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978-1-107-03140-1 - Columbarium Tombs and Collective Identity in Augustan Rome

Dorian Borbonus

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COLUMBARIUM TOMBS AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITY IN AUGUSTAN ROME

Columbarium tombs are among the most recognizable forms of Roman architecture and also among the most enigmatic. The subterranean collective burial chambers have repeatedly sparked the imagination of modern commentators, but their origins and function remain obscure. *Columbarian Tombs and Collective Identity in Augustan Rome* situates columbaria within the development of Roman funerary architecture and the historical context of the early imperial period. Contrary to earlier scholarship that often interprets columbaria primarily as economic burial solutions, Dorian Borbonus shows that they defined a community of people who were buried and commemorated collectively. Many of the tomb occupants were slaves and freed slaves, for whom collective burial was one strategy of community building that counterbalanced their exclusion in Roman society. Columbarium tombs were thus sites of social interaction that provided their occupants with a group identity that, this book shows, was especially relevant during the social and cultural transformation of the Augustan era.

Dorian Borbonus is assistant professor of history at the University of Dayton. He studied classical archaeology at the Freie Universität Berlin, the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained a PhD in the art and archaeology of the Mediterranean world. His research centers on the topography of Rome, the development of Roman funerary culture, and outsiders in Roman society. He is a contributing author of the mapping project *Mapping Augustan Rome (JRA Supplement 50)* and has published on the methodology of slavery studies and the social history of Roman freedmen.

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*Drei bemerkenswerten Frauen
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

This book follows the bibliographic conventions and abbreviations established by the *American Journal of Archaeology* (vol. III, 2007, 14–34), *L'année philologique* (vol. 80, 2009, xxi–lvii), and the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*³ (2003, xxix–liv), in declining order of precedence. In addition, the following abbreviations are used.

BollArch	<i>Bollettino di Archeologia</i> (Rome: Istituto poligrafico e zecca dello stato, Libreria dello stato)
Capitolium	<i>Capitolium. Rassegna mensile d'attività del Governatorato di Roma</i> (Rome: Istituto romano di arti grafiche)
DialStorArte	<i>Dialoghi di Storia dell'Arte</i> (Naples: Paparo Edizioni)
Forma Urbis	<i>Forma urbis: itinerari nascosti di Roma antica</i> (Rome: Sydaco editrice)
LTUR Suburbium	A. La Regina (ed.), <i>Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae. Suburbium</i> (Rome: Quasar) 2001–8
RömHistMitt	<i>Römische Historische Mitteilungen</i> (Graz: Abteilung für historische Studien des Österreichischen Kulturinstituts in Rom und der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften)

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