

Classics 17B: From Marcellus to Caesar

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1 Punic Wars to the end of the Republic

1.1 Punic Wars to the end of 1st Century BCE

- 218–201 BCE Hannibal invades Italy in 2nd Punic War
- 211 BCE Marcellus conquers Syracuse (Sicily) and displays Greek art in his triumph
- 197 BCE Flaminius liberates Greece from Macedonian rule
- 179 BCE Basilica Aemilia, Roman Forum
- 146 BCE End of Punic Wars; Greece made a Roman province
- 100 BCE Julius Caesar born
- 91–88 BCE Social War
- 61 BCE Pompey awarded triumph for his African victory
- 55 BCE Theater of Pompey built in Rome
- 54 BCE Forum Iulium built in Rome
- 49 BCE Caesar crosses the Rubicon River (border in N. Italy) civil wars break out
- 48 BCE Caesar defeats Pompey at Pharsalus
- 47 BCE Caesar in Egypt—makes political and personal alignment with Cleopatra
- 44 BCE Caesar issues coin with his portrait; Caesar assassinated in Rome

1.2 Roman Generals and Greek Art

The conquest of Syracuse in 211 BCE by Marcus Marcellus began the influx of Greek art into Rome and thus the long standing love affair that Romans had for anything Greek. Marcellus is quoted as having said that his motive for bringing Greek art to Rome was twofold: it would make a visual impression on his triumph and beautify the city.

Roman Generals left their mark on the Greek landscape—Titus Quinctius Flaminius freed the old city-states in Greece from Macedonian rule in 197 BCE (then he made coins with his own image

on them in Greece—something he could not have done in Rome!). Aemilius Paullus defeats Perseus of Macedonia at Pydna in 168 BCE. He builds the VICTORY MONUMENT OF AEMILIUS PAULLUS, DELPHI, GREECE, 168 BCE. Plutarch reported that the spoils of war were so extensive that the triumph was spread over 3 days.

2 Greek Art 101

Greek statues in Rome: copies were made all over Italy of Greek masterpieces. Some artists made hybrid statues, namely famous bits and pieces of several sculptures to make one. Pasiteles from southern Italy is one such artist who worked in Rome in the 1st century BCE.

The PARIS-MUNICH RELIEFS (ALTAR OF DOMITIUS AHENOBARBUS), ROME, 2ND–1ST BCE show the following: census; sacrifice to Mars and enrollment of troops (very Roman); wedding of Neptune and Amphitrite (very Greek).

3 Roman Ancestor cult, portraits

Example: MAN WITH PORTRAIT BUSTS OF HIS ANCESTORS, ROME, LATE 1ST CENTURY BCE (MARBLE). Veristic style: super realistic portraits of men (for the most part). HEAD OF AN OLD MAN, OSIMO, MARBLE, 1ST CENTURY BCE has verism, receding hairline, wrinkles, and sunken eyes. HEAD OF AN OLD WOMAN, PALOMBARA SABINA, 40–30 BCE has a roll of hair over the forehead, sunken cheeks, and a mole. PSEUDO-ATHLETE, DELOS, GREECE, 1ST CENTURY BCE has a head in the style of Republican Rome, but the body is youthful, heroic and idealized—Greek beauty. The statue was found in a Roman general's home in Delos. The GENERAL FROM SANCTUARY OF HERCULES, TIVOLI, 75–50 BCE also has a veristic head and idealized Greek body.

4 Pompey and Caesar

Pompey was a Roman General, Consul, and ally and son-in-law of Julius Caesar until 54 BCE when Julia died in childbirth. He became Caesar's enemy and fled Rome when Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 BCE. He died in Egypt in 48 BCE (beheaded). Pompey's Theater, Rome's first permanent theater, was completed in 55 BCE and was the site of Caesar's assassination in 44 BCE.