

CAPITOLINE MUSEUMS AND TRAJAN'S COLUMN

The 509BC Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on the southern summit of the Capitol hill, was the centre of the Roman world, and next to it was a temple to Juno the queen of the gods. Today's city council, the *Comune di Roma*, meets in the Palazzo Senatorio, which is built over the Tabularium, the ancient archive store.



The other buildings around Michelangelo's 16th century piazza house the Capitoline Museums. They are linked by an underground gallery beneath the piazza. The equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius in the centre of the piazza is a replica but the original is kept inside.

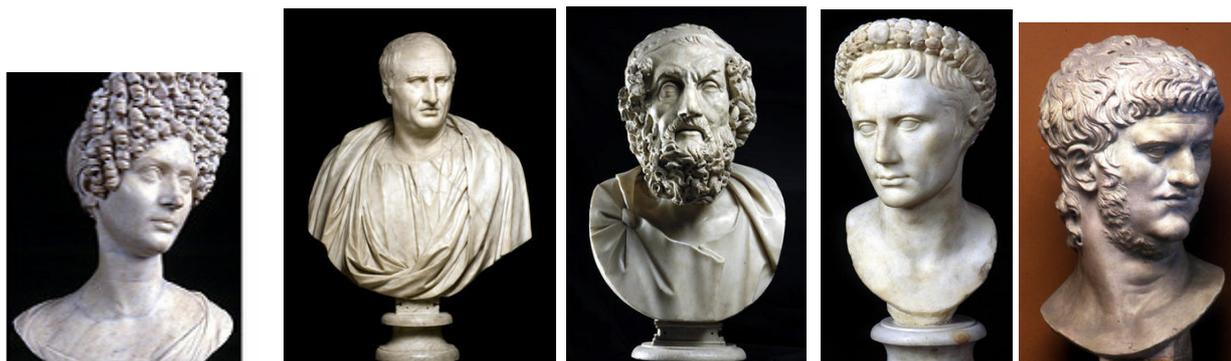
The Palazzo dei Conservatori is the largest, more varied collection, with some ancient sculpture as well as later pieces and an art gallery. The 1st floor room is decorated with giant, late 16th century frescoes of Roman legends, such as the she-wolf with Romulus and Remus, the fight between the Horatii and the Curatii, the rape of the Sabine women and Scaevola with Porsenna.



Try to find these famous pieces: the Etruscan she-wolf with the twins added later, *Spinario*, a Roman statue of a boy picking a thorn out of his foot, a *Dying Gaul*, baby Hercules strangling the snakes that Juno sent to kill him, and parts of the colossal statue of Constantine.



Portrait busts include a lady with an ornate Flavian hairstyle, the orator and politician Cicero, the poet Homer, the first Emperor Augustus, and the infamous Nero.



The lovers Cupid and Psyche, a wounded Amazon, the Capitoline Venus (a *Venus pudica* type), Leda with Jupiter disguised as a swan - she later gave birth to two eggs containing Helen of Troy, Clytemnaestra, Castor and Polydeuces - and a copy of the magnificent statue of Athene from the Parthenon in Athens.



Ancient Roman mosaics in different styles - doves and theatre masks and then the *opus sectile* tiger attacking a calf.



You might recognise the form of this statue as a *discobolos* after seeing others in the Vatican and Borghese Gallery, but only the torso is antique: the 18th century French sculptor Monnot restored it as a wounded warrior.

Bernini's bust of Medusa is on the right.



Rubens: *Romulus and Remus*, Caravaggio: *Saint John the Baptist*, Lotto: *Portrait of a Crossbowman*, Romanelli: *Saint Cecilia* and Van Dyke: *Portraits of painters*.



TRAJAN'S COLUMN

Today the column of Trajan (113AD) is the most prominent architectural feature of Trajan's Forum. It was designed as the focal point of the forum and was flanked by two libraries, which contained viewing areas for people to see the carvings of Trajan's campaigns in Dacia (Romania), which spiral up the column. Originally the carvings would be clearer because they were painted and had metal decorations. The ashes of Trajan and his wife were buried in the base of the column and there was a statue of Trajan himself on the top.



This engraving shows the column in 1896.

SENATVS·POPVLVSQVE·ROMANVS
IMP·CAESARI·DIVI·NERVAE·F·NERVAE
TRAIANO·AVG·GERM·DACICO·PONTIF
MAXIMO·TRIB·POT·XVII·IMP·VI·COS·VI·P·P
AD·DECLARANDVM·QVANTAE·ALTITVDINIS
MONS·ET·LOCVS·TANT<IS·OPER>IBVS·SIT·EGESTVS

The Senate and people of Rome

To the Emperor Caesar, son of the divine Nerva, Nerva Trajan Augustus Germanicus Dacicus, Pontifex Maximus, 17th time as tribune, 6th time Imperator, 6th time Consul, Father of the Country, to demonstrate the size of the hill and place removed in order to build this.

Presumably the excavation work dug down as deeply as the completed buildings and this column reaches the former height of the Quirinal hill.

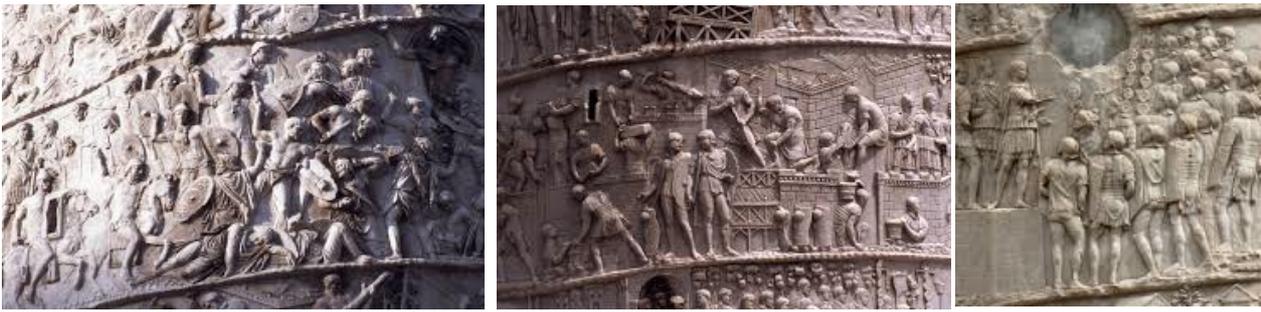
As the inscription is designed to be read from below, the bottom lines are in a smaller script than the upper ones.

The column itself is hollow, with a spiral staircase of 185 steps inside. Much of what we know about the Roman army comes from this frieze and Latin students will recognise sections from the illustrations in CLC Book 3. The frieze shows scenes of Trajan's successful campaigns in Dacia in about 100AD.



The story begins with conquering the Danube river-god as the army crosses.

Here you can see a general battle scene, soldiers building a fort and Trajan himself addressing the troops.



This plaster-cast shows how it might have originally looked. This section has the god Jupiter joining the fighting at the top right.



Not far from the forum is the massive structure of what is thought to have been the world's first shopping mall - Trajan's market. Free corn was sometimes distributed here, and there are concert halls on the ground floor. More floors and a defensive tower were added in the Middle Ages.



