

Andreas Pangerl and Wayne Kimber (Ed.)



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Andreas Pangerl, Wayne Kimber

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The Eric ten Brink Collection of the coins of Hadrian

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Figure 3a1: View on ruins of the double temple from the Eastern 'Venus' side.

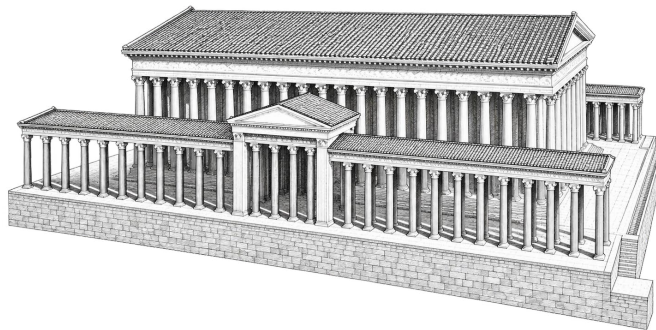


Figure 3a2: Reconstruction of the Roma and Venus Temple from the South.



Figure 3: Coins: a–c On the occasion of the opening of the new Venus and Roma double temple in Rome, Hadrian had coins and medals minted with the reverse sides “ROMAE AETERNAE” and “VENERIS FELICIS”. The facade of the temple was also presented, the construction of which was begun by Hadrian and completed by Antoninus Pius.

b. AE Sestertius showing the facade of the Temple of Venus and Roma, Rome, AD 137–138, *RIC II.3 no. 2427*.

c. ROMAE AETERNAE, sitting Roma holds Palladion in her hand; AR Denarius, Rome, AD 137–138, *RIC II.3 no. 2341–2*.

d. VENERIS FELICIS, sitting Venus holds Victory (?) in her hand; AV Aureus, Rome, AD 137–138, *RIC II.3 nos. 2365–2366*.

Hadrian's Golden Age:

3. Hadrian's Religious Building Activity in Rome: The Venus and Roma Temple

The emphasis on the founding myths of Rome and Rome's religious traditions is also evident in Hadrian's building program, especially in the city of Rome. Hadrian's largest and most important religious structure there is new double temple of Venus and Roma (fig. 3b).¹² Hadrian began this grand construction, which could only be completed by his successor Antoninus Pius.¹³ However, Hadrian himself probably consecrated the temple shortly before his death in AD 136–137.¹⁴ The goddess Venus played a central role in Rome's founding myths, as she was the protector of the Trojans on their flight from burning Troy to Latium in Italy.¹⁵ Venus Genetrix was the protector of the gens Julia. The Italic element of Rome's origin, in turn, embodied the goddess Roma. To honor the opening of this double temple, Hadrian issued special coins for VENUS FELICIS and ROMAE AETERNAE. These dedications were first issued by Hadrian in Roman numismatics. Roma Aeterna (also Roma Felix) and Venus Felix¹⁶ were then further depicted on coins of his successor Antoninus Pius.¹⁷ Hadrian also showed the facade of the Temple of Venus and Roma (fig. 3b) on coins. As mentioned above, it is recorded that Hadrian emphasized the Italic element of Rome's origins by erecting statues of the ancient Laurentine kings in front of the temple side of Roma.¹⁸ These statues were certainly bearded, just like now Hadrian and later Antoninus Pius.

In addition to this new monument, Hadrian restored numerous temple buildings in Rome. The Pantheon, originally built by Marcus Agrippa¹⁹, is a well-known example in this context. The new construction of Hadrian shows an unusual phenomenon on the day of Rome's mythical birthday: at noon on April 21, the month of Venus, and on the birthday of Rome, as well as of Numa, the sun shines through the oculus in the dome directly onto the entrance of the temple. This too is an indication of Hadrian's connection with the origins of Rome.

It is also important to remember Hadrian's construction activities in the east of the empire. In addition to countless buildings in Greek cities Hadrian initiated in the East, he also promoted Roman gods there, for example building the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus in Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), which may have been one of the causes of the bloody Bar Kokhba revolt.²⁰



1 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR denarius, Antioch/Eastern mint, *RIC II.3 no. 2959*



2 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR denarius, Antioch/Eastern mint, *RIC II.3 no. 2959*



3 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR denarius, Antioch/Eastern mint, *RIC II.3 no. 2959*



4 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR Denarius, Rome *RIC II.3 no. 9*



5 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR Denarius, Rome *RIC II.3 no. 15*



