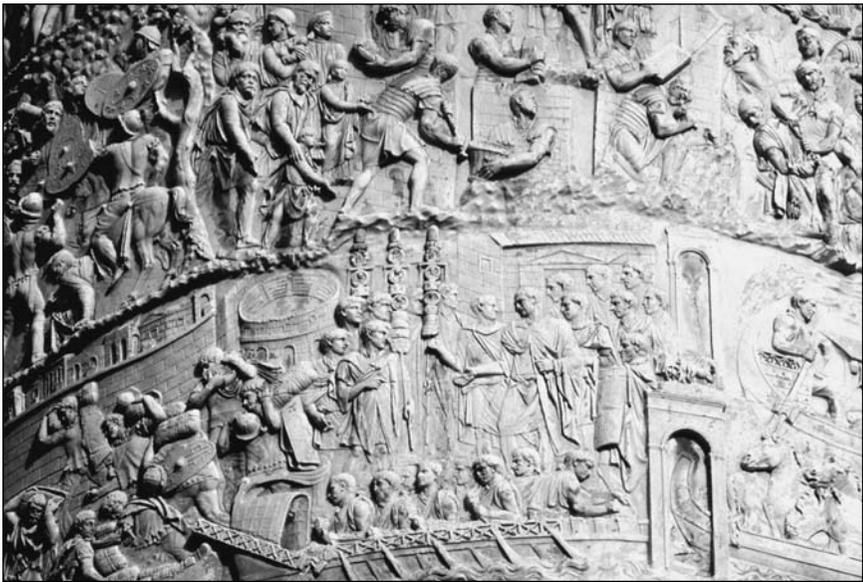


FROM **ROMULUS**
TO **ROMULUS**
AUGUSTULUS



ROMAN *FOR THE*
HISTORY *NEW*
MILLENNIUM

By Rose Williams



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**From Romulus to Romulus Augustulus
Roman History for the New Millennium**

Rose Williams

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“beatos eos quibus datum est aut facere scribenda aut scribere legenda.”

“happy are those to whom it is given to do things worth being written
or to write things worth being read”

– Pliny the Younger *Epistulae* 6.16

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FOREWORD

The early history of Rome is shrouded in legend, much of which we learn from the historian Livy. The stories cannot be taken as absolutely factual, as Livy often gives two versions of the same story, neither verifiable. But these stories represent Roman history as the Romans themselves accepted and revered it, and what people believe to be fact is often quite as influential as fact itself.

PREFACE

From Romulus to Romulus Augustulus is a brief survey of the history and literature of Classical Rome. A connected chronological overview of a people and their writings helps readers understand more about them, what they have done, and what they considered important enough to be written down for all time. How a people dealt with their environment both natural and social, as well as what trouble they got into and how they did or did not get out of it, is an integral part of language and literature study. As crises and triumphs flow one from the other, the people, the language, and the literature are carried along with them and shaped by them. This short reader will be useful for those studying ancient literature, language, culture, or history.

Terms that might be unfamiliar to the reader are emphasized in boldface type. The notes section at the back of the book provides an explanation for the terms.

From Romulus to Romulus Augustulus: Roman History for the New Millennium will serve as an ancillary and quick reference book for any group studying the ancient world. It is a good resource for those using the Bolchazy-Carducci textbook *Latin for the New Millennium* and coordinates as follows.

CORRELATION WITH LATIN FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

II. Kingdom - 753–509 BCE (0–244 AUC)

LNLM Chapters 1, 10, 11

III. Early Republic - 509–265 BCE

LNLM Chapter 4, Review 2, Chapter 12, Review 4

IV. Middle Republic - 265–133 BCE

LNLM Chapters 1, 2, 3

V. Late Republic - 133–27 BCE

LNLM Chapters 4, 5, 6, Review 2, Chapters 7, 8, 9, Review 3

VI. A. Principate Era of the Empire - 27 BCE–284 CE

LNLM Review 1, Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Review 6

VI. B. Dominate Era of the Empire - 284–476 CE

LNLM Chapters 19, 20, 21, Review 6

VII. Reges Italiae - 476–526 CE

LNLM Chapters 21, Review 7

I. TIMELINE OVERVIEW

753–509 BCE (O–244 AUC)

