

*Palast und Stadt im severischen Rom*. Herausgegeben von NATASCHA SOJC – ALOYS WINTERLING – ULRIKE WULF-RHEIDT. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2013. ISBN 978-3-515-10300-8. 306 S., 51 s/w Fotos, 16 Farbtaf., 20 Abb. EUR 58.

This collection of 11 articles is based on an international conference held in October 2009 at the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin. The articles are in German with the exception of two in Italian and one in French.

The introductory article "Hof und Stadt im interkulturellen Vergleich" by Aloys Winterling (pp. 9–22) concentrates on the ideal of a palace and its connection to the surrounding city on various levels, including socio-economic factors, and the evolution of the imperial administration during the Severan period.

"Roma. La città imperiale prima dei Severi" by Domenico Palombi (pp. 23–60) gives a very compact and useful (might I add, useful in many other contexts too) recounting of the urban development in Rome from the early Imperial period to the Severan period.

"La Residenze sul Palatino dall'età repubblicana all'età antoniana" by Maria Antonietta Tomei (pp. 61–84) is a logical inclusion in this book's collection of articles, portraying the Palatine and the site of the palace from the Republican period to the Imperial period and giving an up-to-date description of recent archaeological research at the site.

In "Politik und Administration unter den Severern" (pp. 85–104), Peter Eich concentrates on the Imperial administration, which is important for the book since during this period at the latest the Imperial palace in Rome becomes the architectural manifestation and centre of the Imperial administration in the city itself.

In "Militär in severischen Rom. Bärtige Barbaren?" (pp. 105–122), Alexandra Busch discusses the changes in the Pretorian guard and its inclusion of non-italic legionaries on the basis of funerary monuments and the like.

"Die Entwicklung des Hofes von Pertinax bis Alexander Severus" by Björn Schöpe (pp. 123–156) gives a view of the Imperial palace's court life and changes during the Severan period. The morning rituals, *salutatio*, and the *convivia* among the elite and the Imperial *amici* and their *ornamenta* are reviewed against the older institutions with respect to change of power. This theme is also discussed as an interaction of the palace and the city.

In "La Vigna Barberini à l'époque sévérienne" (pp.181–212) Françoise Villedieu considers the many possibilities of the building chronology of the so-called Vigna Barberini area on the Palatine.

"Die bauliche Entwicklung der Domus Augustana im Kontext des südöstlichen Palatin bis in severische Zeit" by Jens Pflug (pp. 181–212) shows that the real formation of the palace as the focal point began after the fire of AD 192. The change of approach from the No Man's land to the new Septizonium and other monumentalizations on the side of Circus Maximus were the successful projects of the Severans and the model of western palatial architecture, as Pflug shows.

In "Der severische Palast im urbanen Kontext" by Natascha Sojc (pp. 213–230) continues the importance of Severan building phases in context with the Roman urban space. The new Septizonium and the monumentalizations on the south side, according to Sojc, turned the façade away from the Forum Romanum.

"Die Kaiserlichen Villen in severischer Zeit. Eine Bestandsaufnahme" by Andreas Grüner (pp. 231–286) widens the scope of the book to other Imperial building projects such as villas. Grüner points out that there was a stagnation in villa building and repairs during the Severans, probably due to the absence of Septimius Severus and Caracalla.

The book concludes beautifully with "Die Bedeutung der severischen Paläste auf dem Palatin für spätere Residenzbauten" by Ulrike Wulf-Rheidt (pp. 287–306) on the *Nachleben* of the Imperial palace in Rome. The Severan influence on later palace and villa architecture was probably first discussed by Federico Guidobaldi in the context of Rome. In this article Wulf-Rheidt points out the influence of the hippodrome on later Imperial palaces. And, rightly so, adds that there is still much research to be done about the later influence of the Severan rebuilding of the Palatine.

This book is a very important addition to the research of palatial architecture and urban space in Rome on the brink of Late Antiquity. The selection of articles is comprehensive and well justified in most of the cases and forms a readable and continuous whole. The only more serious problem, which is a physical one, is the small size of the illustrations, especially Abb. 2–15 which would have benefited from being printed larger.

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HENDRIK W. DEY: *The Aurelian Wall and the Refashioning of Imperial Rome, AD 271–855*. Cambridge University Press, New York 2011. ISBN 9780-521-76365-3. 360 pp. USD 110.

Henrik W. Dey's book on one of the most prominent and enduring monuments of imperial Rome, the Aurelian Wall, is an addition to a long line of studies on the same subject starting from Rodolfo Lanciani through Ian Richmond, Colini, L. Cozza, B. Brizzi, L. A. Cardilli, R. Mancini, etc. The beautifully written account's strength is in the cultural history of the wall and its *Nachleben* up to the 9th century AD. The book is divided into six chapters, an introduction, and a conclusion, followed by appendices from A to E.

Chapter 1 "Toward an architectural history of the Aurelian Wall, from its beginnings through the ninth century" (pp. 12–70) starts with an overview of the wall's history and building chronology. Dey's intention, in his own words, is to fill in the outdated study by Ian Richmond (*The City Wall of Imperial Rome: An Account of Its Architectural Development from Aurelian to Narses*. Oxford 1930) for Anglophone circles, since corrected mostly in Italian from the 1940s to the present day.

In Chapter 2 "Planning, building, rebuilding, and maintenance: the logistical dynamics of a (nearly) interminable project" (pp. 71–109), Dey sheds light on the social, political, and economic life of the capital and shows how much the history of the wall relates to the history of Rome. The urban administration and the changes in the zones (*pomerium*, customs, etc.) are reconsidered.

In Chapter 3 "Motives, meaning, and context: the Aurelian Wall and the late Roman State" (pp. 110–159), Dey makes a good point about the wall's function in also appeasing the crowds in the tumultuous city – a practice common from the railroads to the Hoover Dam in the modern world. However, in the subchapter "Honorian Rome and Celestial Jerusalem," the motive of building a Celestial Jerusalem with diamonds and emeralds according to the revelations of St. John surely would be secondary to the protection of the city in Late Antiquity.