



# AIA BOOK CLUB SELECTION

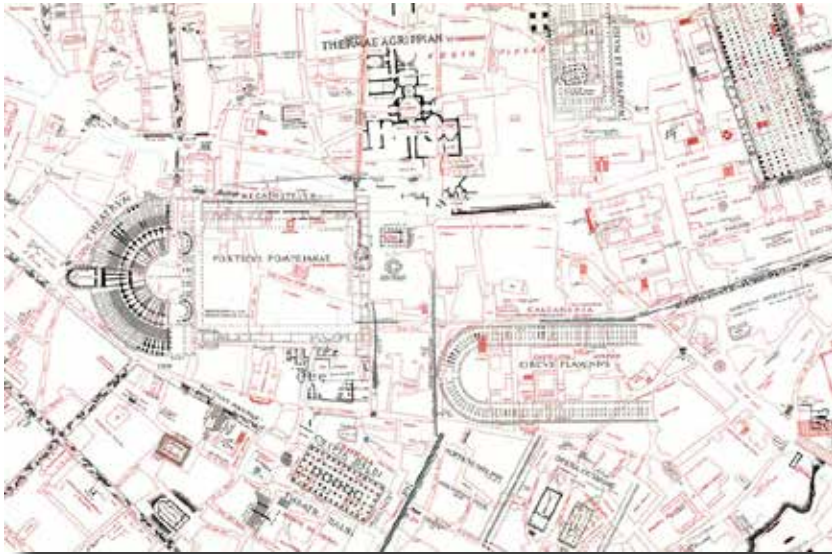
## Ancient Rome in Light of Recent Discoveries

by Rodolfo Lanciani

Though most remembered for his *Forma Urbis Romae*, a set of 46 detailed maps of Ancient Rome, Rodolfo Lanciani spent most of his career (1878-1927) as a professor of Roman topography and as the primary excavator in Ostia, Tivoli and the city of Rome, but particularly in the Roman Forum and the house of the Vestals. This book is a wonderful opportunity to hear first hand what it was like to uncover Ancient Rome in the late 19th century. The book was written in English for an American audience, as Lanciani had a close relationship with both the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the AIA.

As he states in the Preface:

Very few persons who have not seen Italy and its capital since 1870 are acquainted with the revolution which is being accomplished in Rome in the department of public works. From the official statistics which have been kindly supplied to me, it appears that between January 1, 1872, and December 31, 1885, •82 miles of new streets have been opened, paved, drained, and built; new quarters have sprung up which cover an area of •1,158 acres; 3,094 houses have been built or enlarged, with an addition of 95,260 rooms; 135 million lire (27 million dollars) have been spent in works of public utility and general improvement; and the population, which fourteen years ago numbered 244,000 souls, exceeds now the considerable figure of 379,000.



Hearing in Lanciani's own words, what was revealed and learned as the ruins emerged from underground is absolutely fascinating. Yes...we have learned much since that time, but initial reactions and the state of preservation before any conservation and restoration are remarkable.

### Lanciani Digital Archive

Nearly 4,000 records from Lanciani's collection are now digitized and accessible through an online database created by researchers at Stanford University Libraries, the University of Oregon, and Dartmouth College. The [Rodolfo Lanciani Digital Archive](#) makes accessible about one fourth of the archive that ended up at the National Institute of Archaeology and Art History in Rome when the archaeologist died in 1929.

### Public Domain Access:

[https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/gazetteer/places/europe/italy/lazio/roma/rome/\\_texts/lanciani/lanard/home.html](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/gazetteer/places/europe/italy/lazio/roma/rome/_texts/lanciani/lanard/home.html)

### Purchase Links:

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<https://www.amazon.com/Ancient-Rome-Light-Recent-Discoveries/dp/1010229346>

### Product details

ISBN-10 : 1010229346

ISBN-13 : 978-1010229346

Hardback : 432 pages

Publisher : Wentworth Press