KINGDOM

KINGS OF ROME

- ca. 753–715 BCE Romulus Founder, king of Rome
- ca. 715–673 BCE Numa Pompilius, Sabine
- ca. 673–642 BCE Tullius Hostilius, Latin
- ca. 642–617 BCE Ancus Marcius, grandson of Numa Pompilius
- ca. 616–578 BCE Lucius Tarquinius Priscus, Etruscan
- ca. 578–534 BCE Servius Tullius, son-in-law of Tarquinius Priscus, possibly Latin
- ca. 534–509 BCE Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, grandson of Tarquinius Priscus

509–27 BCE

REPUBLIC

A. 509–265 BCE EARLY REPUBLIC

- 509 BCE Annually elected magistrates
- 451–450 BCE Law of Twelve Tables written
- 390 BCE Rome sacked by the Gauls
- 367 BCE Consulship opened to plebs
- 312 BCE Censorship of Appius Claudius Caecus
- 298–290 BCE Third Samnite War
- 281–272 BCE War with King Pyrrhus
- 279 BCE Pyrrhic victory

B. 265–133 BCE MIDDLE REPUBLIC

264–241 BCE First Punic War

218–201 BCE Second Punic War

196 BCE Flaminius proclaims freedom for Greece

184 BCE Censorship of Cato

149–146 BCE Third Punic War

133 BCE Murder of Tiberius Gracchus

C. 133–27 BCE LATE REPUBLIC

112–106 BCE War with Jugurtha in Numidia

107–100 BCE Repeated consulships of Gaius Marius

82–79 BCE Sulla Dictator

73–71 BCE Revolt of Spartacus the Gladiator

63 BCE Consulship of Cicero

60 BCE First Triumvirate of Julius Caesar, Pompey the Great, and Crassus

59 BCE Consulship of Caesar

58–50 BCE Caesar's Gallic campaign

49–46 BCE Civil War between Caesar and the senatorial forces

46 BCE Suicide of Cato Uticensis

44 BCE Assassination of Caesar

43 BCE Second Triumvirate of Mark Antony, Octavian, and Lepidus

42 BCE Battle of Philippi

39 BCE Marriage of Octavian and Livia

31 BCE Battle of Actium

27 BCE Octavian given title of Augustus

27 BCE–476 CE EMPIRE

A. 27 BCE –284 CE PRINCIPATE

- 27 BCE–14 CE Augustus Imperator
- 23 BCE Death of Marcellus
- 12 BCE Marriage of Tiberius and Julia
- 9 BCE Death of Drusus, Augustus' eldest stepson
- 4 CE Adoption of Tiberius by Augustus
- 14–7 CE Tiberius Imperator
- 19 CE Death of Germanicus
- 37–41 CE Caligula Imperator
- 41–54 CE Claudius Imperator
- 43 CE Conquest of Britain
- 54–68 CE Nero Imperator
- 54–59 CE Nero's "good years," guided by Seneca and Burrus
- 67 CE Vespasian's Judean campaign
- 68–69 CE Year of the Four Emperors
- 69–79 CE Vespasian Imperator
- 70 CE Capture of Jerusalem by Titus, son of Vespasian
- 79–81 CE Titus Imperator
- 80 CE Completion of the Coliseum, or Flavian Amphitheater
- 81–96 CE Domitian Imperator
- 96–98 CE Nerva Imperator
- 98–117 CE Trajan Imperator
- 117–138 CE Hadrian Imperator
- 138–161 CE Antoninus Pius Imperator
- 161–180 CE Marcus Aurelius Imperator

180–192 CE Commodus Emperor

193–211 CE Septimius Severus Emperor; establishes military dictatorship

211–284 CE Military unrest and political disorder; many emperors

B. 284–476 CE DOMINATE

284–305 CE Diocletian becomes Emperor and proclaims himself “Dominus”

