

The Buildings and the Images of the Imperial Cult



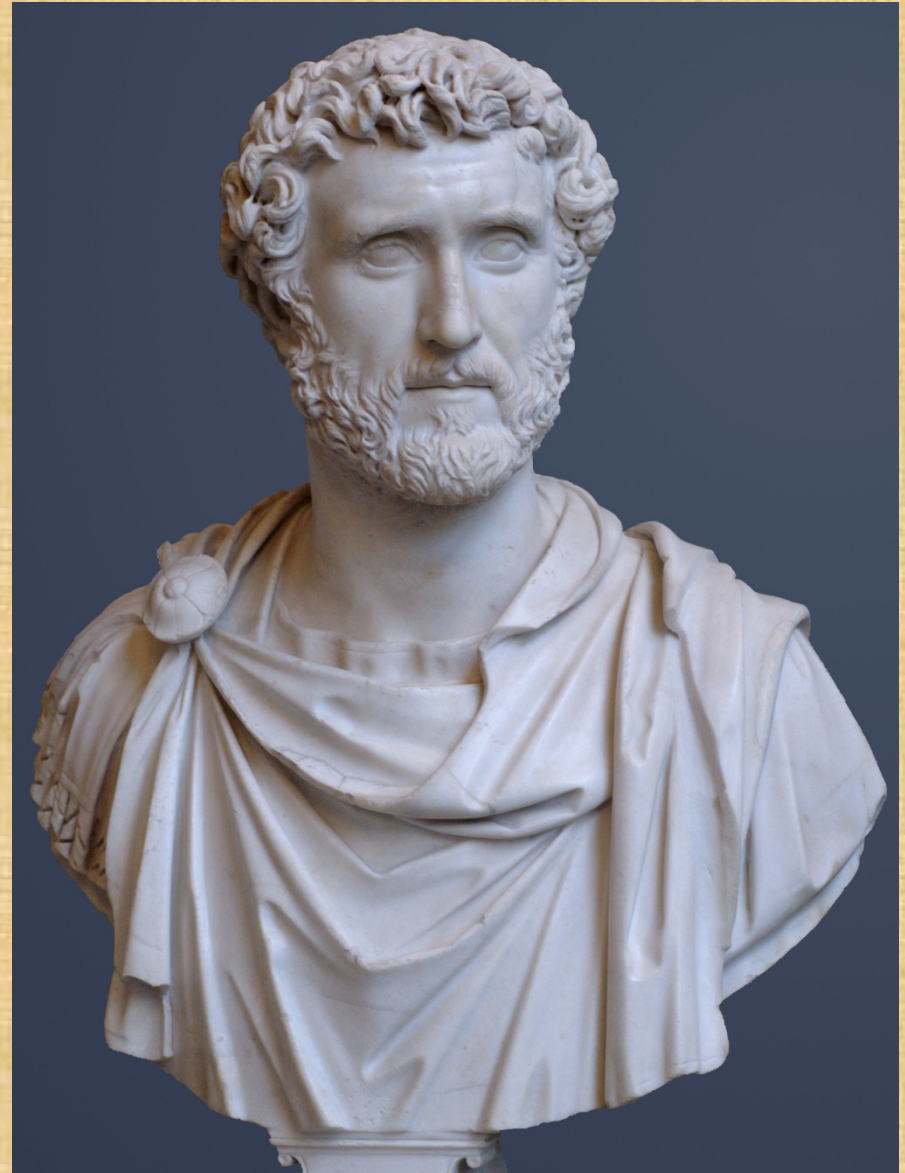
X The Antonines

Antoninus Pius (86 – 161)

- married Faustina the Elder, had 4 children, 3 died, Faustina the Younger survived
- adopted Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus

Cult:

- deified Hadrian - difficult
- own cult – not expressed
- after his death – deified



Lucius Verus (130 – 169 AD)

