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Cover illustration from Susan M. Dixon in this volume, p. 252, fig. 5. Cover illustration edited by Julia Habetzeder.

G. Jansen, A.O. Koloski-Ostrow & R. Neudecker, eds, *Sixty-six toilets and urinals in the ancient city of Rome. Sanitary, urbanistic, and social agency* (Babesch Supplements 48), Leuven, Paris & Bristol, Connecticut: Peeters 2024. xi + 322 pp. ISBN 978-90-429-5337-6. <https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.24900056>

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This volume, edited by Gemma Jansen, Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow and Richard Neudecker, is the result of a long project with its roots in an earlier book from 2011 (*Roman toilets. Their archaeology and cultural history*, eds G. Jansen, A.O. Koloski-Ostrow and E.M. Moormann). While working on this previous study the authors realized that, despite exploring Roman toilets, almost no examples from the city of Rome itself were included due to a lack of available published material. Having identified this, quite glaring, research *lacuna* an investigation of the empirical material in Rome was instigated, resulting in the present volume. This origin of the book is reflected in its content as it consists of two parts: the first deals with the empirical material (the 66 toilets and urinals in Rome), while the second draws on this in five thematic chapters. To accomplish this the editors involved 34 collaborators writing about the various installations, primarily in English, but also Italian and German.

Following a short introduction presenting the volume's background, important terminology and a map locating the material in Rome, the book dives straight into the evidence, i.e., the 66 toilets and latrines, organized by seven functional contexts: domestic and business spaces (nos 1–8), baths (nos 9–17), public spaces (nos 18–31), the Imperial domain of the Palatine (nos 32–38), the urban walls (nos 39–55, discussed as one entry), unknown functional contexts (nos 56–60) and finally suburban villas, represented by the Villa of the *Quintilii* (nos 61–66). In some cases, the categories overlap, such as no. 15 in a *balneum* at the Sanctuary of Dea Dia on the Via Campania which is grouped with baths rather than suburban sites. The authors also include a list of 14 features previously misidentified as toilets.

Under each entry the latrine or urinal is described in detail, with some entries being combined (e.g., nos 26–28, the urinals at Circus Maximus, and nos 56–57, two toilets in the Domus Aurea). Generally, these descriptions are clear and easy to follow. Notably, each contribution is lavishly illustrated with photographs and plans; in total the 66 entries are accompanied by almost 300 illustrations. In practice most contributions include about 5 figures, but many have more than 10 and one over 20 images. In addition to providing the reader with important information, these images make the book a pleasant read, although sometimes the editors could have been more selective (e.g., no. 18, where fig. 1 makes fig. 2 superfluous).

The toilets and urinals comprise a mixed bag in terms of evidence. Most of the entries concern remains from standing structures (e.g., nos 19–21, urinals at the Colosseum) and older excavations which can still be accessed today (e.g., no. 23, a Trajanic latrine at the Forum Iulium), but some are based completely on excavation notes and photographs (e.g., no. 13 from a bath at Piazza dei Cinquecento). Others concern recent excavations (e.g., no. 16, a toilet from a bath at Via del Tritone, and nos 11–12 in the Baths of Caracalla). Finally, five entries are based on depictions on the Forma Urbis (nos 9–10, 18, and 35–36, although the later from Largo Argentina also draws on excavated structures). This is an interesting and welcome inclusion, but obviously provides much less data than the archaeological remains.

There are several consequences of this approach. A positive effect is that the data is more diverse than otherwise possible, including a larger body of evidence. At the same time, it also produces a wide gulf in the utility and detail of the data. The archaeological evidence is also of varying quality. While in most cases the features discussed are clearly toilets, in others considerably more interpretation and argumentation are required, in particular for the urinals (such as no. 1). For a few so little remains that it is difficult to say more than that they existed, for example, no. 19 at the Bath of Diocletian, where only a small part of the sewer under the seats and a ledge on the wall for securing these have been identified. Scholars looking for material in this book will therefore probably have to consider what features are useful for their work rather than include the whole corpus. Its usefulness for future studies would also have been increased by a more standardized way of presenting the material.

The second part of the book consists of five thematic chapters. The first, 'Health, hygiene, and sanitation' (pp. 191–211) by Koloski-Ostrow is framed as a response to Alex Scobie's influential article 'Slums, sanitation, and mortality in the Roman world' (*Klio* 68, 399–433). Here the author aims to renew the question of how sanitary ancient Rome was, suggesting that she intends to paint an updated, perhaps more positive, picture of the situation: "Because of Scobie's negative image of a dirty Rome imprinted on our brains, though, scholars like me will always have and uphill battle to 'see' anything else when we revisit his work with a critical eye" (p. 191). Yet, reading the chapter hardly produces a more optimistic view of the cleanliness of ancient Rome, and the many warnings against the uncritical use of the literary evidence do little to alleviate this.

