



BESONDERS/EXEMPLARISCH **Morphomatische Fallstudien zu Biographie und Portrait**

Abstract

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Individual vs. Type: On the Implications of Establishing Roman Imperial Portraiture as an Artistic Genre

During the 19th century scholarship on imperial Roman portraiture gained momentum. Compendia were created that provided structured access to the relevant artefacts: that is, marble statues and busts, coins, and inscriptions. Johann Jakob Bernoulli's multi-volume publication *Römische Ikonographie* (1882–1894) is the most prominent example. These compendia substantiated those artefacts as an artistic genre, the formal and stylistic development of which could subsequently be studied for the portraiture of individual imperial dynasties and across the whole imperial period. My paper will examine what impact these compendia and, in their wake, the establishment of Roman imperial portraiture as an artistic genre had on the study of these portraits. Specifically, I will explore the role of these compendia in a transition that took place in the early 20th century, when scholarly focus changed away from the individuals depicted and the reception aesthetics of the portraits and towards portrait types and the production aesthetics of the genre.

