

# **The Art of Ancient Rome**

DU1741, Autumn Semester 2020

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>  
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

# 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



© 2012 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

	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 2<sup>nd</sup>, early 1<sup>st</sup> century  
B.C., alabaster, production of Volterra, Museo  
Gregoriano Etrusco, Vatican



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

# Periods of Roman History

## **II. The Roman Republic**

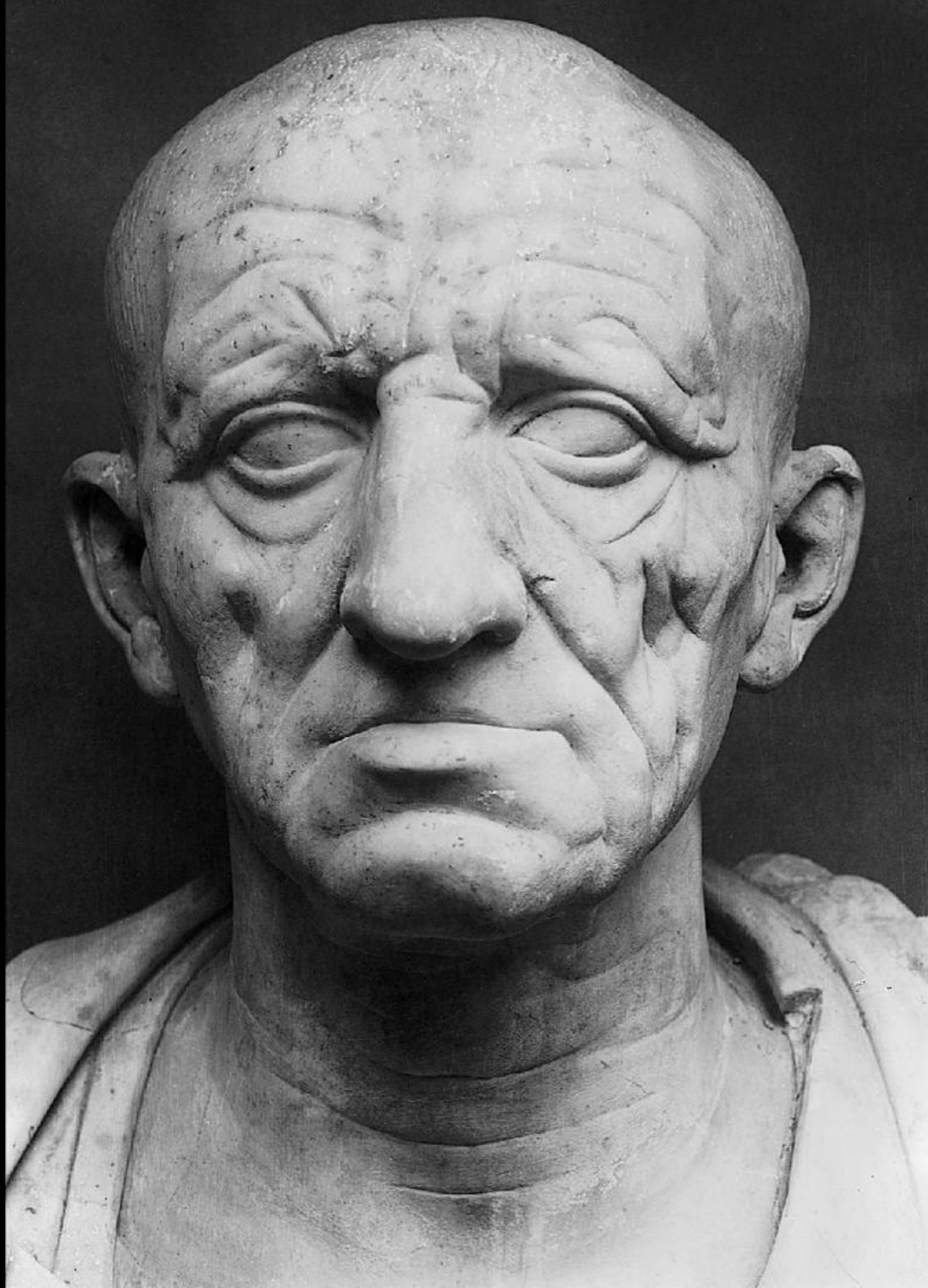
- Cultural mix of Latin, Etruscan, Greek elements
- Vast expansion of the Roman domination



