

ROMAN ARCHITECTURE IN PROVENCE

This book provides a survey of the architecture and urbanism of Provence during the Roman era. Provence, or “Gallia Narbonensis” as the Romans called it, was one of the earliest Roman colonies in Western Europe. In this book, James C. Anderson, jr., examines the layout and planning of towns in the region, both those founded by the Romans and those redeveloped from native settlements. He provides an in-depth study of the chronology, dating, and remains of every type of Roman building for which there is evidence in Provence. The stamp of Roman civilization is apparent today in such cities as Orange, Nîmes, and Arles, where spectacular remains of bridges, theaters, fora, and temples attest to the sophisticated civilization that existed in this area during the imperial period and late antiquity. This book focuses on the remains of buildings that can still be seen, exploring decorative elements and their influence from Rome and local traditions, as well as their functions within the urban environment.

James C. Anderson, jr., is Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Classics at the University of Georgia. He has published numerous articles in journals including *American Journal of Archaeology*, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, and *Bonner Jahrbücher*. He is the author of *Historical Topography of the Imperial Fora at Rome*, *Roman Brick Stamps: The Thomas Ashby Collection*, and *Roman Architecture and Society*.

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Walls of Roman houses at Vaison-la-Romaine (photo by the author).

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I became fascinated by the Roman remains of Provence while still a graduate student enrolled in a seminar on Rome’s Western Provinces (in 1977). I first visited and was bowled over by the ruins in February 1979, and I have returned regularly since. Although over the years I published two articles (Anderson 1987, 2001) that investigated individual Romano-Provençal monuments, the idea of undertaking a book-length study of this material was not my own; it was first suggested to me by Dr. Beatrice Rehl in 2001. When I agreed, devised a prospectus for such a book, and sent it to her, I had no idea that the actual research and writing would require another decade to complete, but such was the case (due largely to other professional commitments and demands), so it is with a sense of relief as well as accomplishment that I am able, at long last, to acknowledge at least some of the inestimable kindness and help I have received from many sources ever since the late 1970s.

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