

OSTIA IN LATE ANTIQUITY

Ostia Antica – Rome’s ancient harbor. Its houses and apartments, taverns and baths, warehouses, shops, and temples have long contributed to a picture of daily life in Rome. Recent investigations have revealed, however, that life in Ostia did not end with a bang but with a whimper. Only on the cusp of the Middle Ages did the town’s residents entrench themselves in a smaller settlement outside the walls. What can this new evidence tell us about life in the later Roman Empire, as society navigated an increasingly Christian world? *Ostia in Late Antiquity* – the first academic study on Ostia to appear in English in almost twenty years and the first to treat the Late Antique period – tackles the dynamics of this transformative time. Drawing on new archaeological research, including the author’s own, and incorporating both material and textual sources, it presents a social history of the town from the third through ninth centuries.

Douglas Boin is an expert on the religious history of the Roman Empire, particularly as it pertains to the “pagan,” Christian, and Jewish world of the ancient Mediterranean. Since 2010 he has taught in the Department of Classics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. His scholarship has appeared in *Journal of Roman Studies* and *American Journal of Archaeology*, and he has authored entries on synagogues and church buildings for the multivolume reference work *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*. For ten years, he worked as an archaeologist in Rome, studying the site of the synagogue at Ostia Antica.

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I should add a short bibliographic disclaimer at this point. Archaeological research is always being updated, and our picture of Ostia will no doubt change in the years to come. Just as I was completing this manuscript, for example, I was fortunate to receive a report of new Late Antique excavations conducted in one area of the city center between 2008 and 2010. I believe that work largely supports the interpretation of

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the evidence that I describe here, but perhaps some day it, too, will reach its expiration date. In the meantime my hope is that this book provides a lasting interpretative framework for asking new questions about life in Late Antique Ostia and that it stimulates new debates about how we approach the topic.

Let me conclude by mentioning two other people who watched me as I wrote this book. It is a delight to set their names among the others at last: thanks to my mom, Joyce Ryan Boin, and to my partner Gardiner Rhoderick. I smile now when I think that, for each of them, Ostia’s ruins also feel like a second home.

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Abbreviations

Latin and Greek authors are abbreviated according to *The Oxford Classical Dictionary, Third Edition*, edited by Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawforth (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996). Journal abbreviations follow the *American Journal of Archaeology*. The following also appear in the text.

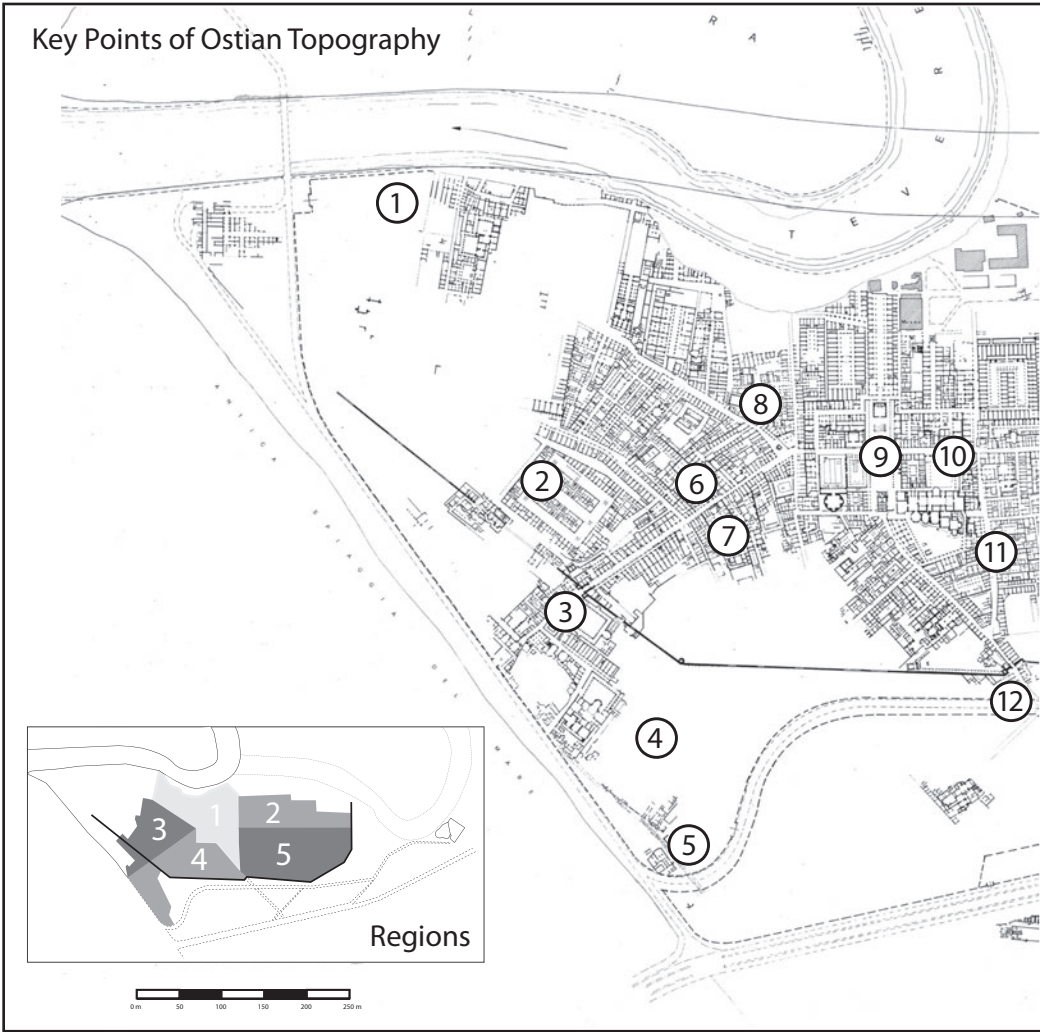
AASS	<i>Acta Sanctorum</i> . Edited by J. Bolland et al. Antwerp and Brussels. 1643–1940.
AE	<i>L’Année épigraphique</i> . Paris. 1888–.
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> . Edited by H. Temporini et al. Berlin. 1972–.
BMCRR	<i>Coins of the Roman Republic in the British Museum</i> . Edited by H. A. Grüber. London. 1910.
CAH	<i>The Cambridge Ancient History</i> . London. 1982–.
CBCR	<i>Corpus Basilicarum Christianarum Romae (The Early Christian Basilicas of Rome, IV–IX Centuries)</i> . Edited by R. Krautheimer. Vatican City. 1937–.
CCCA	<i>Corpus Cultus Cybelae Attidisque</i> . Edited by M. J. Vermaseren. Leiden. 1977–.
CCSL	<i>Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina</i> . Turholt. 1953–.
CIG	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> . Berlin. 1828–.
CIL	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i> . Berlin. 1863–.
CIMRM	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum et Monumentum Religionis Mithraicae</i> . Edited by M. J. Vermaseren. The Hague. 1960.
CTh	<i>The Theodosian Code and Novels and Sirmondian Constitutions</i> . Edited and translated by C. Pharr. Princeton. 1952.