- 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



So-called Patrizio Torlonia, sometimes believed to be Cato the Elder, marble, 1st century AD copy of an original of 80-70 BC / Rome, collezione Torlonia



# 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

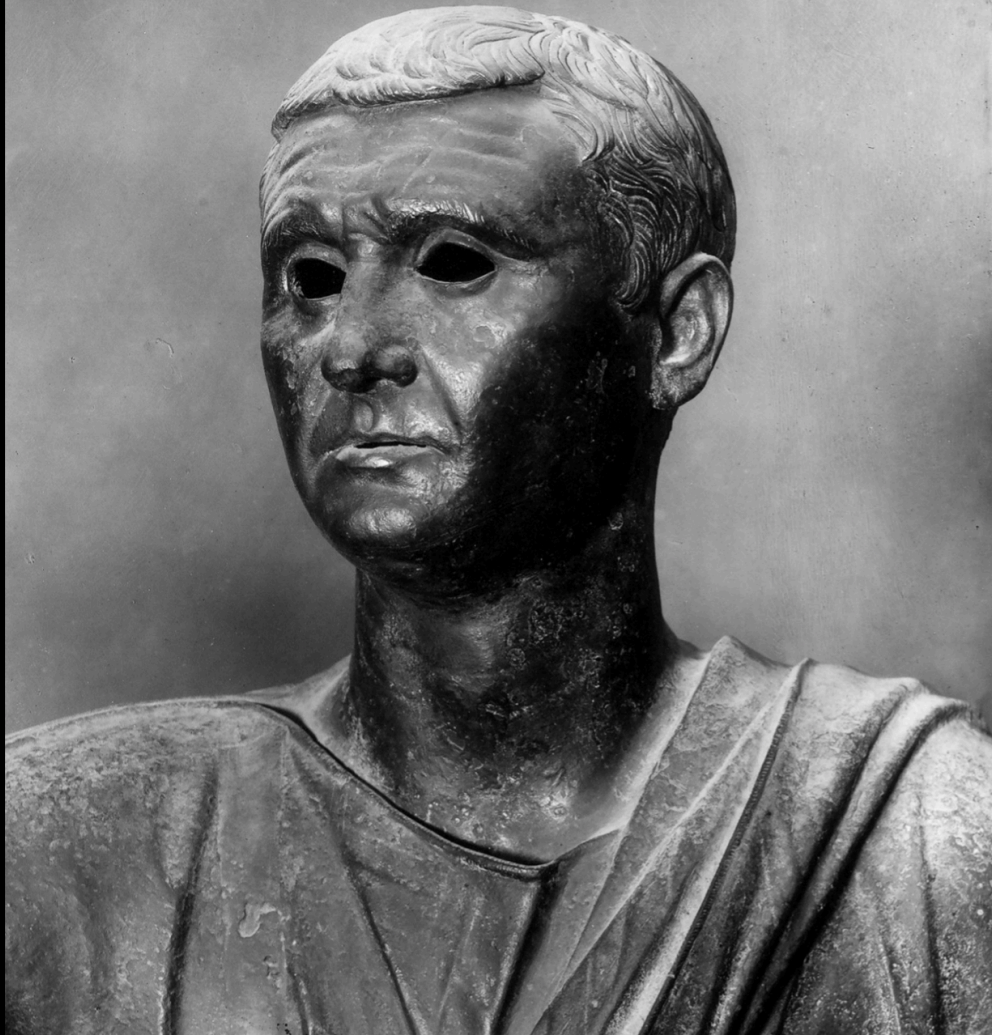


Equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, gilded bronze, 166–180 AD, Musei Capitolini, Rome





Capitoline Brutus, part of a 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,  
325-370 AD /  
Metropolitan  
Museum, New York