

THE ALTARS OF REPUBLICAN ROME AND LATIUM

In this book, Claudia Moser offers a new understanding of Roman religion in the Republican era through an exploration of sacrifice, its principal ritual. Examining the long-term imprint of sacrificial practices on the material world, she focuses on monumental altars as the site for the act of sacrifice. Piecing together the fragments of the complex kaleidoscope of Roman religious practices, she shows how they fit together in ways that shed new light on the characteristic diversity of Roman religion. This study reorients the study of sacrificial practice in three principal ways: first, by establishing the primacy of sacred architecture, rather than individual action, in determining religious authority; second, by viewing religious activities as haptic, structured experiences in the material world rather than as expressions of doctrinal, belief-based mentalities; and third, by considering Roman sacrifice as a local, site-specific ritual rather than as a single, monolithic practice.

Claudia Moser is Assistant Professor of History of Art & Architecture, University of California, Santa Barbara. A fellow of the American Academy in Rome, she is the coeditor of *Locating the Sacred: Theoretical Approaches to the Emplacement of Religion* and *Ritual Matters: Material Remains and Ancient Religion*, and the codirector of an archaeological field school at Settecamini, Italy.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42885-9 — The Altars of Republican Rome and Latium
Claudia Moser
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE ALTARS OF
REPUBLICAN ROME
AND LATIUM

SACRIFICE AND THE MATERIALITY
OF ROMAN RELIGION

CLAUDIA MOSER

University of California

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108428859

DOI: 10.1017/9781108553674

© Claudia Moser 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow, Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Moser, Claudia, author.

TITLE: The altars of Republican Rome and Latium : sacrifice and the materiality of Roman religion / Claudia Moser, University of California, Santa Barbara.

DESCRIPTION: 1 [edition]. | New York : Cambridge University Press, 2018. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018026156 | ISBN 9781108428859 (hardback : alk. paper)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Rites and ceremonies—Rome. | Sacrifice—Rome. | Altars—Rome.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC BL808 .M69 2018 | DDC 292.3/40937—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018026156>

ISBN 978-1-108-42885-9 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

To my parents

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42885-9 — The Altars of Republican Rome and Latium
Claudia Moser
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of Maps</i>	xi
<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
INTRODUCTION	I
1 THE ORGANIZATION AND BOUNDARIES OF SACRED PLACES	14
2 THE ECONOMY OF RITUAL: THE STANDARDIZATION AND HETEROGENEITY OF VOTIVE OFFERINGS	54
3 THE SEASONALITY OF RITUAL: ANIMAL SACRIFICE	82
4 MATERIAL MEMORY	109
EPILOGUE	141
<i>Notes</i>	151
<i>Bibliography</i>	179
<i>Index</i>	203

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42885-9 — The Altars of Republican Rome and Latium
Claudia Moser
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

FIGURES

1	Boundary Stones on the Decumanus	page 22
2	Plan of the Sacred Area of the Republican Temples. A = Group of Altars; B = Temple of the Round Altar; C = Tetrastyle Temple; D = Temple of Hercules; E = Sacred Well. Dashed Line Represents Early <i>Temenos</i>	24
3	Group of Altars	26
4	Imperial Shrine	27
5	Temple of the Round Altar	29
6	Late-Republican Cylindrical Altar, Temple of the Round Altar	30
7	Imperial Altars of the Temple of the Round Altar	31
8	Altar of the Tetrastyle Temple, Viewed from the Temple's Steps	33
9	Altar of the Temple of Hercules	35
10	Central Area of the Sacred Area of the Republican Temples, with the Group of Altars and the Altars of the Tetrastyle Temple and the Temple of Hercules	36
11	Plan of Ardea	38
12	U-Shaped and Rectangular Altars in Front of Temple B	41
13	Paved Area Surrounding the Altars in Front of Temple B	44
14	Altar and Well of Temple A	46
15	Plan of Largo Argentina with the Find Spots for Excavated Votives Marked. A = Temple A; B = Temple B; C = Temple C; D = Temple D	60
16	Altar of Temple C	62
17	Altar of Temple A	64
18	Altar of Temple A, Third Phase	65
19	Altar of Temple B	66
20	<i>Arulae</i> from Largo Argentina	67
21	<i>Arula</i> , Largo Argentina	68
22	<i>Arulae</i> from Lavinium	70
23a	Rectangular <i>Arula</i> from Pompeii	71
23b	Cylindrical <i>Arula</i> from Pompeii	71
24	<i>Arula</i> from Morgantina	72
25	Balsamari, Largo Argentina	75
26	Northeast Edifice at Lavinium	78
27	Plan of S. Omobono	86
28	Location of S. Omobono and the Course of the Tiber River	87

