

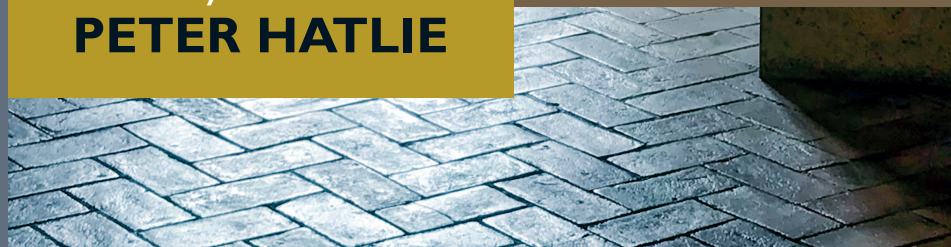


Collection Development, Cultural Heritage,
and Digital Humanities

PEOPLE AND PLACES OF THE ROMAN PAST

THE EDUCATED TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

Edited by
PETER HATLIE



Amsterdam
University
Press

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COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT, CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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ISBN Paperback: 9781942401551

ISBN Hardback: 9781942401544

e-ISBN: 9781942401568

e-pub: 9781641893244

<https://arc-humanities.org>

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	vii
Acknowledgements and Editorial Note.....	xiv
List of Contributors	xv
<i>Chapter One. The Educated Traveller's Guide</i>	
PETER HATLIE	1
<i>Chapter Two. Pope Leo I the Great (ca. 400–461, r. 440–61 CE) at the Basilica di S. Pietro and the Basilica dei Santi Giovanni e Paolo</i>	
DAVID DAWSON VASQUEZ	5
<i>Chapter Three. Saint Dominic de Guzmán (ca. 1170–1221 CE) at the Basilicas of S. Marco al Campidoglio, San Sisto Vecchio, and Santa Sabina</i>	
SR. CATHERINE JOSEPH DROSTE, O. P.	17
<i>Chapter Four. John Keats (1795–1821 CE) and Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822 CE) at the Keats-Shelley House and the Cimitero Acattolico</i>	
ANDREW OSBORN	29
<i>Chapter Five. Julius Caesar (100–44 BCE) at the Teatro di Pompeo, Rostra, Tempio del Divo Giulio, and Basilica Giulia</i>	
DAVID SWEET	45
<i>Chapter Six. Empress Livia (58 BCE–29 CE) on the Palatino</i>	
ELIZABETH C. ROBINSON	57
<i>Chapter Seven. Emperor Hadrian (76–138 CE) at Castel Sant'Angelo, the Pantheon, and the Tempio di Venere e Roma</i>	
TYLER TRAVILLIAN	69
<i>Chapter Eight. Pope Clement I of Rome (ca. 35–99 or 101, r. 88–99 or 101 CE) at the Basilica di San Clemente</i>	
JOHN NORRIS	83
<i>Chapter Nine. Emperor Constantine (ca. 277–337, r. 324–37 CE) at the Arco di Costantino, the Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano, and the Basilica dei Santi Quattro Coronati</i>	
PETER HATLIE	95
<i>Chapter Ten. Pope Paul III (1468–1549, r. 1534–49 CE), Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564), and the Campidoglio</i>	
ROBERT S. DUPREE	111

