



Review

Author(s): Roger B. Ulrich

Review by: Roger B. Ulrich

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IL TEMPIO DI APOLLO "IN CIRCO" E LA FORMAZIONE DEL LINGUAGGIO ARCHITETTONICO AUGUSTEO, by *Alessandro Viscogliosi*. (*BullCom* Suppl. 3.) Pp. 242, color pls. 4, pls. 17, color figs. 6, figs. 218, plans 9, foldouts 2. "L'ERMA" di Bretschneider, Rome 1996. Lit. 250,000. ISBN 88-7062-942-2.

Over the past two decades—even within the last five years—our understanding of Augustan building projects in Rome has grown at a stunning rate. Viscogliosi's fine new book on the Temple of Apollo, located in the area of the Theater of Marcellus and the Circus Flaminius (hence "in Circo"), can now be added to the growing list of recent monographs and articles that have taken a close and fresh look at Augustan temples in Rome, monuments long known to both scholars and passersby, but previously only cursorily studied.

Sharing the fate of many other Imperial buildings in the *centro storico* of Rome, the Temple of Apollo in Circo was excavated in haste during the mid- to late 1930s. A few columns from the exterior colonnade were reset during the winter months of 1939–1940 in anticipation of the celebrations of Rome's birthday the following spring. Although the excavations recovered vast quantities of architectural and sculptural fragments—so many, in fact, that Viscogliosi considers this temple to be one of the best-preserved monuments of the ancient capital—little was previously published, and the case remained the same after more excavations were conducted soon after the end of the war.

The book revises and supersedes observations made in two previous articles written by the author in 1988 and 1993, the latter a lengthy entry in *Lexicon topographicum urbis Romae*. Here the approach is comprehensive, including a brief history of the cult of Apollo at Rome, a review of previous excavations that includes several previously unpublished photographs and drawings, an analysis of the topographical issues (specifically the relationship between the temple, the Theater of Marcellus, the Porticus Octavia, and the neighboring shrine to Bellona), and an analysis of the building phases of the temple itself (there is no new analysis of the freestanding sculptures recovered from the pediment that have been the subject of a special exhibition and publication produced in 1985 by E. La Rocca).

At the heart of Viscogliosi's discussion is his conviction that the Temple of Apollo in Circo provides a unique opportunity to trace the birth of Imperial, and specifically Augustan, architecture. The temple is treated as the most significant project built in Rome between the dedication of the Forum of Julius Caesar (46 B.C.) and the Forum of Augustus (2 B.C.). Over the course of this critical period of transition, Viscogliosi believes, Rome emerges as the forge (*fucina*) of architectural style in the Mediterranean, not the receptacle (224).

In order to trace this development, Viscogliosi identifies three main building phases of the temple. The earliest structure, Apollo Medicus, was vowed in 433 B.C. and dedicated two years later. Using previously unpublished data from the excavations of the podium undertaken in the mid 1950s, Viscogliosi offers a tentative reconstruction of a squarish

(ca. 25 × 21 m) diastyle tetrastyle shrine about two-thirds the length of the present Augustan structure that underwent several restorations; these include a white mosaic pavement dated to the second century B.C.

A complete reconstruction of the first temple was begun shortly before the Battle of Actium. This phase Viscogliosi attributes to the efforts of C. Sosius, consul of 32 B.C. Two references in Pliny to the Temple of Apollo Sosianus have led most scholars to assume that the present remains seen at the site (of a hexastyle, pyncostyle, pseudo-peripteral shrine measuring 25 × 45 m) should be attributed to the rebuilding of Sosius. Viscogliosi, however, provides a more complicated explanation. According to his interpretation, the rebuilding of the temple was interrupted by the events of Actium. Sosius, who had been in Antony's camp, was removed from the important project. Octavian himself, soon to be Augustus, would become the overseer of the project; Viscogliosi uses the toponym "in Circo" to distinguish this last Augustan phase.

Following a rather brief discussion of the temple's exterior architecture, Viscogliosi offers intensive analysis of the cella of the shrine, a discussion that substantially revises some of his own previously published ideas about date and appearance. A convenient foldout analytical reconstruction with each of the architectural elements keyed to a descriptive catalogue and photographs of recovered fragments is of great help. Considering virtually nothing is left in situ from the cella and that many of the architectural fragments recovered during the excavations were intermingled with other fragments from the neighboring Temple of Bellona, the degree of detail offered by Viscogliosi is impressive, and, needless to say, will invite future debate. Some aspects of the cella, such as the presence and form of the aediculae, have been described elsewhere; Viscogliosi's reconstruction of the cella's interior colonnade is novel and ingenious. Based upon analysis of the diverse architectural elements (stylistic and dimensional), Viscogliosi argues that the cella's superimposed orders of engaged pilasters were Sosian (or "secondotriumvirale") in origin; a freestanding interior colonnade of two tiers of african marble and figured capitals was an Augustan addition. The completed cella was a colorful, three-dimensional space that deemphasized the expected axiality and presented the viewer with a setting populated with sculptural masterpieces. Such treatment of interior space would have great influence on the next generation of Augustan shrines.

