources. Although votivs and votiv depositions were always part of the scientific occupation with sanctuaries, they were only used to form an overriding argument. As research on the votivs itself, the way they were deposited and the performative act behind it, is still pending, the aim of the PhD thesis is to document the votiv situations found during the excavation at S. Anna in detail and to organize the data methodically. Even in this closed context the depositions vary in appearance and content, which makes it possible to discern different types. Identifying and distinguishing these different forms better makes it possible understand the sanctuaries in Sicily as a whole, and gives insights into the ritual practice and the performative acts taking place in the sanctuaries.