The following three chapters are written by Jansen. The second chapter, 'Water supply and drainage systems related to the toilets of Rome' (pp. 213–222), deals with fairly well-known material. Here the volume would have benefited from further co-ordination by the authors as the text sometimes overlaps with that of Koloski-Ostrow. Following this

the third chapter discusses toilet seats ('From wood to rosso antico. Sitting on the toilet in ancient Rome', pp. 223–240), including evidence concerning both the usual multi-person seats and the much more elaborate marble chairs. Here the author discusses what the seats were made of, how much space each person would have at the toilet, and even which seats in a latrine were preferred. These, in particular the two former, are themes discussed fairly extensively in previous studies. The fourth chapter ('Urinating the Roman way', pp. 241–257) provides something more unique as urinals have often been overlooked, presumably because they are difficult to identify. Although probably to be expected, the presence of large urinals in amphitheatres, circuses and theatres is interesting and provides new perspectives on activities in these settings.

Finally, the book is concluded by the chapter 'Notdurft in Rom' (pp. 259–295) by Neudecker. This is a densely written text discussing *urbanitas* as a way to better understand the use of latrines in ancient Rome, while also including "Resultate", summarizing the finds of the volume. Here the author stresses that toilets were probably never comfortable or pleasant (presumably by current standards); rather Roman latrines made the experience more bearable ("erträglich") related to contemporary notions concerning health and comfort. It is also concluded that public latrines experienced great popularity from 100 AD as they were connected with expectations concerning quality of life. Despite this there was no systematic planning for public latrines in the modern sense. Finally, the author concludes that the toilets in the city were diverse, from very modest to extremely luxurious, from private to public: as such, Rome is an "Unikum" in the study of ancient latrines (p. 288).

The strength of this volume is in the new evidence made available, and the editors clearly identified a relevant and important issue when observing that few toilets from Rome had been published. Incorporating the work from so many contributors is no small feat. The editors should also be lauded for the impressive visual material included in the volume. While arrows or other indications could have been useful in some cases, overall it is rare to find such a richly illustrated book.

One final, but important, aspect is that the volume is published with intense competition within its relatively small field. While perhaps unexpected, ancient toilet studies is a lively and active field with at least eight volumes published the last two decades, as well as numerous articles on a wide range of aspects. Stefanie Hoss' edited volume *Latrinae. Roman toilets in the northwestern provinces of the Roman Empire* from 2018 is still fairly recent and Alain Bouet published the very impressive *Les latrines de Délos. Hygiène, salubrité et environnement d'une ville des Cyclades* just a few months before the volume discussed here was released. Bouet's extremely detailed 740-page work systematically presents the material from Delos, as well as finds of parasites, osteological remains and pollen. In comparison, the primary strength of *Sixty-six*

toilets and urinals in the ancient city of Rome is precisely what the title advertises, namely that it provides a body of material for the Urbs for the first time.

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A. Collar & T. Myrup Kristensen, eds, *Pilgrims in place, pilgrims in motion. Sacred travel in the ancient Mediterranean*, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press 2024. 287 pp. ISBN 978-87-7184-543-3.

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Edited volumes have the unique potential both to showcase the breadth of a scholarly field and point towards its future directions. In *Pilgrims in place, pilgrims in motion. Sacred travel in the ancient Mediterranean*, Anna Collar and Troels Myrup Kristensen have curated a collection of essays that aims to do both. This book is the third published in a series of edited volumes stemming from symposia that took place as part of the *Emergence of Sacred Travel* (EST) Project at Aarhus University. It brings together a range of contributors—archaeologists, historians, classicists and anthropologists—to explore pilgrimage not only as a form of religious travel, but as a social, political and spatial phenomenon in the ancient world. The editors position the volume as a response to the growing interest in mobility studies and material religion, advocating for a rethinking of what pilgrimage means in antiquity. The result is an ambitious and diverse collection of 15 papers presented and discussed from a variety of perspectives, deploying different approaches and incorporating case studies ranging widely in time and space, from antiquity to contemporary times and from Britain to historic Palestine.

The essays are neatly arranged into three parts. Part 1 ('Methodological dialogues on pilgrimage') comprises three chapters which serve as introductions to the volume and discuss theoretical and methodological issues pertaining to the subject. Ten chapters belong to part 2 ('Pilgrims, place and motion: case studies'), which forms the core of the volume. These are followed by two short contributions in part 3 ('Concluding responses'), which are meant to wrap up the volume.

In part 1, the editors' introduction (pp. 11–34) articulates a compelling rationale for the volume: pilgrimage in the ancient world has too often been framed narrowly, tied to specific kinds of journeys and textual genres. The volume seeks to move beyond rigid categories and explore sacred movement