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Rodocanachi's Roman Capitol *The Roman Capitol in Ancient and Modern Times*. By E. Rodocanachi (translated from the French by Frederick Lawton, M.A.). London: Heinemann, 1906. 8vo. Pp. xvi + 264. One Full Page Frontispiece, 49 Figs. in Text, 1 Map. 4s. net.

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RODOCANACHI'S *ROMAN CAPITOL*.

The Roman Capitol in Ancient and Modern Times. By E. RODOCANACHI (translated from the French by FREDERICK LAWTON, M.A.). London: Heinemann, 1906. 8vo. Pp. xvi + 264. One Full Page Frontispiece, 49 Figs. in Text, 1 Map. 4s. net.

THE present work is a translation of a French original in large quarto which appeared in 1904. It has, though now sufficiently small to be carried in the pocket, naturally suffered somewhat in other respects from its reduction in size; there has, however, been a proportionate diminution in price, as the original costs 12 francs. The more important illustrations have been retained, and the text and notes are in the main identical; but some documents (the absence of which will not affect the majority of readers, though they are of importance to students) have been omitted—notably the full text of the inventory of the contents of the ‘new museum’ (now called the Museum of the Capitol) in 1671 (p. 155 of the French original), the descriptions of the museum by the President de Brosses (1739–1740), and by an anonymous writer of 1765 (pp. 161 *seq.* of the original). The text of the speech delivered by Petrarch when he was crowned in the Capitol and that of the Constitution of Benedict XIII, forbidding the lottery (pp. 199 *seq.*), are less important. A more serious inconvenience is the suppression of the text of the modern inscription relating to the Capitol: bare references to Forcella’s *Iscrizioni* are hardly likely to be of much service, as it is not a book that will be in the hands of many readers. At times, too, part of a footnote is retained, though it is really an explanation of matter which has been omitted (*e.g.*, the remarks on the Ponte Rotto on p. 142, n. 1). An addition has been made to the English edition in the form of a short section (pp. ix.–xvi., entitled ‘A Visit to the Capitol,’ which will no doubt be of service. The provision of a list of illustrations, which was absent from the French original, is also an improvement. A few slight additions have been made in places in the text and notes.

M. Rodocanachi’s account of the Capitol in the earliest times is not, and does not profess to be, a criticism of the traditional accounts, which it in the main follows. Nor in his further description of the Capitol in the classical period does he enter upon the discussion of controversial points. Fairly full references in the

footnotes, however, make it as a rule easy to examine further in detail the points with which he deals ; and the account as a whole will be found useful. In dealing with the sixteenth century drawings of the relief representing the Capitoline temple of Jupiter (p. 40) (he is wrong by the way in stating that it was ever preserved in the Vatican Library), for which see Mr. Wace's article in the forthcoming volume of *Papers of the British School at Rome* (iv), while reckoning Piranesi's representation of it as a sixteenth century drawing, he does not mention the important drawing at Berlin, published by Michaelis in *Röm. Mitt.*, 1891, p. 21, and Tav. iii.

An interesting section is the one which gives the curious legends that gathered round the Capitol in the early middle ages (pp. 57-63), after the ruin and abandonment of its buildings. Between the eighth and the twelfth century, however, the market, and with it the seat of the prefect of the city, was transferred from the *forum holitorium* to the Capitol (p. 65)—a point not noticed by Rodocanachi, but introduced by the translator from an article by Mgr. Duchesne (*Mélanges*, 1904, 481 *seq.*). It is not a little curious, therefore, to find the Antipope Anacletus in 1130-38 giving the whole hill to the Benedictines ; and the expressions in the text on pp. 67, 71, with regard to this donation have not been altered so as to square with the new point adduced on p. 65. The Capitol thus became the political centre of the mediaeval city, and the palace of the Capitol was already existing in 1145. It appears to have been almost entirely rebuilt in 1300, and not very much later (1348) were constructed the stairs which led to S. M. in Aracoeli—not of materials taken from the ruins of the temple of Quirinus (p. 78) but of fragments of ancient or mediaeval sepulchral monuments, as an examination of them in 1887 showed (Hülsemann in *Röm. Mitt.* 1889, 255). The market was transferred in 1477 to the Piazza Navona. In the middle of the fifteenth century the palace, which had fallen into a very dilapidated condition, was restored by Nicholas V (p. 91). The Palazzo dei Conservatori, which had been erected in the meantime, was also reconstructed on a larger scale by him (p. 94). In 1536 Michelangelo drew up plans for the transformation of the whole group, including the construction of a third palace opposite that of the Conservatori. It was more than a century before his plans were completely carried out: but it is to him that the Capitol owes its present aspect.

