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STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTATION AND DATING OF THE \textit{SCAENAE FRONS} OF THE THEATER AT ANCIENT MESSENE
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The \textit{scaenae frons}, the façade of the Roman scene building of the Theater at Messene has been dated to between the middle of the 2nd century and the 3rd century A.D. by the excavator from uncertain evidences. The present paper demonstrates based on a stylistic analysis of the architectural ornamentation that the \textit{scaenae frons} of the Messenian Theater dates not to the middle of the 2nd century but to the second half of the 1st century A.D. In addition, based on the same analysis, it is confirmed that the Roman theater of Messene was influenced not by the west including the city of Rome but rather by Asia Minor. The new chronology implies that the Roman construction boom of Messene belong to the second half of the 1st century A.D.