Viscogliosi's analysis of the architectural decorative features of the Temple of Apollo includes a broad spectrum of comparanda not only from Rome, but from other areas of the Mediterranean as well. Discussion is focused primarily in two areas: the evolution of the Corinthian order and the acanthus motif in the Late Republican and Augustan periods and a survey of Augustan-period temple interiors from the Roman world. A final chapter on the "proto" Augustan architectural style includes thought-provoking discussion on the transition from a highly developed Republican tradition of stucco and fictile revetments to one of imported marbles promoted by Augustus.

The book is not without its flaws. The provenance and dating of some architectural comparanda are not certain

(e.g., the identification of an original capital from the Forum of Julius Caesar). While the volume is profusely illustrated, some expected drawings are absent. The only profile of the temple's cornice, for example, is found on a scaled-down drawing of a lateral section of the entire shrine. There is no measured drawing of the facade elevation, other than archival images sketched more than 50 years ago. The index provides only the names of sites and monuments.

Whether this book has established the last word on the Temple of Apollo in Circo remains to be seen. Viscogliosi's interpretation of the evidence is the result of many years of study and publication; his arguments are thoughtful and carefully rendered, and students of Augustan Rome should consider this effort a welcome addition to the documentation of this vital period in Roman architectural history.

ROGER B. ULRICH

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03755
ROGER.B.ULRICH@DARTMOUTH.EDU

METROPOLIS AND HINTERLAND: THE CITY OF ROME AND THE ITALIAN ECONOMY 200 B.C.–A.D. 200, by *Neville Morley*. Pp. xi + 211, figs. 4, maps 3, table 1. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1996. \$49.95. ISBN 0-521-56006-3.

This book is another entry in the rapidly expanding literature concerned with the economic role of the city in the ancient world. It is surprising that the economic relationship between the ancient city of Rome and its hinterland has never been the subject of any comprehensive investigation, and the author, noting this fact, states that "the main aim of this book is to help fill this gap by offering a detailed study of the influence of the metropolis on one part of its empire [i.e., the Italian peninsula]" (7).

The book seeks to cover this vast and complex topic in seven chapters that add up to just 185 pages of text. In chapters 1 and 2, Morley sets the stage by reviewing scholarly thought on the concept of the "consumer city" from Bücher through Finley, and then examining the evidence for the population of Rome and the remainder of the peninsula. In chapter 3 he then lays out a model for agricultural development in Roman Italy that serves as the organizing basis for the material treated in chapters 4–6. This model is derived directly from von Thünen's model for the location of agricultural production, which holds that under ideal conditions a market town will be surrounded by distinct land-use zones as a function of the labor inputs and transport costs associated with various forms of agricultural production. Activities with high labor inputs and/or high transport costs will tend to be located close to the town, those with progressively lower requirements increasingly farther away. Morley is well aware that this is a highly idealized scheme, and endeavors to develop a more nuanced model by taking into consideration the specific geo-

graphic, technological, and ideological factors that would have conditioned the location of agricultural activity in Roman Italy. He concludes that "rather than zones of specialized production, we may expect zones of farming systems, differing in the number of farms whose production is oriented towards the market, and in the intensity of cultivation" (82).

In chapters 4–6, Morley then examines the literary and archaeological evidence for agricultural production in Roman Italy against the background of this model, discussing in turn what he sees as three distinct zones marked as such by their progressively greater distance from the *urbs*. These are Rome's immediate hinterland (the "suburbium"), its extended hinterland, and the remainder of the peninsula. Chapter 4 thus presents the evidence for the suburbium, which Morley identifies as the territory bounded by the Monti Sabatini, the Monti Sabini, and the Colli Albani. Agricultural activity in this area came to be dominated by the labor-intensive production of high-value items such as vegetables, game birds, honey, and flowers, principally for the urban market. In chapter 5 he then evaluates the evidence for agricultural production in Rome's extended hinterland, which he envisages as a zone stretching outward from the suburbium along the Tyrrhenian coast and up the Tiber valley into the interior of the peninsula. Agriculture in this area came to be characterized by medium-sized estates (the "*villa*") that exploited slave labor for the intensive production of grain, wine, and oil, a significant portion of which was destined for the urban market. In chapter 6, after invoking world-systems theory as a device for understanding the nature of the economic relationship between Rome and the more distant parts of the peninsula, Morley examines agriculture in these areas. Due to high transport costs, the impact of urban demand was less conspicuous here than in the other two zones, being limited in large part to stimulating the emergence in some areas of pastoral economies oriented on the supply of the urban market.

The seventh and final chapter examines two largely unrelated topics: the mechanisms for marketing agricultural produce in Roman Italy, and the economic impact that the urban market and the attractions of the city had on town life elsewhere in the peninsula. With regard to the former, Morley stresses the importance of the role played by middleman traders in mobilizing agricultural produce for provisioning the capital, and argues that low-order market towns were crucial in this process, serving as venues for the bulking of the foodstuffs destined for Rome.

While the author deserves credit for taking on this challenging and important topic and provides interesting and original insights in some areas (e.g., immigration to Rome from the remainder of the peninsula, the importance of urban demand in the expansion of Italian viticulture), this book fails to mobilize much of the material that might be used to develop a picture of economic relations between Rome and its hinterland. Among the topics given little or no consideration are Tiber navigation, the facilities that served for the marketing of agricultural produce at Rome (the *Portus Vinarius*, the *Campus Pecuarius*, and so forth), and the interrelation between agricultural production and the city's demand for construction materials, fuel, and craft