The origin of the Capitoline collections of antiquities is due to Sixtus IV. Their gradual growth has already been traced by Michaelis (*Röm. Mitt.* 1891, 1 *seq.*), but M. Rodocanachi brings further contributions to their history. After the completion of the new palace (the present Capitoline Museum), a certain number of sculptures were transferred to it ; but it was Clement XII who by the donation of the greater part of the collection of Cardinal Alessandro Albani was the real creator of the collection in the Capitoline Museum. With the exception indeed of the group of bronzes which began to be formed, as has been said, in the fifteenth century, the Palazzo dei Conservatori is mainly indebted for its importance to recent finds. Besides tracing the history of the Capitol and its buildings in its

main outlines, Rodocanachi also has interesting chapters on the lions of the Capitol, pictorial representations of the Capitol, festivities held here, etc., etc.

The book shows a considerable amount of original research in the Capitoline archives. Many of the documents published are identical with those given by Prof. Lanciani in the *Storia degli Scavi*, but have been independently copied.

There is also evidence of wide reading and a fairly good acquaintance with the literature of the subject, though a few omissions may be noted. Thus, the author cites Hülsen's article as to the discovery of the body of the supposed daughter of Cicero in 1485, but in spite of it still asserts (p. 120) (following the unfounded conjecture of Nibby) that the sarcophagus bearing the name of Aurelia Extricata contained the body, whereas this sarcophagus was certainly found in 1744 or 1745. (*C.I.L.* vi. 13310.)

Notice should also have been taken in the account of the legend of S. Maria, in Aracoeli, of the passage in Hülsen's *Bilder aus der Geschichte des Kapitols* 30 (which is quoted elsewhere), where he points out that the church is first mentioned in a chronicle of the eighth century, and that the legend of the altar of the Son of God probably arose from a misinterpretation of a dedication

FIDEI·AVG·SACR· as *Filio DEI AVGustus SACRavit.*

There are also certain inconsistencies. Thus, his plan, which is taken from Lanciani's *Forma Urbis*, marks Locus Montis Tarpei? on the site of the tower of Paul III, without any statement in the text that the inscription to the *Virgo Caelestis*, in which the phrase occurs, belongs to a period at which the name had been extended to the whole hill (Hülsen, *Röm. Mitt.*, 1893, 288), and the Area Capitolina, appears on the plan as the space to the N. of the Tabularium, while in the text it is the esplanade surrounding the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus (pp. 28 *seq.*)

The questions of provenances dealt with in the chapter on the formation of the museums cannot be fully discussed here. The catalogue of the sculptures of the municipal collections, the first volume of which the British School at Rome will shortly publish, will give an opportunity of doing this.

But, while recognizing the value of much of the information given by M. Rodocanachi, I may be permitted, perhaps, to show cause for questioning some of his identifications.

For example, the 'statue of Hadrian as a child,' of which he speaks (p. 205) as having been seen by Aldrovandi in the Capitoline collection, was in reality a *head* of Hadrian as a youth, in the collection of Eurialo Silvestri (Aldrovandi, p. 276).

Again, we find that in trying to identify the statues which passed from the Vatican to the Capitoline Museum in or after the time of Pius V, he supposes the 'Fortune' (No. 49 of the Boccapaduli inventory—described as a sitting headless figure) to be perhaps identical with statue No. 23 of the Salone—a standing figure of a Muse, the head of which, though readjusted, belongs to it.

