

WC 159-172 PP 156-161: The XII Tables

Chronology:

Roman Republic	509-31 BCE	Roman Empire	31 BCE- 1453 CE
~1000 BCE	Villanova culture in Italy	31 BCE	Battle of Actium
753	Rome founded by Romulus and Remus	27	Octavian becomes "Augustus"
700-509	Etruscans dominate Tiber Valley	27 BCE-231 CE	Principate
509	Rome becomes a Republic	231-311	Dominate
275	Rome conquers all Italy	312	Constantine becomes Emperor
145	Rome conquers all Mediterranean	330	capital of empire moved to Constantinople
44	Julius Caesar assassinated	476	Western empire "falls"

Star Terms	Geog. Terms:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romulus and Remus • Rape of Lucretia • Etruscans • <i>fasces</i> • <i>Pax Romana</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italy • Etruria • Latium • Rome

A. **Capitoline Wolf**, From Etruria 500-480 BCE about 33 ½ inches; hollow-cast bronze, Capitoline Museum, Rome



The she-wolf from the legend of Romulus and Remus was regarded as a symbol of Rome from ancient times. Several ancient sources refer to statues depicting the wolf suckling the twins. Pliny the Elder mentions the presence in the Roman Forum of a statue of a she-wolf. Although this statue has become symbolic of the founding of Rome, the original Etruscan statue probably had nothing to do with that legend. The bronze figures of the twins, representing the founders of the city of Rome, were added in the late 15th century. The significance of this image is that it gives form to the mythic origins of Rome, especially those reported by Livy and Vergil in their accounting for how Rome became such a large and successful empire.

B. *Prima Porta Augustus* marble, found outside Rome ca. 20 BCE

Octavian becomes Augustus/ barefoot general showing (false) humility/ production of a god-like image/ *Pax Romana*/ art as propaganda/ cuirass with allegorical features

The dating of the *Prima Porta* piece is thought to be a marble copy of a possible bronze original. This original, along with other high honors, was devoted to Augustus by the Senate in 20 BCE and set up in a public place. Up until this time Augustus had lived modestly, but the fact that the statue was found in his wife's villa shows that he was thoroughly pleased with it. Augustus is shown in this role of "Imperator", the commander of the army, meaning the statue should form part of a commemorative monument to his latest victories; he is in military clothing, carrying a consular baton and raising his right hand in a rhetorical "adlocutio" pose, addressing the troops. The bas-reliefs on his armored "cuirass" have a complex allegorical and political agenda, alluding to diverse Roman deities, including Mars god of war, as well as the personifications of the latest territories conquered by him. . Despite the Republican influence in the portrait head, the overall style is closer to Hellenistic idealization than to the realism of Roman portraiture. Most art historians, especially Dr. Nigel Spivey, Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology perceive in this object a trend towards using art as a tool of political propaganda. The bare feet demonstrate a sense of humility and much of the iconography indicates a return to the Republican themes common in the late Republic. However, this statue was in fact attempting to convince a susceptible public that life had returned to a normal cadence of oligarchic life, when in fact, Rome existed in a military dictatorship.



C. Pantheon (Rome), 118-125 CE

Traditional portico/ oculus/ niches dedicated to planets and the luminaries (sun and moon)/ Hadrian's rededication to Rome/ *spolia*



One of the few buildings from Classical Antiquity to have remained almost intact and one of the most remarkable in Rome is the Pantheon, a temple to the Olympian gods (*pan* = all; *theos* = gods). It was built under the patronage of Emperor Hadrian between 125 and 128 CE on the site of a temple erected by Agrippa in 27-25 BCE that had been destroyed in a fire. Thus, the reconstruction of the temple demonstrates the rededication of civic life and piety by the "5 Good" emperors. The approach to the temple shows only the traditional portico made to resemble the façade of a typical Roman temple. The significance it shows how some emperors sought to use their power and influence for the good of all Romans and this building in particular shows how Hadrian was both humble and pious.

D. Hadrian's Wall, 122-124 CE, modern day Scotland

Most famous is the wall across Britain that was named Hadrian's Wall after him. Hadrian's Wall was built, beginning in 122, to keep Roman Britain safe from hostile attacks from the Picts. It was the northernmost boundary of the Roman empire until early in the fifth century. The wall, stretching from the North Sea to the Irish Sea was 80 Roman miles (about 73 modern miles) long, 8-10 feet wide, and 15 feet high. In addition to the wall, the Romans built a system of small forts called milecastles (housing garrisons of up to 60 men) every Roman mile along its entire length, with towers every 1/3 mile. Sixteen larger forts holding from 500 to 1000 troops were built into the wall, with large gates on the north face. To the south of the wall the Romans dug a wide ditch, (*vallum*), with six foot high earth banks.

