Latin cults through Roman eyes
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Latin Cults through Roman Eyes

Rianne A.M. Hermans

Myth, Memory and Cult Practice in the Alban Hills
Latin Cults through Roman Eyes
Myth, Memory and Cult Practice in the Alban Hills

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Faculteit: Geesteswetenschappen
# Table of Contents

A note on translations, editions and abbreviations \( v \)

Acknowledgements \( vii \)

## I) Introduction: Memory, Identity, *Latinitas*  \( 1 \)
- The memory 'boom'  \( 4 \)
- Memory and theory in ancient Rome  \( 8 \)
- Communicative memory: a different perspective  \( 12 \)
- Necessary contextualization  \( 14 \)
- Livy and the danger of *neglegentia*  \( 16 \)
- Cicero and scepticism  \( 19 \)
- Varro and the antiquarians  \( 21 \)
- Epigraphy: filling up voids in our knowledge and uncovering new ones  \( 25 \)
- The Latin sanctuaries and their archaeological remains  \( 29 \)
- Preceding the argument: what is a Latin cult?  \( 34 \)

## II) Diana Nemorensis and her worshippers  \( 37 \)
- A curious king  \( 38 \)
- 'Minor' deities  \( 42 \)
- Trivia and the moon  \( 44 \)
- Wives and mothers?  \( 48 \)
- Diana Nemorensis and Diana Aventinensis  \( 50 \)
- Signs of syncretism  \( 55 \)
- Temples and votives  \( 58 \)
- Images old and new  \( 65 \)
- Epigraphic testimonies  \( 70 \)
- Myths and memories inscribed  \( 74 \)
- Conclusions  \( 79 \)
III) Juno Sospita: guardian of Lanuvium and Rome

- Juno Sospita as *patrona* of Lanuvium and Rome
- The goddess and the serpent
- Cult place(s) in Rome
- The development of the sanctuary in Lanuvium
- The Pantanacci votive deposit: the cave of the snake?
- Early representations of a goddess in goatskin
- Lanuvian *origo* on coins
- Cult images
- Priests, magistrates and devotees in the epigraphic record
- Conclusions

IV) Jupiter Latiaris and the *feriae Latinae*: celebrating and defining *Latinitas*

- Tarquinius’ unification attempts
- Latinus as forefather and Alba Longa as metropolis
- *Carnem petere*: a celebration of community and hierarchy
- Archaeological remains – or the lack thereof
- Excavation and destruction in the archival sources
- Epigraphic testimonies of the *feriae Latinae*
- Cult officials on the *mons Albanus*
- Roman Jupiter and Latin Jupiter: creating religious and political unity?
- Conclusions

V) Conclusions

Bibliography
Images
Summary
Samenvatting in het Nederlands
A note on translations, editions and abbreviations

All literary sources quoted in this thesis are quoted in English translation, while the Latin and Greek texts are provided in the footnotes. Unless otherwise specified, the translations are based on the most recent Loeb editions. Translations by the author or adaptations to existing translations are specified.

The references to coins, inscriptions and images – if not mentioned in full – are based on the following corpora:

AE: L’Année Épigraphique, 1888-.

CIL: Th. Mommsen et al. Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin, 1863-.


FUR G. Carretoni et al., La Pianta Marmorea di Roma Antica (Forma Urbis Romae), Rome, 1960.


Acknowledgements

In many ways, this thesis originated in the winter, spring and summer of 2006, when I spent an Erasmus term at the University of La Sapienza in Rome. I arrived a month before classes started and – learning quickly that university procedures would not move any quicker because of my early arrival – I immersed myself in the vibrant chaos of the city with Amanda Claridge’s Archaeological Guide to Rome. Many long walks followed, in which scattered and incomprehensible ruins slowly turned into actual monuments, streets and houses. The ancient city came to life before my eyes, and in my romantic – and no doubt naive – view it blended effortlessly with recently acquired skills for modern Roman life, like pasta making and the correct use of Romanesco. Like many before me, I was captured by the intricate layeredness of the past below my feet, and much of my historical fascination for the ‘past in the past’ can be traced back to these first months in Rome. Although any concrete research plans were far away at that point, it was an exciting and encouraging realization that one could make a career out of studying something like this.

Now that it is finished, I realize that doing PhD research has given me quite a few reality checks over the years. Rome, for all its late afternoon sunlit splendour, can be a tacky, grumpy and especially difficult city to manage at times. More importantly, I learned that carrying out a self-designed research project requires long hours of seclusion, which makes it a solitary – if not sometimes lonely – enterprise. I am happy to say, however, that the moments of struggle and doubt were far outnumbered by moments of enthusiasm, curiosity and energy. I would not have had such a positive experience (nor would I have a book now), without the company and support of many people. It is with gratitude and delight that I use the first pages of this study to acknowledge their contributions.

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