
A has produced a guidebook of considerable merit. Perhaps the book’s ‘guidebook’ nature needs to be emphasized. A does not employ footnotes, does not seek out areas of scholarly debate, provides a short Select Bibliography (171-74), takes his readers on a tour with him, from aqueduct to aqueduct in the order in which he visits them, and even (one may say) tells them which buses and trains to catch. The book is not, therefore, primarily one for assimilation in a far-off study, despite the claim on the back cover that it ‘serves as both an armchair introduction to the subject and as a field guide for tracking the ruins in today’s landscape’ (cf. ix). The best way to appreciate A’s achievement is to take this book with you to Rome. It does not compete with the comprehensive analyses of Esther Van Deman¹ or Thomas Ashby,² who tracked and mapped the course of Rome’s aqueducts in the early 1930s, and described in great detail many of the ruins. A’s site descriptions owe much to them, and a number of Ashby’s superb drawings are employed profitably. But in a unique way A helps the reader locate the ruins in today’s landscape. New maps facilitate this aim. He has also taken account of advances in scholarship since the 1930s, for instance in his section on the Aqua Virgo (68-74).

The structure of the book is a big plus. The table of Contents (v-vi) is followed by a list of the 14 Maps (vii) and a list of the 44 Figures (vii-viii), together with their accompanying page numbers. It can be seen that these visual aids are a major part of the book. In combination they form a useful reference source apart from the merits of the text. The same applies to the three Appendices which follow the main text. Appendix A (165) is an information chart of Rome’s eleven aqueducts. It lists for comparison their date of construction, their volume in cubic metres per second, total length

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in kilometres, length on arches, and height at terminus in metres above sea level. Appendix B reproduces seven inscriptions, in Latin with English translations, pertaining to the ancient aqueducts (166-67); two further inscriptions in the same format relate to the modern Acqua Marcia Pia (168). Appendix C (169-70) introduces the five aqueducts of modern Rome,3 emphasizing their terminal displays (mostre), e.g. the Fountain of Moses for the Acqua Felice.

The rest of the book is divided into three parts, the first two of which provide a general introduction to the subject of Roman aqueducts. Part One, The Roman Aqueduct (1-29), provides general information about ancient Roman aqueducts, giving their historical background and a description of their various parts and administration. The discussion profits from evidence for aqueducts in other parts of the Empire and in other cultures (e.g. 1). We learn about such things as qanats (tunnels), siphons, the chorobates (a builder’s level), catchbasins, settling tanks, substructions, arcades, aqueduct bridges, castella (distribution tanks), curatores (supervisors), and so on. It is the best short introduction I have read. Part Two, The Eleven Aqueducts of Ancient Rome (31-45), introduces each of the eleven aqueducts which served Rome in ancient times.4 It gives some idea of their history, of the personalities associated with them, mostly as builders or restorers, of their source, length, direction, and capacity in cubic metres per day. There is also a list for each aqueduct of sites of related archaeological or historical interest that one may visit in the vicinity.

Part Three, Field Guide to the Ruins (47-164), takes the reader on a series of on-site visits. If you can’t make it to all of them, A makes sure in his Preface that you know which ones he considers worth the most effort (x). The ruins are grouped into four main

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3 Acqua Felice, Acqua Paola, Acqua Marcia Pia (or Acqua Pia Antica Marcia), Acqua Vergine Nuova, Acqua Peschiera-Capore.

4 Aqua Appia (34-5), Anio Vetus (35-6), Aqua Marcia (36-7), Aqua Tepula (38), Aqua Julia (38-9), Aqua Virgo (39-41), Aqua Alsietina (41), Aqua Claudia (42-3), Aqua Anio Novus (43-4), Aqua Traiana (44), Aqua Alexandrina (45).
geographical areas: A. The Urban Area (inside the Aurelian Wall) (52-79); B. The Suburban Ruins (between the Walls and the Raccorde) (80-112); C. Aqueduct Bridges of the Campagna (113-32); D. The Anio Valley: Tivoli to Subiaco (133-64). Except for the urban sections traced from Porta Maggiore, the aqueducts are traced from their destinations downtown back upstream to their sources. The natural assumption, of course, is that you will be staying in Rome and taking a day tour away from the centre. This is the section with the most description of details, listing of measurements, etc. It also contains many directions that strike me as being rather quaint but of dubious helpfulness. For instance (126),

'The dirt road to Ponte S. Gregorio continues up Valle della Mola to Ponte S. Pietro, about 500m. upstream of Ponte S. Gregorio. Where the road forks (past another road that leads up to the left) and each of the ways heads down, descend to the valley floor on the path/road to the right. Ponte S. Pietro stands just upstream in an orchard, much of its light orange brick masked by the luxuriant shrubbery that has found a foothold on the structure.'

Perhaps such a sentence shows the best and worst of guidebooks. They often evoke an atmosphere beautifully but become out-of-date quickly too. Furthermore, you really have to be there to appreciate what is going on.

Proofreading is of the highest standard, although 'Cicrus Maximus, 68' and 'Circus Maximus, 34' are amazingly distinguished in the Index on 177.

The points made here being said with all force, there is still much to recommend this book. It is probably just such a book that scholars and serious travellers need to make the aqueducts of Rome initially intelligible on a preliminary level.

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