

## The Hills of Rome

Rome is ‘the city of seven hills’. This book examines the need for the ‘seven hills’ cliché, its origins, development, impact and borrowing. It explores how the cliché relates to Rome’s real terrain and how it is fundamental to the way in which we define this. Its chronological remit is capacious: Varro, Virgil and Claudian at one end, and on, through the work of Renaissance antiquarians, to embrace frescoes and nineteenth-century engravings. These artists and authors celebrated the hills, and the views from these hills, in an attempt to capture Rome holistically. By studying their efforts, this book confronts the problems of encapsulating Rome and ‘citiness’ more broadly and indeed the artificiality of any representation, whether a painting, poem or map. In this sense, it is not a history of the city at any one moment in time, but a history of how the city has been, and has to be, perceived.

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It was *surnamed* Septicollis from its seven hills.

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