Further, on p. 205, n. 2, the statuette of Bacchus as a youth, seen by Aldrovandi in the Capitol, is identified (with a query it is true) with the statue of Bacchus (Galleria 38)¹ which is 1.65 mètre high, while on p. 207, n. 1, we are told (correctly) that the latter is identical with a statue (No. 60, as a fact) from the Vatican which, Righetti says (I. Pl. lxix), was given in the time of Sixtus V. No attempt is made to reconcile these two conflicting statements.

Again, the identification of the 'colossal statue of Tiberius with an ancient head,' which the Cardinal of Ferrara gave in exchange to the Roman people, with the so-called Tiberius (Cortile, No. 17—a head on a modern bust, the head being only 27 cm. high) is most infelicitous (p. 208, n. 1), and looks as though much of the identification had not been done on the spot or even with proper use of books.

Further, he proposes to identify a statue of Hercules bought (if it ever was bought—Lanciani, *Storia degli Scavi*, ii. 83, identifies it with the Hercules of Lysippus, which went to Florence) from Francesco Ronconi in 1589—Helbig i¹. 588 (=i². 606) with a statue of Hercules, the fragments of which were found in 1873 on the Esquiline, in a mediaeval wall! (*Bull. Com.*, 1880, 153 seq.)

The translator has on the whole done his work well, though such expressions as 'Regionaries' (p. 14, n. 2), 'Claudius the Gothic' (p. 16), 'the Minucia portico' (p. 17), 'bandlets' (p. 34), 'sorts of porticoes' (p. 72), 'rostrum' (a mistranslation of 'tribune,' which in this case means 'apse' (p. 74), 'reconstitution' (p. 75), show somewhat too close adherence to the French original. 'Domi' as the plural of 'domus,' on the other hand (p. 17), and 'Plautus [for Plautius] Helianus' (p. 34), are mistakes which must be laid to the translator's charge. Nor is 'crossed' a good translation of 'franchissait,' in speaking of a road which passed through the Servian Wall at the Porta Carmentalis (p. 17). 'Two yards and a half,' which is given as the 'considerable' difference of level between the Forum and the Capitol (p. 26 *init.*), is also an error of the translator's—the real figure is 24 mètres.

Another strange mistake is the citation of M. Babelon's *Description historique et chronologique des monnaies de la République romaine* as *Historical and Chronological Description of the Buildings of the Roman Republic* (p. 35, n. 5), and the statement that the Via Faba Tosta passed 'over' the Arch of Septimius Severus (p. 74—the French 'au-dessus' merely means 'above'), not to mention such forms as the 'bridge of St. Angel's' (p. 76), and 'Esquilian' (p. 146), must be due to the translator's lack of familiarity with Rome.

Again, Rodocanachi's reference, p. 23, n. 1, to the engraving on the opposite page taken from Michaelis' reproduction of a drawing of Heemskerck, is made by the translator into a citation of an engraving reproduced by Michaelis (p. 81, n.). That Prospettivo appears as a proper name, on the other hand, is Rodocanachi's fault (*ibid.*). On p. 148 we find the Strada Capitolina paved 'at the expense of the owners of property on the river bank and of the people.' The words in italics are a bad mistranslation of the words 'propriétaires riverains' (*vicini*—p. 86 of the original). 'Outlandish' too (p. 154, n. 3) is a strange translation of 'baroque.' A serious

¹ 58, which is what is actually given in the English edition, is a misprint for 38.

omission on p. 215 in the translation is that of a statement (p. 156 of the French original) that 'en 1712, on acheta un Faune jouant de la flûte avec un taureau à ses pieds,' which makes the allusion to the Faun in note 7 obscure. The statement in the original is, as a fact, incorrect, for the Faun was not found until 1749.

These imperfections, however (upon which I should not have insisted so much, were it not that I happen to have been obliged to verify M. Rodocanachi's statements in connexion with the compilation of the catalogue already referred to), do not prevent the book from being an important and acceptable contribution to our knowledge, and the translator deserves gratitude for having brought it within the reach of English readers. And it must be confessed that for the few who will still find it necessary for completeness to make use of the French original, there will be many who will be glad to have the work in a portable form.

THOMAS ASHBY.