GMP	<i>The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation: Including the Demotic Spells</i> . Edited by H. D. Betz. Chicago. 1986.
Helbig ⁴	<i>Führer durch die öffentlichen Sammlungen klassischer Altertümer in Rom</i> . Fourth Edition. Edited by W. Helbig and H. Speier. Tübingen. 1963–72.
ICUR	<i>Inscriptiones Christianae Urbis Romae Septimo Saeculo Antiquiores</i> . Edited by G. B. De Rossi. Rome 1857–1915. Second Edition. Edited by A. Silvagni et al. Rome. 1922–.
IGRR	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes</i> . 1964–.
IGUR	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae Urbis Romae</i> . Edited by L. Moretti. Rome. 1968–.
ILCV	<i>Inscriptiones Latinae Christianae Veteres</i> . Edited by E. Diehl. Berlin. 1925–31.
ILS	<i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i> . Edited by H. Dessau. Berlin. 1892–1916.
Inscr. Cret.	<i>Inscriptiones Creticae</i> . Edited by M. Guarducci. Rome. 1935–.
Inscr. Ital.	<i>Inscriptiones Italiae</i> . Rome. 1931/1932–.
LCL	Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, MA.
LIMC	<i>Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae</i> . Edited by J. Boardman et al. Zurich. 1981–.
LP	<i>Liber Pontificalis</i> . Edited by L’Abbé Duchesne and C. Vogel. Second Edition. Paris. 1867–1957.
LTUR	<i>Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae</i> . Edited by E. M. Steinby. Rome. 1993–.
LTURS	<i>Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae: Suburbium</i> . Edited by A. La Regina. Rome. 2001–.
Mus. Ost.	<i>Museo ostiense</i> . Edited by R. Calza–de Chirico and M. F. Squarciapino. Rome. 1962.
NSc	<i>Notizie degli scavi di antichità</i> . Rome. 1876–.
NTDAR	<i>A New Topographical Dictionary of Ancient Rome</i> . By L. Richardson. Baltimore. 1992.
OGIS	<i>Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae</i> . Edited by W. Dittenberger. Two volumes. Leipzig. 1903–05.
PCBE	<i>Prosopographie chrétienne du Bas-empire</i> . Three volumes. Paris. 1982–2008.
PIR	<i>Prosopographia imperii romani</i> . Six volumes. Berlin. 1933–.

Abbreviations

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PLRE	<i>The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire</i> . Edited by A. H. M. Jones et al. Cambridge. 1971–.
RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i> . Edited by T. Klauser et al. Stuttgart. 1950–.
RE	<i>Real-Encyclopädie der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> . Stuttgart. 1893–.
SdO	<i>Scavi di Ostia</i> . Rome. 1954–.
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> . Amsterdam. 1923–.



Map 1. Key points of Ostian topography. Author’s plan, modified from Archivio Disegni, Ostia Antica 11689.

