

**PHD COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS  
ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY READING LIST**

**For the PhD stream in Classical Archaeology**

University of Western Ontario  
Department of Classics

**Updated: January 2023 (E. Greene)**

**OVERVIEW:**

*The comprehensive exams in archaeology give students the opportunity to demonstrate a broad working knowledge of the material necessary to operate widely in our field of Classical Archaeology and to teach a range of courses at the undergraduate level easily and competently. To that end, the comprehensive reading list is broad and includes monuments, sites, and art from around the ancient Mediterranean and related areas. In addition, the list includes some key debates in Roman archaeology that will demonstrate a student's ability to think critically about archaeological problems and understand some of the major debates that have taken place (or are still active) in our field. It is expected that at this stage students are able to place the archaeological record into its historical context and can speak competently about the physical remains as well as their importance in the social and political world in which they existed.*

**GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS and broad categories**

*This is background material, much of which you will probably already know and understand. Use this list as needed to fill in subjects, time periods, and the major works that should be known to teach and discuss Roman Archaeology as a whole. You do not need to know every example of e.g. mosaics, portrait busts, etc., but you should be able to have a thorough discussion, citing examples, about the major trends associated with the material related to Roman archaeology, Roman art, and architecture. You should fully understand the major areas and monuments of Rome such as the Forum Romanum and Imperial fora, the Campus Martius, Capitoline/Palatine hills, etc. Understand not only how they look now but also how they changed through antiquity and for what reasons.*

General Overviews of subjects in archaeology:

- Alcock, S.E. and R. Osborne (eds.). 2007. *Classical Archaeology*. Blackwell. (Roman chapters, second half of each section)

Roman Art:

- Dunbabin, K. M. 1999. *Mosaics in the Greek and Roman World*. Cambridge. Read especially: Introduction, Chapters 19 and 20, and Conclusion.
- Fejfer, J. 2008. *Roman Portraits in Context*. de Gruyter.
- Hölscher, T. 2004. *The Language of Images in Roman Art*. Cambridge.
- Kleiner, D. 1991. *Roman Sculpture*. Yale University Press.
- Kleiner, F.S. 2010. *A History of Roman Art. Enhanced edition*. Wadsworth.
- Friedland, E., Grunow Sobocinski, M., Gazda, E. (eds.). 2015. *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Sculpture*. Oxford.

- Ling, R. 1991. *Roman Painting*. Cambridge.
- Torelli, M. 1982. *Typology and Structure of Roman Historical Reliefs*. Ann Arbor.

#### Roman Architecture and Topography:

- Aicher, P. 2004. *Rome Alive: A Source-Guide to the Ancient City, Vols. 1-2*. Bolchazy-Carducci.
- Anderson, J.C. 1984. *Historical Topography of the Imperial Fora*. Brussels.
- Claridge, A. 2010. *Rome: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. Oxford.
- Coarelli, F. 2007. *Rome and Environs: An Archaeological Guide*. University of California Press.
- Nash, E. 1961-2. *Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Rome*. New York (very useful, but remember to consider what has changed since publication)
- Quenemoen, C. K. and R. B. Ulrich (eds.). 2014. *A companion to Roman architecture*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Sear, F. 2000. *Roman Architecture*. Routledge.
- Stamper, J.W. 2005. *The Architecture of Roman Temples*. Cambridge.
- Steinby, E.M. ed. 1993-99. *Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae I-V*. Rome.

### **CHRONOLOGICAL PERIODS:**

*You should know generally how Italy and the city of Rome evolved and how trends shift in other important areas of the empire. The following lists focus more specifically on issues and debates of particular time periods. Please use the general works listed above in conjunction with these lists to understand more in depth some of the primary issues of each chronological period. In all cases there are plenty more sources that could be listed and you are welcome to consult anything else that will help in your general preparation for this comprehensive exam.*

#### **Etruscan/Early Rome:**

- Boëthius, A. 1978. *Etruscan and Early Roman Architecture*. Yale University Press (this is very dry but has the info needed; can supplement Etruscan material with: S. Haynes. 2015. *Etruscan Civilization*. Getty.)
- Holloway, R. 2000. *The Archaeology of Early Rome and Latium*. Routledge.
  - For historical context, supplement with: Cornell, T. 1995. *The Beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars*. Routledge (don't worry about Bronze Age. Start with Iron Age and Archaic Rome).
- Ammerman, A. J. 1990. "On the origins of the Roman Forum," *AJA* 94: 627-45.
- Ammerman, A. J. 1996. "The *Comitium* in Rome from the beginning," *AJA* 100: 121-36.

