Latin cults through Roman eyes

*Myth, memory and cult practice in the Alban hills*

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**Copromotor:** prof. dr. M. Gnade, Universiteit van Amsterdam

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- prof. dr. C.J. Smith, University of St Andrews, UK
- dr. T.D. Stek, Universiteit Leiden

**Faculteit:** Geestes wetenschappen
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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-.
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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