MDS1 TRW The Roman World

Augustan Culture: Rebuilding Rome

Gillian Shepherd
31 B.C. – battle of Actium, defeat of Antony and Cleopatra
30 B.C. – Octavian enters Alexandria, suicides of Antony and Cleopatra

27 B.C. – ‘restoration of the Republic’
Octavian granted titles ‘Augustus’ and “princeps”
He [Augustus] so improved the city, which had previously lacked the trappings which befitted the dignity of its empire and had been subject to fires and floods, that his boast to have “left in marble that which he found made of brick” was quite justified.

Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa

- C. 64 BC – 12 BC
- Aedile in 33 BC (ex-consul)
- Reorganisation of water supply including:
  - Sewers
  - Aqua Iulia (33 BC)
  - Aqua Virgo (19 BC)
- Thermae of Agrippa
- Horrea Agrippiana
Pantheon, Rome (2nd cent. AD, Hadrian)
I built the Curia [= Curia Iulia, 29 BC]… the Temple of Apollo on the Palatine [36-28 BC]… the Temple of the Divine Julius [29 BC]… the temples on the Capitoline….

I rebuilt the Capitolium and the theatre of Pompey, each work requiring great expense, without any inscription of my name. I rebuilt the channels of the aqueducts which were falling apart in many places through age… I completed the Forum Iulium and the Basilica [Iulia], the works having been begun and almost finished by my father… I rebuilt 82 temples of the gods in the city during my sixth consulship [28 BC]…

On [my] private land I built the Temple of Mars Ultor and the Forum of Augustus from the spoils of war….

Monumentum Ancyranum IV 19-21 (Res Gestae)
Forum of Augustus
(Forum Augustum)

Cf Suetonius Aug. 56.2;
Ovid Fasti 5.551 ff.; Martial 8.44;
Pliny N.H. 35.10.27, 35.36.93
Forum of Augustus
(Mars Ultor)
Forum of Augustus. Reconstruction
Mausoleum of Augustus
Etruscan tombs, Cerveteri
The Ara Pacis (dedicated 30th Jan. 9 BC)
Ara Pacis (interior)
Ara Pacis
Vegetable ornament
(exterior)
Ara Pacis. Aeneas sacrificing

Photo © Gillian Shepherd
Ara Pacis. Terra Mater Relief

Photo © Gillian Shepherd
South Frieze: Marcus Agrippa and imperial family
South Frieze: Marcus Agrippa and imperial family
The Obelisk of the Horologium Augusti

Piazza Montecitorio, Rome

Horologium Augusti
(as restored by Domitian?)

Excavations searching for
Augustus’ sundial (1970s)

Via di Campo Marzio, Rome
Proposed reconstruction of the Horologium Augusti
NB luna (carrara) marble quarries

Augustus
Prima Porta Statue
After 20 BC
Adlocutio
Doryphoros

Roman copy of an bronze original of c. 440 BC by Polykleitos

Throughout his life his appearance was distinguished and graceful. He did not dress extravagantly and cared so little about his hair that several barbers worked furiously on it at the same time. His beard was either trimmed or shaved while he continued reading or writing. He had clear, bright eyes… few teeth, which were small and dirty… his hair was yellowish and slightly curly, his eyebrows met and his nose jutted out then turned inwards. He was neither dark nor fair as was rather short but with well-proportioned limbs. On his body were spots and callouses caused by excessive use of the strigil… He sometimes limped and suffered in general from a week consitution… Unable to endure heat or cold, he always wore a hat outdoors and in winter wore a woollen vest.

Suetonius, *Augustus* 79