6 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR Denarius, Rome *RIC II.3 no. 22*



7 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AV Aureus, Rome *RIC II.3 no. 28*



8 Hadrian, COS, Titles corrected, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 53*



9 Hadrian, with Traian's titles appropriated, AR Denarius, Rome *RIC II.3 no. 54*



10 Hadrian, COS, Titles corrected, AR denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 60*



11 Hadrian, COS, Titles corrected, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 65*



12 Hadrian, COS DES II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no.81*



13 Hadrian, COS DES II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 88*



14 Hadrian, COS II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 108*



15 Hadrian, COS II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 114*



16 Hadrian, COS II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 117*



17 Hadrian, COS II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 125*



18 Hadrian, COS II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 129*



19 Hadrian, COS II, AR Denarius, Rome, *RIC II.3 no. 134*



20. Hadrian with Traian's titles appropriated, AR Denarius, Antioch/Eastern mint, *RIC II.3 no. 2960*. Portrait type II with full beard/anulus hair hair was used on coins in parallel to type I (with free chin/anulus hair)



Hadrian as Caesar, AV Aureus. Rome or Antioch? *RIC III no. 1926*;
Background the dome of the Pantheon in Rome rebuilt by Hadrian



Hadrian, FELICITATI AVGVSTI on sail; S C in field; COS III P P in exergue; Ship r. under full sail. AE Sestertius, Rome, 129–130, *RIC II.3 no 1341*. Ex Magnaguti and Mazzini collections.



Figure 146: The so-called “Youth of Mantinea”, most probably Antinoos. The Bithynian boy is depicted nude except for a chlamys over his shoulders. The marble statue was discovered in 1886 in the vicinity of ancient Mantinea.



Figure 147: RIC II.3 no. 1563 / RESTITVTORI ACHIAIAE

ASIA MINOR

“...while traveling through Asia, he consecrated the temples called by his name”³⁵¹

Hadrian visited Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) several times during his reign, undertaking major journeys through the region in 117–118, 123–124 and 129–130. Over the course of these travels, he crossed a vast area encompassing Bithynia, Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Cilicia, Lycia and Pamphylia, as well as the territories of Mysia, Lydia, Ionia and Caria within the Roman province of Asia.

117–118 – The journey from Syria towards the Danube

Hadrian’s first journey across Asia Minor as emperor began soon after his accession in August 117 (fig. 148). Proclaimed emperor at Antioch following Trajan’s death, he remained in Syria for several weeks while securing his position and dealing with the immediate military and administrative consequences of the succession. At the beginning of October, he entrusted the province of Syria to Catilius Severus and set out westwards. His immediate destination, however, was not Rome. News had arrived of incursions by the Sarmatian Iazyge and Roxolani on the Danube frontier, prompting Hadrian to send troops ahead and make for Moesia.³⁵² His passage through Asia Minor was therefore primarily dictated by political and military necessity, unlike the more extensive provincial tours he would undertake later in his reign.

The early stages of this journey can be reconstructed in unusual detail from a fragmentary inscription found in Rome, which records a sequence of stations and travelling days along the road through Cilicia and southern Cappadocia.³⁵³ Hadrian probably left Antioch around the beginning of October, travelling north through the Syrian Gates and then westwards across the Cilician plain, probably passing through Mopsuestia, Adana and Tarsus. By October 13, he had reached Mopsucrene, a road station on the river Cydnus north of Tarsus and immediately south of the Taurus Mountains. From there the inscription records successive stages at Panhormos, Aquae Calidae, Tynna, Tyana and Andabalis. The itinerary suggests that the imperial party was covering approximately twenty-five Roman miles, around 37 kilometers, per day.³⁵⁴ Hadrian crossed the Cilician Gates (Pylae Ciliciae) on October 14 or 15, following the Via Tauri, the principal route across the Taurus Mountains connecting Cilicia with the Anatolian plateau (fig. 149). After entering Cappadocia, he passed through Aquae Calidae and Tynna before reaching Tyana, the principal city of southern Cappadocia, on October 17.³⁵⁵ The recorded itinerary indicates that the crossing from Mopsucrene to Andabalis took approximately five days and provides a rare glimpse of the pace and practical geography of an imperial journey.