- a co-ruler with Marcus Aurelius (adopted by Antoninus Pius)
- much time abroad
- married Lucilla
- deified by the Roman Senate after death



Marcus Aurelius (121 – 180)

- married Faustina the Younger (his adopted sister)
- at least 13 children, one of them Commodus
- not interested in the cult

- a little about Marcus' cult in his writings



Commodus (161 – 192)

- married Bruttia Crispina, no children
- Saoterus, Cleander
- a sole ruler
- Roman Hercules
- wanted to show his “divine powers” in the amphitheatre



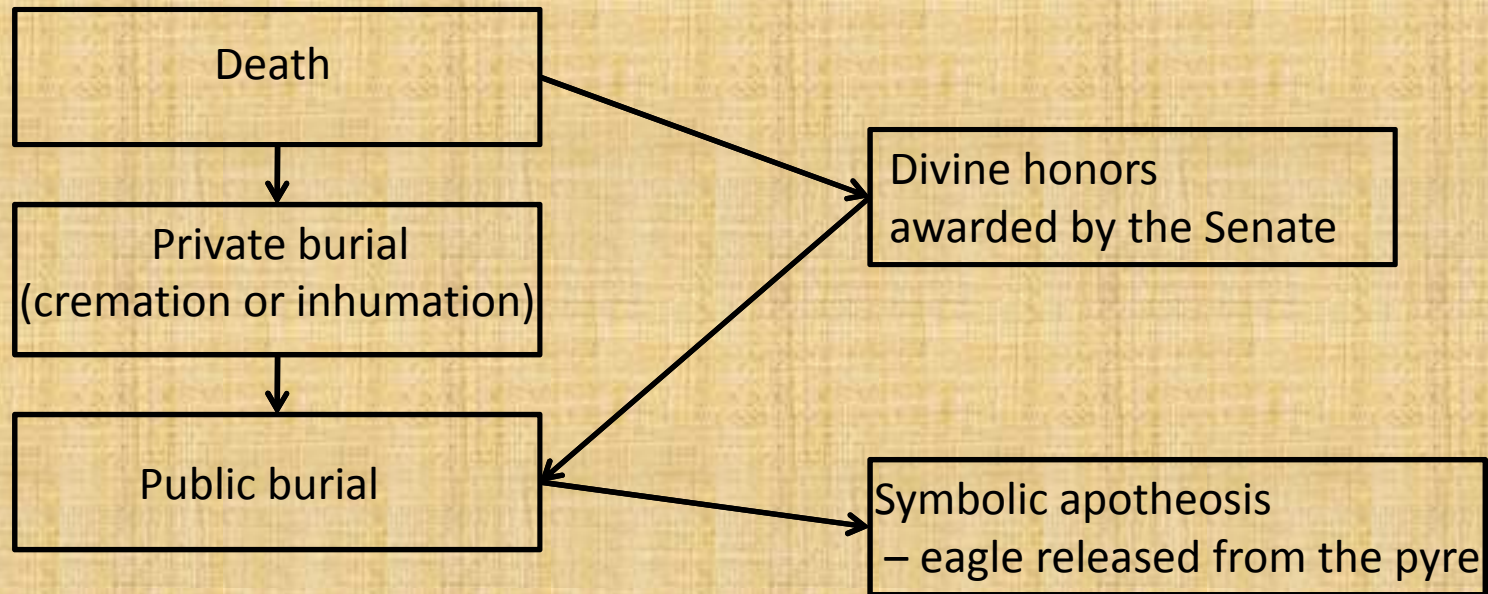
Funeral and apotheosis

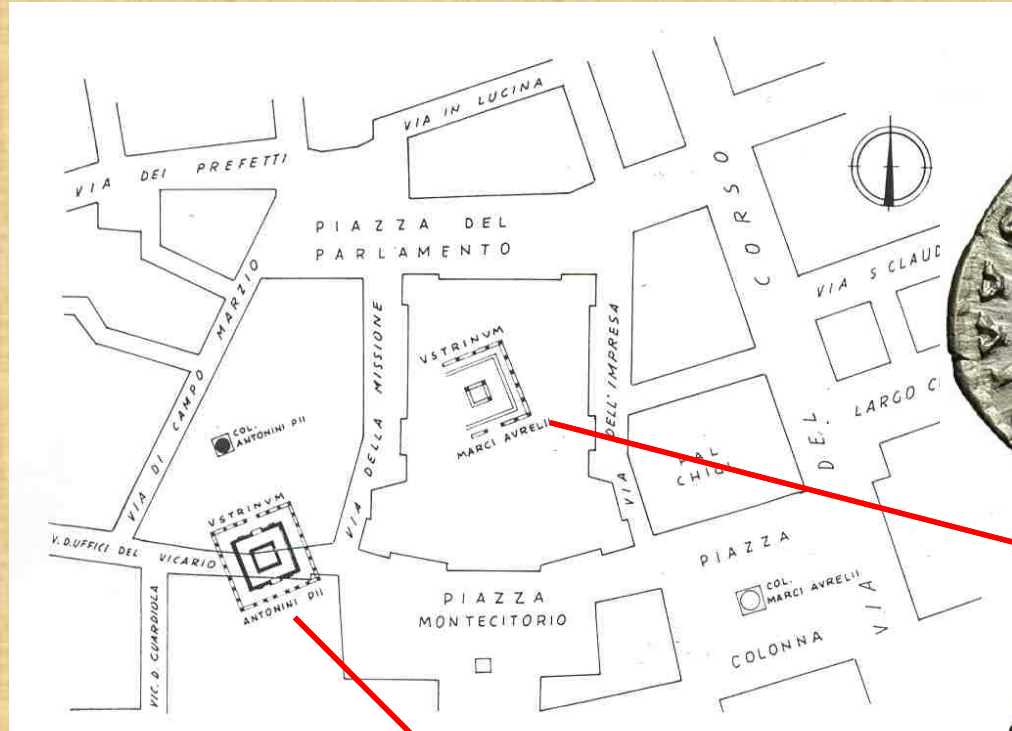
- two funerals:

a) private

b) public

- what caused this change?





ROME

The Column of Antoninus Pius

- Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus for Antoninus Pius and Faustina
- red granite column and a marble base
- location
- two panels – *decursio*
- dedicatory inscription



