

## PLINY THE ELDER AND THE EMERGENCE OF RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE

The *Naturalis historia* by Pliny the Elder provided Renaissance scholars, artists, and architects with details of ancient architectural practice and long-lost architectural wonders – material that was often unavailable elsewhere in classical literature. Pliny’s descriptions frequently included the dimensions of these buildings, as well as details of their construction fabric and ornament. This book describes, for the first time, how these passages were interpreted in Italy during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Chapters are arranged chronologically within three interrelated parts – antiquarianism, architectural writings, and drawings and built monuments – thereby making it possible for the reader to follow the changing attitudes to Pliny over the period. The resulting study establishes that Pliny’s account of architecture was used extensively during the Renaissance. Indeed, the *Naturalis historia* represented the single most important ancient literary source on architecture after Vitruvius’s *De architectura*.

Peter Fane-Saunders is a specialist in the history of art and architecture. His main research interest is the classical tradition – particularly those aspects of the visual arts that derive their inspiration from the ancient world. He received his doctorate from the Warburg Institute, London. His articles have been published in various academic journals. He was Rome Fellow at the British School at Rome and currently holds a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship at the University of Durham.

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*For my parents*

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

References to classical works are given according to the modern divisions of the text. When quoted without reference to a specific edition, the text is taken from the relevant volume of Loeb Classical Library. For classical Latin texts, sentences begin with lowercase letters (except at the start of chapters or sections); but for Renaissance Latin, capital letters are used instead, while “e” is lengthened to “ae” where necessary. I have normalised the punctuation and spelling of printed editions, both Renaissance and modern. Abbreviations have been expanded and accents modernised in Italian. I have changed “u” to “v,” and vice versa, to distinguish, respectively, vocalic and consonantal “u,” and changed “j” uniformly to “i.” I have, however, retained the orthography of annotations to architectural drawings and of uppercase inscriptions in Latin. Greek personal names, topographical locations, and titles of classical texts appear in their Latinised or Anglicised forms. Manuscripts and early printed material have been transcribed, except where the text is already available in modern editions. All transcriptions and translations are my own unless otherwise stated.

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est enim benignum, ut arbitror, et plenum ingenui pudoris fateri per quos profeceris [...]

For it is generous, in my opinion, and rich in noble modesty to acknowledge those through whom you may have profited [...]

Pliny the Elder, *Naturalis historia*, Praef.21

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*Durham, December 2014*

## ABBREVIATIONS

### ARCHIVES, GALLERIES, AND LIBRARIES

ASMa	Archivio di Stato, Mantua
ASMi	Archivio di Stato, Milan
ASS	Archivio di Stato, Siena
ASTo	Archivio di Stato, Turin
ASVi	Archivio di Stato, Vicenza
BAF	Biblioteca Comunale Ariosteia, Ferrara
BAM	Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan
BAV	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City
BCS	Biblioteca Comunale degli Intronati, Siena
BEM	Biblioteca Estense, Modena
BIF	Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France, Paris
BL	British Library, London
BM	British Museum, London
BMLF	Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence
BNCF	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence
BNE	Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid
BnF	Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris
BNM	Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice
BPPr	Biblioteca Palatina, Parma
BRAH	Biblioteca de la Real Academia de la Historia, Madrid
BRT	Biblioteca Reale, Turin
BSB	Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich
BSLE	Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial, San Lorenzo de El Escorial
DSB	Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, Berlin
GDSU [U A/S]	Galleria degli Uffizi, Gabinetto dei disegni e delle stampe, Florence [Uffizi Architettura/Santarelli]
HAB	Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel
OBL	Bodleian Library, Oxford
PCVi	Pinacoteca Civica, Gabinetto dei disegni e delle stampe, Vicenza
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects, British Architectural Library, London



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