

The Art of Ancient Rome

DU1741, Autumn Semester 2019

II. Historical Frame: Periodisation and Transformations



Resting Hermes, from the Villa of Papyri, Herculaneum, 1st century B.C., copy of a Greek original of the 4th century B.C., Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples



Reliefs from the Altar of "Domitius Ahenobarbus", set up c. 100 B.C.,
Munich, Glyptothek and Musée du Louvre, Paris



ISSN 0017-9574

Abhandlungen der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften
Philosophisch-historische Klasse
Jahrgang 1987 - 2. Abhandlung

TONIO HÖLSCHER

Römische Bildsprache als semantisches System

Vorgetragen am 16. Juni 1984



HEIDELBERG 1987

CARL WINTER · UNIVERSITÄTSVERLAG

ART AND THE ROMAN VIEWER

THE TRANSFORMATION OF ART FROM THE PAGAN WORLD TO CHRISTIANITY



JAS ELSNER

The Art of Ancient Rome

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II. Periodisation and Some Visual Roots

Periods of Roman History









I. “Etruscan” period, Kingship

753 BC: Foundation of Rome

509 BC: Expulsion of the last king of the gens Tarquinia,
kings of Etruscan Origins, Tarquinius Superbus



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| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------------|---|---------|
|  | Ligurians |  | Etruscans |  | Veneti and Apuli |  | Italics |
|  | Celts |  | Raetians |  | Carthaginians |  | Greeks |



Terracotta statue of young woman, late 4th–early 3rd century BC / New York, Metropolitan Museum



Terracotta head of a woman, c.
525–500 BC / New York, MET

Bronze statuette of a woman, late 6th
century BC / New York, MET



Sarcophagus of the Spouses, late 6th century, terracotta, with traces of polychromy / Rome, Villa Giulia, Museo Nazionale Etrusco



Sarcophagus of the
Spouses, late 6th century
/ Louvre, Paris



Cinerary urn, end of the 2nd, early 1st century B.C., alabaster, production of Volterra, Museo Gregoriano Etrusco, Vatican



Cinerary urn of Thana Vipinei Ranazunia, 2nd century B.C., terracotta, Metropolitan Museum, New York

Periods of Roman History

II. The Roman Republic

- Cultural mix of Latin, Etruscan, Greek elements
- Vast expansion of the Roman domination



- Territory of Rome and her allies
- 500
- 338
- After the Latin war
- 298
- Start of 3rd Samnite war
- 290
- End of 3rd Samnite war
- 272
- End of the Pyrrhic war
- 264
- Start of 1st Punic war
- 218
- Start of 2nd Punic war



Roman province shortly before the assassination of Julius Caesar, 44 BC

Periods of Roman History

II. The Roman Republic

- Cultural mix of Latin, Etruscan, Greek elements
- Vast expansion of the Roman domination
- Ends in 27 BC, with the first princeps, or imperator, Gaius Octavianus, known as Augustus (r. 27 BC – 14 AD)

Periods of Roman History

III. Imperial Rome

- First period: *pax romana*, with a series of great emperors like Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian etc... from Augustus to Severus (193–211)
- Deeply Roman visual language, with the figure of the emperor become a major theme

ROMAN EMPERORS



Augustus
27 BC - 14 AD



Tiberius
14 - 37



Caligula
37 - 41



Claudius
41 - 54



Nero
54 - 68



Galba
68 - 69



Otho
69



Vitellius
69



Vespasian
69 - 79



Titus
79 - 81



Domitian
81 - 96



Nerva
96 - 98



Trajan
98 - 117



Hadrian
117 - 138



Antoninus Pius
138 - 161



Marcus Aurelius
161 - 180



Commodus
180 - 192



Pertinax
193



Didius Julianus
193



Septimius Severus
193 - 211



Caracalla
211 - 217



Macrinus
217 - 218



Elagabalus
218 - 222



Alexander Severus
222 - 235



Maximinus Thrax
235 - 238



Gordian I.
238



Gordian II.
238



Balbinus & Pupienus
238



Gordian III.
238 - 244



Philip the Arab
244 - 249



Decius
249 - 251



Hostilian
251



Trebonianus Gallus
251 - 253



Aemilianus
253



Valerian
253 - 260



Gallienus
253 - 268



Augustus Prima Porta, c. 15 AD, Musei Vaticani



Statue of Marcus Aurelius, 2nd century AD,
Louvre Lens



Equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, gilded bronze, 166–180 AD, Musei Capitolini, Rome





“Brutus”, part of a Roman bronze
honorific statue, around 300 BC /
Rome, Musei Capitolini



L'arringatore, bronze statue of a politician from Perusium (Perugia), first quarter of the first century BC / Florence, Museo archeologico





Diptych of Probus Anicius, carved ivory, 402 / Museo del tesoro della cattedrale di Aosta



Head of Constantine I, 325-370 AD / New York, MET