From southern Cappadocia Hadrian continued northwards towards Ancyra, the capital of Galatia, which he prob-

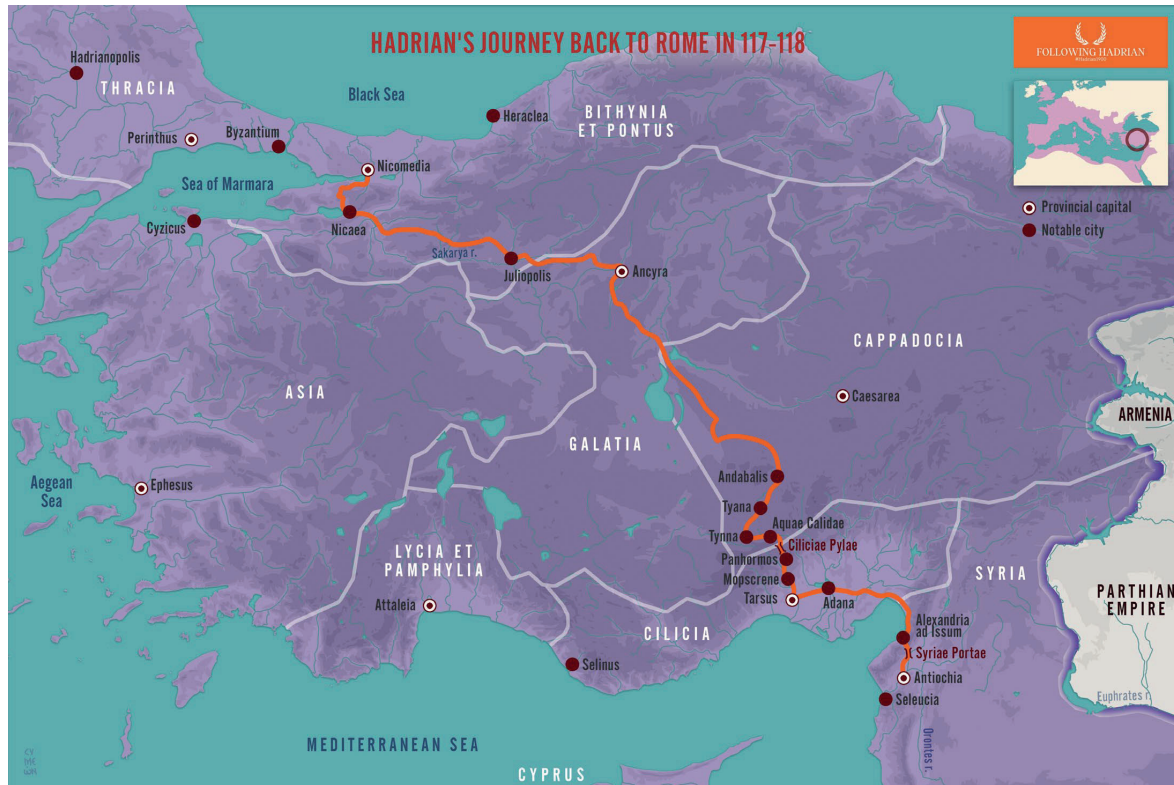


Figure 148: Map showing Hadrian's journey back to Rome in 117–118.

ably reached towards the end of October. His arrival placed considerable demands on the host city. An inscription honoring Latinia Cleopatra records the generosity of her father, Latinus Alexander, a prominent citizen of Ancyra and descendant of the Galatian kings, who provided supplies for his fellow citizens and contributed the funds required to receive and accommodate “the greatest emperor Caesar Traianus Hadrianus Augustus on his visit, and his sacred armies.” (fig. 150).³⁵⁶ The inscription provides a valuable glimpse of the logistical burden imposed by the passage of the imperial court and accompanying troops, and of the role played by wealthy local elites in meeting these costs. Hadrian appears to have remained at Ancyra for several days before resuming his journey westwards. His visit may also have been associated with the establishment of the *agones mystikoi*, an artistic festival dedicated to Dionysus and Hadrian and subsequently celebrated in the city's theater. A later decree of the association of Dionysiac artists who performed at the festival shows that Hadrian was incorporated into its ceremonies as *Neos Dionysos* (“New Dionysus”), alongside the god himself.³⁵⁷ The association provides an early and striking example of the divine language that would become increasingly prom-

inent in the honors accorded to Hadrian in the Greek East. From Ancyra, Hadrian continued northwestwards towards Bithynia along the road to Juliopolis, a route that only a few years later, in 122–123, was marked by a series of milestones erected under Aulus Larcus Macedo, governor of Galatia.



Figure 149: A well-preserved stretch of the Via Tauri through the Taurus Mountains, part of the road network traversed by Hadrian in Cilicia.