293 CE Division of empire into Eastern and Western; four rulers

305 CE Abdication of Diocletian and Maximian

306–337 CE Constantine the Great Emperor

313 CE Edict of Milan, confirming religious toleration for Christians

324 CE Founding of Constantinople

325 CE Council of Nicaea

337–476 CE Varied emperors of varied abilities

410 CE Visigoths sack Rome

455 CE Vandals sack Rome

476 CE Romulus Augustulus deposed by Odoacer

476–526 CE REGES ITALIAE

476–493 CE Odoacer, Rex Italiae

493–526 CE Theodoric, Rex Italiae

II. KINGDOM 753–509 BCE (0–244 AUC)

According to the Roman poet Vergil, the Trojan hero Aeneas, sailing west from Asia Minor after the Greeks destroyed Troy, was pursued by the anger of the goddess Juno and suffered many disastrous adventures. The one likely to prove most disastrous was a shipwreck which tossed him up on the shores of North Africa near Carthage, the city being built by Queen Dido, who had fled from the Phoenician city of Tyre after her brother Pygmalion had murdered her wealthy husband Sychaeus. With a bit of help from Aeneas' mother, the love goddess Venus, Dido fell madly in love with Aeneas. Encouraged by Juno, who hoped to circumvent the Fates' prediction that he would be the ancestor of a great people in Italy, Dido schemed to keep Aeneas in Carthage. Aeneas learned to care for the beautiful queen, but *pietas*, the greatest of Roman virtues, interfered. This demanding moral quality insisted on loyalty to the gods, who in this case had indicated that he should found his own city; loyalty to family, represented by his son, Ascanius, who would come to rule that city; and loyalty to country, in this case the new Troy he was to build. He was delaying happily in Carthage when the chief god Jupiter, spurred on by the complaints of Venus, sent Mercury the messenger god to demand that Aeneas remember his *pietas* and set sail for Italy at once.

Livy merely says that Aeneas was one of two Trojan leaders spared the penalties of war because they advocated the sensible policy of returning Helen, the wife of Spartan king Menelaus whom the Trojan prince Paris had stolen, and making peace. However that may have been, Aeneas came to Italy and founded the city of Lavinium, from which his son Ascanius set out to found the city of Alba Longa. (We use the word city in largely a poetical sense, as mud huts rather than great palaces were more likely to be the norm. Alba Longa probably had a hard time living up to its name of the Long White City.) After a number of generations Alba Longa was inherited by King Numitor, who had an ambitious brother named Amulius. After driving his brother out of the kingship, Amulius arranged an early death for his nephew. Numitor's male issue being no more, Amulius honored Numitor's daughter Rhea Silvia by

making her a Vestal Virgin so that she could not marry. His planning was upset by the god Mars, however, and before Amulius realized that all, from his point of view, was not well, Rhea Silvia was the mother of twins, Romulus and Remus.

Amulius was a religious man. He knew the Furies, immortal female avengers who had snakes for hair and eyes that wept tears of blood, pursued those who killed relatives. He reasoned that if he put the boys in the flooding Tiber in a willow basket, however, and they happened to drown, he could not be blamed.

Romulus and Remus floated onto a sandbar and were found by a motherly wolf. In the best tradition of classical literature, the baby princes were discovered by a wandering shepherd. This shepherd, named Faustulus, took the boys home with him.

Romulus and Remus grew up in the hut of Faustulus. In their youth, when not herding sheep, they hunted game in the forest, where they encountered bands of robbers. The twins, developing an early Robin Hood spirit, robbed these robbers and distributed the spoils among



Children of the wolf.

their shepherd friends. The robbers, who like all really prosperous criminals could assume the guise of honest men, caught Romulus and his men in ambush and carried them off to be judged before Numitor, who was living in retirement on a portion of his lands given him by his generous usurper of a brother.