29	First Phase of the Archaic Temple, with Sectors II and IV Noted	89
30	Second Phase of the Archaic Temple, with Sectors II and IV Noted	90
31	Remains from the Archaic Temple and Altar at S. Omobono	91
32	Remains of the Left Anta of the U-Shaped Altar in Front of Temple B	92
33	U-Shaped Altar in Front of Temple A	92
34	Sacred Well and Sectors I–IV in the Present Day	94
35	Iron Hook in Front of Altar, Dion Greece	98
36	Row of Thirteen Altars at Lavinium, Image Taken from Altar I	111
37	The Sanctuary of the Thirteen Altars within the Landscape of Lavinium	112
38	Detail of Altar Construction at Lavinium	113
39	Sequence and Phases of Altars at Lavinium	114
40	Proposed 14th Altar	115
41	Proposed 15th Altar	115
42	Plan of the Sanctuary of the Thirteen Altars at Lavinium	117
43	Engraved Space for Ritual <i>Patera</i> , Altar VI, Lavinium	120
44	Plan of the Northern Sanctuary at Gravisca, with Altars α , β , δ , ϵ	127
45	Early Square Building and Later Capitolium, Cosa	132
46	First Phase of the Capitolium with Off-Axis U-Shaped Altar	133
47	Monuments under the Lapis Niger. A, B = U-Shaped Altar; C = Vertical Tufa Block; D = Rectangular Plinth; E = Inscribed Cippus; F = Conical Column	137

MAPS

- I Map of Italy with the Location of the Five Case Studies and
Other Sites Mentioned throughout the Text *page 4*

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42885-9 — The Altars of Republican Rome and Latium
Claudia Moser
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

TABLES

I	Age Structure of the Sheep/Goat and Pig at S. Omobono for the First and Second Phases of the Archaic Temple	<i>page 95</i>
---	--	----------------

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-42885-9 — The Altars of Republican Rome and Latium
Claudia Moser
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals and institutions in many different settings and many different countries have made this book possible, so many that I fear I may have unintentionally forgotten to mention some here.

The research for this book was aided and enhanced by institutions and financial support in Providence, Rome, and Santa Barbara. I thank the Graduate School and the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University for their extensive support for research, for teaching, and for fieldwork. I thank Karl Galinsky and the *Memoria Romana* project for generously supporting my research in Rome for a year, involving me in conferences and workshops, and introducing me to a group of researchers and scholars who helped to shape my project. I thank the American Academy in Rome not only for its extraordinary yearlong support but also for the community and continuing collaborations it fostered. I also thank the Academic Senate and Regents Junior Faculty Fellowship at the University of California, Santa Barbara, for their support during the crucial final stages of the manuscript.

My project was directly influenced by a number of people who deserve much more than these few words of thanks. In particular, I would like to thank Susan E. Alcock and John Bodell for providing constant support, advice, and encouragement. I am so grateful to Sue for her continued help beyond Brown, for her inspiration, for always pushing me forward, and for always providing invaluable feedback. Gratitude is also due to my many mentors at Brown, especially Michelle Berenfeld, John Cherry, Felipe Rojas, Stanley Stowers, and Ian Straughn. At Brown, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with and to know Tally Kampen before she passed away, and in many ways Tally modeled the scholar I strive to be. The academic communities first at the University of Puget Sound and now at the University of California, Santa Barbara, greatly influenced the scope and direction of my research, and I sincerely thank my colleagues at both institutions for their constant support.

From my community in Rome, I owe tremendous thanks to Christopher Smith for his continuous support of and feedback on every stage of this project, and for his help with permits, surveys, and professional contacts during my

years of research in Rome. I am extremely grateful to Lisa Fentress for her endless support, expertise, and friendship. Thanks also to Simonetta Serra, Sophie Hay, Alberto Prieto, and Darius Arya. Monica Ceci deserves particular mention for all her help with Largo Argentina throughout my research. My research and surveying at Lavinium would not have been possible without the generous guidance of Alessandro Jaia. I also thank Francesco Di Mario for his time and help at Ardea; Jessica Nowlin and Elizabeth Robinson for their invaluable assistance in surveying and mapping the sanctuary at Ostia; Paolo Brocato and Nicola Terrenato for welcoming me as a member of the S. Omobono excavations for three years and for giving me access to the archives and maps; and, from the S. Omobono team, Andrea Brock, Daniel Diffendale, Victoria Moses, and Carlo Regoli for their ongoing consultations over the years.

At Cambridge University Press, I am deeply indebted to my editor, Beatrice Rehl, for her unwavering support at all stages of the project, to my anonymous peer reviewers, to my editorial associate, and to the production team. I also thank Asya Graf for her extraordinary guidance and interest in the project at its beginning stages.

Finally, I owe enormous gratitude to my family and friends. They have been an essential part of all stages of this project and encouraged me throughout. Friends from Providence, from archaeological projects, from Rome, from the Academy, from Seattle, from Santa Barbara, and from home have kept me sane, made me laugh, and always cheered me. I especially thank Chris for putting up with me, making me smile, and endlessly supporting me. Most of all, I thank my family – my sister, Diana, and my parents, Janet and George – for, well, everything.

I regret that there are people or institutions I may have left out of these acknowledgments, and I can only hope that I have an opportunity to thank them in person soon.