#### **Republican Rome:**

- DeRose Evans, J. 2013. *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Roman Republic*. Wiley-Blackwell. Chapters 3, 4, 18, 19, 20, 28, 30, 32.
- Tanner, J. 2000. "Portraits, Power and Patronage in the Late Roman Republic," *Journal of Roman Studies* 90: 18-50.

### **Late Republic and Augustan Period:**

- Rehak, P. 2009. *Imperium and Cosmos: Augustus and the Northern Campus Martius*. University of Wisconsin Press.
- Zanker, P. 1990. *The Power of Images in the Age of Augustus*. University of Michigan.

### **Julio-Claudian Period:**

- Beste, H.-J. and H. von Hesberg. 2013. "Buildings of an Emperor: How Nero transformed Rome," in E. Buckley and M.T. Dinter, *A Companion to the Neronian Age*. Wiley-Blackwell. 314-331.
- Bergmann, M. 2013. "Portraits of an Emperor: Nero, the sun and Roman *otium*," in E. Buckley and M.T. Dinter (eds.), *A Companion to the Neronian Age*. Wiley-Blackwell. 332-361.

### **Flavian Period:**

- Darwell-Smith, R.H. 1996. *Emperors and Architecture: A Study of Flavian Rome*. Brussels.
- Gallia, A. B. 2016. "Remaking Rome," In: *A Companion to the Flavian Age of Imperial Rome*. Wiley-Blackwell. 148-65.
- Thomas, M.L. 2004. "(Re)locating Domitian's Horse of Glory: The "Equus Domitiani" and Flavian Urban Design," *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome* 49: 21-46.

### **Trajan/Hadrianic Rome:**

- Claridge, A. 2013. "Hadrian's Succession and the Monuments of Trajan," in Opper, T. (ed.) *Hadrian: Art, Politics and Economy*. London: British Museum Press. 3-49.
- Wilson Jones, M. 2013. "Who built the Pantheon? Agrippa, Hadrian, Trajan and Apollodorus," in Opper, T. (ed.) *Hadrian: Art, Politics and Economy*. London: British Museum Press. 5-18.
- Also see Forum/Column debate below.

### **Antonine Rome:**

- Boatwright, M.T. 2010. "Antonine Rome: Security in the homeland," in B.C. Ewald and C.F. Noreña (eds.), *The Emperor and Rome: Space, representation, and ritual*. Cambridge.
- Thomas, E. 2007. *Monumentality and the Roman Empire: Architecture in the Antonine Age*. Oxford. Chapter 2: "The Contribution of Antoninus Pius." Chapter 6: "Buildings, Politics and the Monumentality of Antonine Cities."

### **Severan and 3rd-century Rome:**

- Brilliant, R. 1967. *The Arch of Septimius Severus in the Roman Forum*. Rome: Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome 29.
- Lusnia, S. 2014. *Creating Severan Rome: The Architecture and Self-Image of L. Septimius Severus (AD 193-211)*. Leuven: Peeters/Latomus.

### **Late Antiquity:**

- Curran, J.R. 2000. *Pagan City and Christian Capital: Rome in the Fourth Century*. Oxford.
- Holloway, R.R. 2004. *Constantine and Rome*. Yale University Press.
- Jacobs, I. 2012. "The Creation of the Late Antique City: Constantinople and Asia Minor during the 'Theodosian Renaissance'," *Byzantion* 82: 113-164.
- Kalas, G. 2015. *The Restoration of the Roman Forum in Late Antiquity: Transforming Public Space*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

### **SITES/REGIONS:**

*Many of the sections above will have already dealt with these areas, e.g. Roman painting will focus heavily on the Bay of Naples, Mosaics and sculpture will present provincial examples, and many sub-fields will deal with the entire empire. With these lists please gain an understanding of the archaeology of these regions broadly so that you are able to discuss the empire and the archaeological trends we observe as a cohesive whole.*

### **Western Roman Provinces:**

- Carroll, M. 2001. *Romans, Celts and Germans: The German Provinces of Rome*. Tempus.
- Mattingly, D. 2006. *An Imperial Possession: Britain in the Roman Empire, 54BC – AD 409*. Penguin.
- Woolf, G. 1998. *Becoming Roman: The Origins of Provincial Civilization in Gaul*. Cambridge. esp. 48-141.
- Curchin, L. 1991. *Roman Spain: Conquest and Assimilation*. Routledge.

