

Pentelic marble in architecture at Rome and the Republican marble trade

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The provisioning of marble for architecture was among the most impressive feats of Rome. Its geographic scale and its monumental result imply a high level of coordination and complexity. We have an increasing amount of evidence concerning the movement of marble from quarry to construction site under the emperors,¹ but of the earlier phases of this activity we are still poorly informed. This paper turns to the beginnings of Rome's use of marble for public architecture in the mid- to late 2nd c. B.C., while aiming to further our understanding of the economic workings of the public construction industry under the Republic.

My point of departure is the presentation of scientific analysis of marble from two temples in the Campus Martius both datable to the late 2nd c. B.C. These two structures form part of a wider phenomenon of Roman public architecture in white marble that begins at this moment. Scientific provenance analysis leads to the conclusion that the identifiable marble from temples constructed during this period was quarried from Mount Pentelikon near Athens. Moreover, within the greater Pentelic quarries there is a consistency to the specific provenance of the marble used for these two temples and probably also for a third of a similar date. In an attempt to understand these scientific results, we must re-assess the practice of acquiring white marble for public architecture in the Middle and Late Republic. What emerges are the limits of state-driven (public) authority over quarry regions and the importance of information derived from the background of entrepreneurial (private) trade driven by domestic consumption. The result is a snapshot of an intricate market for marble operating across the Mediterranean in the last two centuries B.C.

The first marble temples of Republican Rome

The use of marble for public architecture began at Rome in 146 B.C. with the triumphal monuments of L. Caecilius Metellus Macedonicus. To celebrate his victory in the fourth Macedonian War, Metellus built a portico around the Temple of Juno Regina in the southern Campus Martius, on the N side of the Circus Flaminius, and constructed a new Temple to Jupiter Stator within that same portico. The latter temple was built entirely of marble and recognized as the first of its kind at Rome.² The plan was executed by Hermodoros of Salamis, considered a primary agent for the introduction of Hellenistic style into Roman

1 Since J. B. Ward-Perkins formulated his model of the *ratio marmorum* in the 1950s, there has been a focused scholarly interest in the Roman marble trade. A fuller elaboration of his position can be found in H. Dodge and B. Ward-Perkins 1992. In addition to many important contributions in the 8 volumes of ASMOSIA conference publications, overviews on the rôle of the emperors are found in Dodge 1991; Fant 1993 and 2001; Maischberger 1997; and Pensabene 1994 and 1998.

2 Vell. 1.11.5: *Hic idem primus omnium Romae aedem ex marmore in iis ipsis monumentis molitus huius vel magnificentiae vel luxuriae princeps fuit* ("This same [Metellus], the first of all those at Rome to have built a marble temple among these same monuments, was the innovator of this splendor, or rather of this luxury"). Velleius does not identify which structure was of marble, but he speaks of an *aedes* not a *porticus*, and the Temple of Jupiter Stator is elsewhere known as the *aedes Metelli* (Plin., NH 36.40; Vit. 3.2.5).