<i>Chapter Eleven.</i> St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–74 CE) at Santa Sabina, the Angelicum, and the Basilica di Santa Maria Sopra Minerva FR. JAMES LEHRBERGER, O. CIST.	123
<i>Chapter Twelve.</i> Maria Clementina Sobieska (1702–35 CE) at the Basilica di S. Pietro, Palazzo Muti, and the Basilica dei XII Santi Apostoli ROMAN WARDEN	135
<i>Chapter Thirteen.</i> Pope Urban VIII (1568–1644, r. 1623–44 CE) at the Basilica di S. Pietro, Fontana del Tritone, and Palazzo Barberini ELIZABETH LISOT-NELSON	147
<i>Chapter Fourteen.</i> John Henry Newman (1801–90 CE) at the Palazzo di Propaganda Fide, Basilica di Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, and the Chiesa di S. Giorgio in Velabro BERNADETTE WATERMAN WARD	159
<i>Chapter Fifteen.</i> Philip Neri (1515–95 CE) at the Catacombe di S. Sebastiano, the Chiesa di San Girolamo della Carità, the Basilica di San Giovanni dei Fiorentini, and the Chiesa Nuova GREGORY ROPER	173
<i>Chapter Sixteen.</i> Pope Julius II (1443–1513, r. 1503–13 CE) at the Basilica di San Pietro, the Musei Vaticani, and Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli DUSTIN GISH	185
<i>Chapter Seventeen.</i> St. Peter (ca. 10–64 CE) and St. Paul (5–67 CE) at the Basilica di San Pietro, the Basilica di San Paolo Fuori le Mura, and the Abbazia delle Tre Fontane FR. THOMAS ESPOSITO, O. CIST.	199
<i>Chapter Eighteen.</i> Raphael Sanzio (1483–1520 CE), Tommaso “Fedra” Inghirami (1470–1516 CE), and Pope Julius II (1443–1513, r. 1503–13 CE) at the Stanza della Segnatura (1508–11 CE) CLARE P. FRANK and WILLIAM A. FRANK	211
<i>Chapter Nineteen.</i> Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475–1564 CE) at the Cappella Sistina SCOTT F. CRIDER	225
<i>Appendix A.</i> Concordance of Place Names.....	237
<i>Appendix B.</i> Timeline of the People and Places Mentioned in this Volume	241
Index	249

Chapter One

THE EDUCATED TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

PETER HATLIE

THE CITY OF Rome has an infinite number of stories to tell—ancient, modern, and everything in between. Some of these are an invitation to the city's beauty and pleasures. Others are lessons or teaching-moments emerging, like searching spirits, from Rome's eventful and densely-layered past. Still others bring us face to face, sometimes intimately and often poignantly, with the peaks and valleys of Rome's three thousand years of lived existence, its epic tragedies and triumphs, along with its deeply-felt wounds and its liberating heights of joy.

As one of the world's oldest and most beautiful cities, Rome is admired by travellers the world around. And on certain days—and in particular on certain moments of certain days—Rome is perhaps even more beautiful than descriptions will allow. It can be a feast for the eyes and a banquet for all the other senses, too. As travellers for centuries have found, there are ever so many particular attractions to recommend Rome. Take, for example, one of the city's many world-class museums. Or maybe it's a lonely alleyway or neighbourhood that will seduce you with its charm and local history. Maybe again it is the sight of Rome's seemingly eternal and all-seeing Tiber River—a god of a river after all!—from one of its elegant and strategically placed bridges. Never mind the place or moment of your surrender to the embrace of Rome. Just let it happen.

In reality, the question is not whether to surrender but rather how and where to begin. For its part, this book pays due respect to the sensory beauty and immense historical interest of Rome while also setting out to explain and elaborate upon the city's creative forces. Written by college professors who have lived in Rome and specialize in Roman history, religion, and culture, the book introduces readers to the eternal city by turning attention to some of the most interesting people who have contributed to its history and culture. Each chapter is dedicated to a significant historical figure whose life in Rome has left a lasting footprint, be it a monument, a great work of art, or a tangible memory of great ideas and remarkable things accomplished. Men and women are included in the list of biographical subjects, as are important people from all walks of life—artists, writers, politicians, churchmen, and pilgrims. The book takes us as far back as the city's mythical origins with Romulus and Remus and as far forward as the turn of the nineteenth century. Not accidentally, focusing in on the lives of some of its most prominent citizens and visitors throughout the ages takes us also to some of the most interesting neighbourhoods and tourist sites of Rome.

This book is a cross between a tourist guide, scholarly endeavour, and encyclopedia. It is written for travellers in search of inspiration and information as they tour the streets, churches, museums, and monuments of the Roman past. Ambitiously, it takes the reader to practically every notable neighbourhood within Rome's ancient walls and many beyond those walls, including Vatican City. It is ambitious, too, in familiarizing readers with virtually every historical epoch in Rome's long and continuous history from ancient through modern times.