### **Eastern Roman Provinces:**

- Alcock, S. 1993. *Graecia Capta*. Cambridge (also on Greek Arch. reading list)
- Bagnall, R.S. and D.W. Rathbone (eds). 2004. *Egypt from Alexander to the Copts: An Archaeological and Historical Guide*. British Museum Press (focus on Roman chapters for background)
- Derda, T. 2019. "A Roman Province in the Eastern Mediterranean," in K. Vandorpe (ed.), *A Companion to Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt*. Wiley-Blackwell. 51-69.
- Ball, W. 2001. *Rome in the East: The transformation of an Empire*. Routledge.

### **Bay of Naples:**

- Dobbins, J.J. and P.W. Foss. 2007. *The World of Pompeii*. Routledge (read enough chapters that you feel you have a good sense of the archaeology of Pompeii)
- Wallace-Hadrill, A. 1994. *Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum*. Princeton. esp. 3-61.
- Supplement with any of the numerous works on Pompeii and Herculaneum and villae around the Bay of Naples.

## **MAJOR APPROACHES/TOPICS/DEBATES in Roman Archaeology:**

*The following list of debates have been central to Roman archaeology over the past few decades. These are just a representative sample of primary subjects that should be well understood by a PhD candidate in Roman archaeology. If you would like to propose to the archaeology committee substituting for another subject, please present that case to the Graduate Chair and discuss with the archaeology faculty (Greene and Pratt) at the appropriate time before the comprehensive exams.*

### **Romanization: Problems and debates (history of the dialogue)**

- Freeman, P.W.M. 1997. "Mommesen to Haverfield: the origins of studies of Romanization in late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Britain," in D. Mattingly (ed.), *Dialogues in Roman Imperialism: Power, discourse, and discrepant experience in the Roman Empire* (Journal of Roman Archaeology supplement 23) 27-50.
- Hingley, R. 1996. "The legacy of Rome: the rise, decline and fall of the theory of Romanization," in J. Webster and N. J. Cooper (eds.), *Roman imperialism: post-colonial perspectives*. Leicester. 35-48.
- Millett, M. 1990. "Romanization: historical issues and archaeological interpretations," in Blagg and Millett (eds.), *The Early Roman Empire in the West*. Oxford. 35-41 (this sums up the main ideas in Millett 1990a. *The Romanization of Britain*. Oxford.)
- Webster, J. 2001. "Creolizing the Roman provinces," *AJA* 105: 209-25.
- Woolf G. 1997. "Beyond Romans and natives," *World Archaeology* 28: 339-50.
- Woolf, G. 1995. "The Formation of Roman Provincial Cultures," in J. Metzler, M. Millett, N. Roymans and J. Slofstra (eds.), *Integration in the Early Roman West. The role of culture and ideology*. Luxembourg. 9-18.
- Versluys, M.J. 2014. "Understanding objects in motion: An archaeological dialogue on Romanization," *Archaeological Dialogues* 20.1: 1-20. (Read with all responses. *Archaeological Dialogues* 20.1: 20-64)

### **Globalization (and Glocalization): An interpretive framework in Roman Archaeology**

- Gardner, A. 2013. "Thinking about Roman Imperialism: Postcolonialism, Globalisation and Beyond?" *Britannia* 44: 1-25.
- Hodos, T. 2017. "Globalization. Some Basics: An Introduction to *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*," In T. Hodos (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*. Routledge. 3-11.
- Hodos, T. 2014. "Global, Local and in Between: Connectivity and the Mediterranean," In M. Pitts and M.J. Versluys. *Globalisation and the Roman World: World History, Connectivity and Material Culture*. Cambridge. 240-53.
- Laurence, R, and F. Trifilò. 2014. "The global and the local in the Roman empire: Connectivity and mobility from an urban perspective," In M. Pitts and M.J. Versluys (eds.), *Globalisation and the Roman World: World History, Connectivity and Material Culture*. Cambridge. 99-122.