Faustulus, who had always had his suspicions about the disappearance of Rhea Silvia's twins and the she-wolf's sudden increase of family, told his story to Romulus and to Numitor. The result was a carefully plotted revolution that restored Numitor to the throne. Romulus and Remus then found that as a result of all their labors they were living in a kingdom whose absolute ruler was their grandfather. However kind and grateful he might be, a grandfather tends to restrict the activities of young men. So, in 753 BCE they set out in search of a place of their own.

The twins soon decided go back to their wolf-cave and found a city. This cave was on the Palatine, or Shepherds' Hill, which was an excellent strategic location, being one of an irregular ring of seven hills south of the Tiber River. Its desirability was enhanced because the fierce Etruscans lived north of the Tiber, and the river was given to flooding. Near the wolf-cave on the Palatine, Romulus and his men cut great square blocks of stone and began to lay foundations for the new city Romulus intended to rule. According to one story Remus, who wanted the city for himself, laughed at the budding fortifications and jumped over the low wall, and Romulus killed him. After that nobody laughed at Romulus' efforts, and when the city was named Rome after Romulus, nobody laughed at that, either.

Romulus and his men were proud of their new town, but it lacked one important element—women. Romulus and his men decided that settled homes, complete with wives, would be nice. But in setting out on their great adventure, they had neglected to bring along any females—perhaps the girls in Alba Longa, being more sensible than the males, refused to have any part of such an exploit. In any case, now that they had homes and property, more or less, the Romans dressed up and went over to court the daughters of the Sabines, who lived some three miles away. Their reception was definitely not encouraging. After a bit of constructive thought, the Romans set up an athletic contest and carried off the girls while their fathers were watching the games. The Sabines stormed back home and

brought reinforcements to rescue the girls, of course, but after a lively battle and some intervention by the girls, who had been well-treated by their new Roman spouses, the two peoples settled down to live together and for a time were ruled by co-kings, Romulus and a Sabine with the alliterative name of Titus Tatius. Titus being short-lived, Romulus soon ruled alone with the advice of one hundred elders, called senators, whom he appointed. One day during a ceremony a thick cloud enveloped Romulus, and when the cloud dispersed his throne chair was empty. The people murmured that the senators standing nearby had done away with King Romulus, but the senators swore he had been carried away by the gods. Henceforth he was worshipped as the god Quirinus, and gave the senators much less trouble in the ether than he had on earth.

After Romulus came six more kings: Numa Pompilius, who established laws and religion; Tullus Hostilius, who, as his name implies, waged many a war; Ancus Marcius, who made the mistake of choosing an Etruscan named Tarquin Priscus to tutor his sons; Tarquin Priscus, who usurped the throne from his pupils; Servius Tullius, who married the king's daughter and was murdered by his son-in-law Tarquin Superbus, whose name means Tarquin the Arrogant. Tarquin Superbus, the last and nastiest of the Roman kings, lived up to his name with enthusiasm, killing and exiling many powerful people, including any senators whose property he desired or who he believed might be a threat to him.

As young Lucius Junius Brutus narrowly observed these gruesome proceedings, he decided his safety lay in stumbling around, saying stupid things, and generally behaving like a helpless soul. Biding his time, he waited for the proper moment to promote a change in government. His opportunity came in 509 BCE with the death of a true Roman heroine, Lucretia Collatinus. Sextus Tarquin, son of the king and heir to all his nastier traits, raped Lucretia, the wife of Tarquin Collatinus because she was not only beautiful but moral, and decency was one thing he could not stomach. Showing that Roman women as well as Roman men preferred death to dishonor, Lucretia, fully imbued with stern old Roman principles, called her father and her husband and told them, along with the rest of Rome, what had happened, and then plunged a dagger into her breast. Brutus, waving her death weapon, made a stirring speech calling the Romans to arms against the despicable Tarquins. The Romans, not

even lingering to wonder how the dull and stupid Brutus had suddenly blossomed into orator and warrior, rallied to the cry and drove the king and his family out of Rome. So in 509 BCE, after the Roman Kingdom had lasted a little over two hundred years, the Romans began a remarkable experiment in self-government.