



AMADOR **V**EGA **E**SQUERRA

B A R C E L O N A

HERMENEUTIC OF SECRETS:
FROM THE VILLA DEI MISTERI
TO THE
ROTHKO CHAPEL

The black and white photograph (Fig. 1) shows a group of tourists having a picnic in the shell of the Temple of Hera, at the archaeological site of Paestum, in the province of Naples. From left to right, we see two young Italian men and, between them, is Nic, the daughter of John Fischer, the American tourist taking the picture; stretched out on the grass is Mark Rothko, whose head can hardly be seen, and at his side is Kate, his daughter by Mell, his second wife, who is wearing sunglasses; to the right, leaning against a column, is Elisabeth Fischer, and at her side is Sarah, the Fischers' other daughter.



Fig. 1: Picnic in Paestum, Tempel of Hera, June 26, 1959. Photograph by John Fischer.