- Pitts, M. 2017. "Deep histories of globalization and Europe: beyond Eurocentrism," in T. Hodos (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*. Routledge. 505-8.
- Pitts, M. 2008. "Globalizing the local in Roman Britain: an anthropological approach to social change," *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 27: 493–506.
- Roudometof, V. 2016. "Theorizing glocalization: Three interpretations," *European Journal of Social Theory* 19.3: 391-408.

### **The Object Turn: Agency, Identity, and Analysis in Roman Archaeology**

- Hicks, D. 2010. "The material-cultural turn. Event and effect," in D. Hicks and M.C. Beaudry (eds), *The Oxford handbook of material culture studies*. Oxford. 25-98.
- Hingley, R. 2010. "Cultural Diversity and Unity: Empire and Rome," in S. Hales and T. Hodos (eds.), *Material Culture and Social Identities in the Ancient World*. Cambridge University Press. 54-78.
- Hodder, I. 2012. *Entangled. An archaeology of the relationships between humans and things*. Oxford. Chapter 1, "Thinking about things differently."
- Jones, A.M. and N. Boivin. 2010. "The Malice of Inanimate Objects: Material Agency," in D. Hicks and M.C. Beaudry (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Material Culture Studies*. Oxford. 333-351.
- Pitts, M. and M.J. Versluys. 2021. "Objectscapes. A manifesto for investigating the impacts of object flows on past societies," *Antiquity* 95: 367-381.
- Pitts, M. 2010. "Artefact suites and social practice: an integrated approach to Roman provincial finds assemblages," *Facta* 4: 125–52.
- Versluys, M.J. 2017. "The global Mediterranean: a material–cultural perspective," in T. Hodos (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Archaeology and Globalization*. Routledge. 597-601.

### **Ara Pacis: Who is present? What is represented?**

- Rose, C.B. 1990. "'Princes' and barbarians on the Ara Pacis," *AJA* 94: 453-467.
- Koepfel, G.M. 1992. "The third man. Restoration problems on the north frieze of the Ara Pacis Augustae," *JRA* 5: 216-218.
- Kellum, B.A. 1994. "What we see and what we don't see. Narrative structure and the Ara Pacis Augustae," *Art history* 17: 26-45.
- Rehak, P. 2001. "Aeneas or Numa? Rethinking the meaning of the Ara Pacis Augustae," *Art Bulletin* 83: 190-208.
- Rehak, P. 2001. "The fourth 'flamen' of the Ara Pacis Augustae," *JRA* 14: 284-288.
- Billows, R. 1993. "The religious procession of the Ara Pacis Augustae. Augustus' *supplicatio* in 13 B.C.," *JRA* 6: 80-92.

### **Trajan's Forum/Column:**

- Claridge, A. 1993. "Hadrian's column of Trajan," *JRA* 6: 5-22.
- Claridge, A. 2007. "Hadrian's Lost Temple of Trajan" *JRA* 20: 54-94.

- Meneghini, R. 2001. "Il Foro di Traiano. Ricostruzione architettonica e analisi strutturale," *Mitteilungen: bullettino* 108: 245-268.
- Packer, J. 2003. "Templum Divi Traiani Parthici et Plotinae: a debate with R. Meneghini," *JRA* 16: 108-136.
- Packer, J. E. 1994. "Trajan's Forum again: the Column and the Temple of Trajan in the master plan attributed to Apollodorus (?)" *JRA* 7: 163-182.

### **Horologium of Augustus:**

- Haselberger, L. 2014. *The Horologium of Augustus: Debate and Context*. Journal of Roman Archaeology, Supplement 99.
  - "The Original Debate" (Articles by L. Haselberger; Responses by P.J. Heslin and M. Schütz)
  - "Expanding the Debate" (Articles by: J. Pollini and N. Cippolla; P.A. Auber; B. Frischer and J. Fillwalk; M. Schütz)
  - "Broadening the Context" (Articles by: G. Leonhardt; R. Hannah; G. Alföldy; E. La Rocca)
  - "Challenges and Outlook" by L. Haselberger