The new book of Inge Nielsen is a very useful one. Entitled “Housing the chosen: the architectural context of mystery groups and religious associations in the Ancient World” (Brepolis Publishers, 2014) is a response for a highly fruitful topic. Nowadays, when the cognitive archaeology and the archaeology of the sacred (Fontana 2013) challenging our discipline with many unasked questions, Nielsen’s book is a very important one. As we know, many of the collegia buildings, associations and small religious groups are reinterpreted not only as religious communities (Bonnet-Bricault 2013) but also their building and gathering halls (Diaconescu 2012). The new interpretation of the Mithraic communities from Ostia (Rohde 2012, Marchesini 2013) and the reinterpretation of the role of the collegia in the spread of the mystery cults (Goffaux 2012) ask also a lot of questions about the buildings, where these small communities gathered. Analyzing these buildings, as sacred spaces, spaces of rituals, spaces full with feelings, processions and convivial activities, we can get very tempting answers about a particular part of the religious life of the ancient man. Review of the book in preparation by V. Gasparini.

Redefining religion getting very popular nowadays – at least, in titles. The collective volume edited by Alberto Bernabe and other well known scholars entitled “Redefining Dionysos” was published in 2013.
Another volume edited by Renate Schlesier, entitled “A different God? Dionysos and ancient politheism” published in 2012 had the same intention as the previous.

Two brand new book of professor Jan Bremmer will appear in June, 2014, one dealing with ancient mysteries, a long debated topic in the Religionswissenschaft (about the topic, see also: Pant héé). The second is about the materiality of ancient magic, a conference volume edited with D. Boschung, leading scholar of ancient magic. The volume is a result of an international conference held in 2012 in Köln.

§

As I wrote in a modest contribution, religion in urban context became nowadays a very popular topic. Atomizing Roman religion, makes easier maybe to analyze more accurately the archaeology of the sacred and the local networks too.

Reinterpretation of the notion of sacred landscape is also a popular topic.

In this context, the new book of Krzysztof
Jakubiak, *Sacral landscape in Hatra*. Warsaw, 2014 is an interesting attempt to present the sacred (sacral?) landscape of one of the most researched city of the East. About the religious life of Hatra there are
many recent studies (Dirven 2013, Kaizer 2006, 2009). This book - under the name of sacral landscape – presents only the sacred architecture of the city. The same concept, as we found in the edited volume of Kaizer from 2013, where urban sacred landscape appears mainly as “architecture”.

It is very nice to see a synthesis about the sacral architecture of a city (especially from such dangerous areas as Iraq!), but sacred landscape would mean (after the definition of Cancik 1986, Rome as sacred landscape,” Visible Religion 4–5. 250–65) something much, much more than buildings.

However, we are so happy to see new books from a city from Iraq.

§

A new book will appear in this year as a result of an international collaboration, created under the auspices of the University from Cologne. The book is edited by two Colognian researcher, prof. Dr. Dietrich Boschung and Dr. Alfred Schaefer from Köln. The papers presented at the conference you can find also online: HERE.

Nota bene: it is hard to imagine, that a statue from a small, Roman province like Dacia could appear on two books, published in the same time without any collaboration. In this case, it happened. The Liber Pater statue from Apulum will be on the cover of this book and also on our work. The similitude is purely accidental.

In the first half of 2014 many important contributions were published regarding Roman religion and ancient religious studies. Here is a short list about the most important contributions from this semester:


Our book entitled “*Bibliography of Roman Religion in Dacia*” was published in autumn, 2014.

Further details and the statistics, figures and annexes of the book you can find online: [HERE](#).

The Erfurt School and its very dynamic team edits and publish a new book almost in every year. Their
last contribution to Roman religious studies is a volume edited by Nicola Cusumano, Jörg Rüpke, Attilio Mastrocinque and Valentino Gasparini entitled “Memory and religious experience in the Greco – Roman World” published in Stuttgart, by Franz Steiner Verlag as a part of the Potsdamer Altertumwissenschaftliche Beiträge, band 45.

The book is divided in two main parts, each containing 6-6 articles. The first chapter is about Memory and Religion in the Greek World, the second is about the “Religious experience in the Roman World.

The twelve contributions are very important, not especially because their topics (many of them being analyzed a lot of time before) but mainly because the new bibliography and approach used in the book.

§

Nowadays the research of social networks became a very popular topic (see just the waste bibliography of Barabási Albert László or the articles in the Journal of Social Networks. In this context it is obvious, that in the waste chaos of the new kind of methodologies of the study of Roman religion, it appeared also the research of the networks, as a factor in ancient religious dynamics.

A very good - but not the first – example of this kind of study is the new book of Anna Collar from Cambridge, who published her Ph.d. thesis as a monograph entitled “Religious networks in the Roman Empire” at the Cambridge University Press in October, 2013.
This book is a must read, introducing the new network – studies for the classical studies and roman Religionswissenschaft.

Early Christianity today fortunately became an integrated part of the study of Ancient religions. The recently appeared books of the famous „Early Christianity in the context of Antiquity“ series creating a very good forum for this new interpretation. Here you can find the two, latest volume of the series.

The new book edited by Chiara Terranova introduce a very interesting topic in the religious research: children and infants. Many of the contributors are young researchers, specializing in funeral art and rituals or religious studies. Their important contributions reveals the rarely researched role of the children in sacred banquets, temples, funeral context and religion.

Christopher Jones, the world famous scholar of the early christianity and history of religions published his new book,

Further publications since 2014:
Emotion and Persuasion in Classical Antiquity

Burial Rituals, Ideas of Afterlife, and the Individual in the Hellenistic World and the Roman Empire

Bodies of Evidence: Ancient Anatomical Votives Past, Present and Future

Religions in the Graeco-Roman World: Where Dreams May Come
Dea in limine
Culto, immagine e sacerditio di Ecate nel mondo greeco e mitoellenico

At the Temple Gates
The Religion of Freelance Experts in the Roman Empire

SIGHT AND THE ANCIENT SENSES
EDITED BY MICHAEL SQUIRE
GRECO-EGYPTIAN INTERACTIONS

Literature, Translation, and Culture, 500 BCE-300 CE

Edited by Ian Rutherford

MARK EDWARDS

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Barbara Groeneveld, Maria Cristina Ricci, Laura Maria Michelini

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Personal, Local, and Global
edited by Ralph Haeussler & Anthony King

Dea Sernua: Treasure, Cult and Ritual at Ashwell, Hertfordshire
Ralph Jackson and Gilbert Burleigh

The British Museum Research Publication 154
Jörg Rüpke

Pantheon
Una nuova storia della religione romana

De Gruyter

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