The Column of Antoninus Pius - apotheosis
- classicizing style

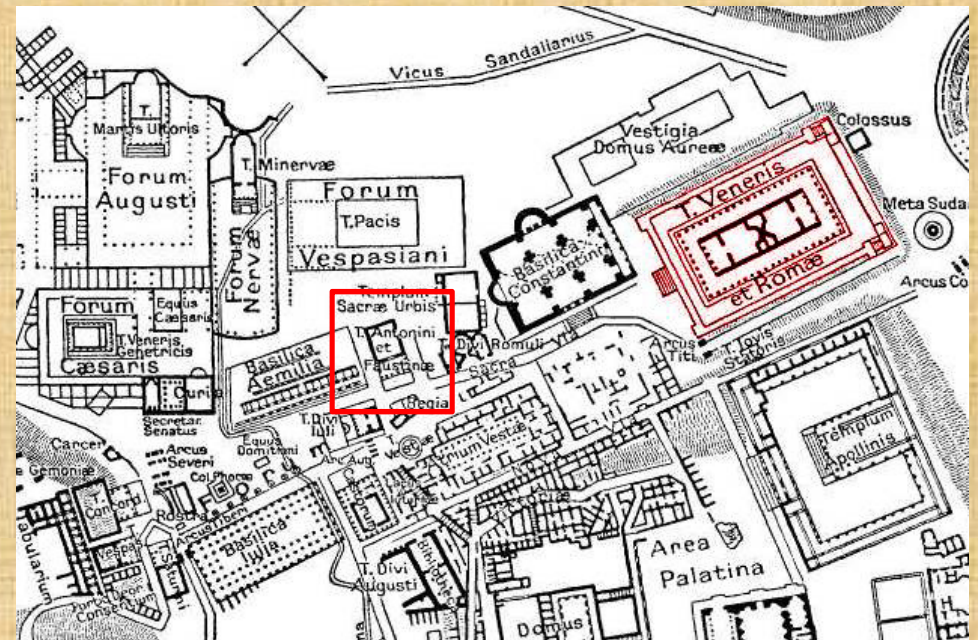
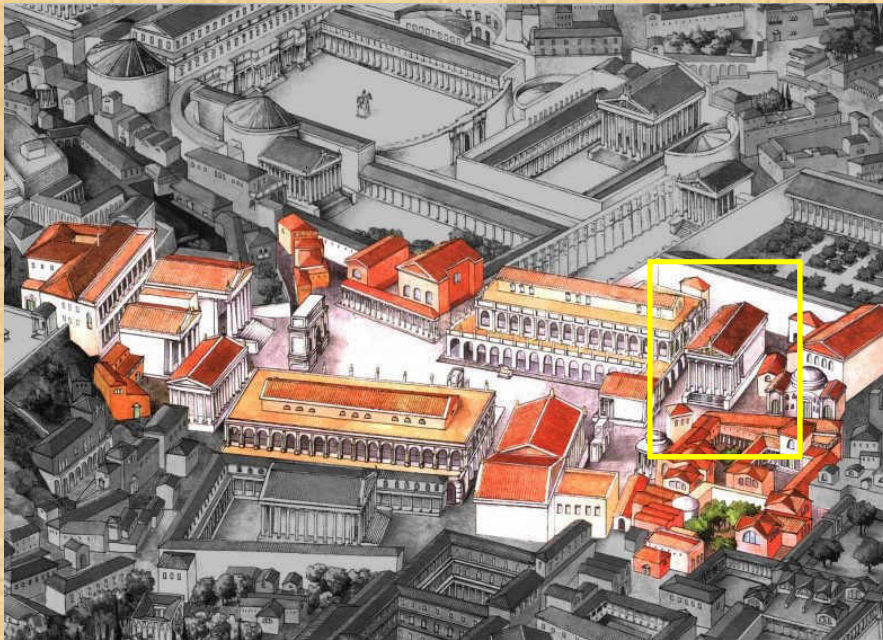
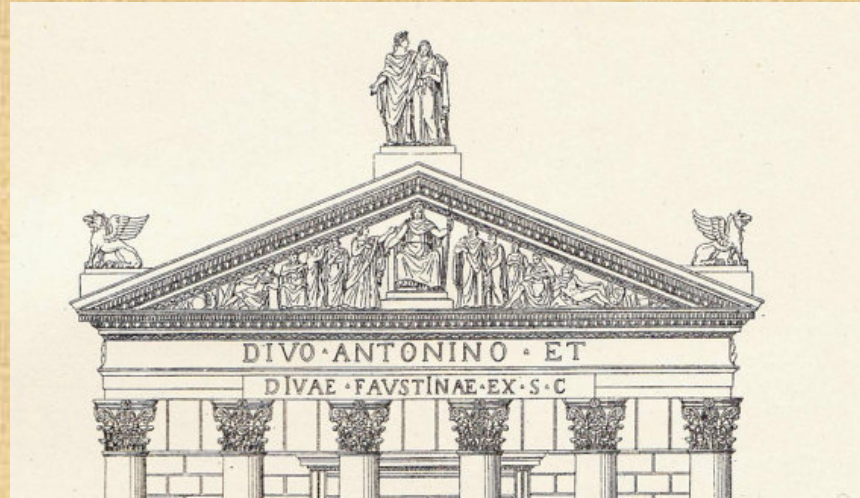


The temple of Antoninus and Faustina

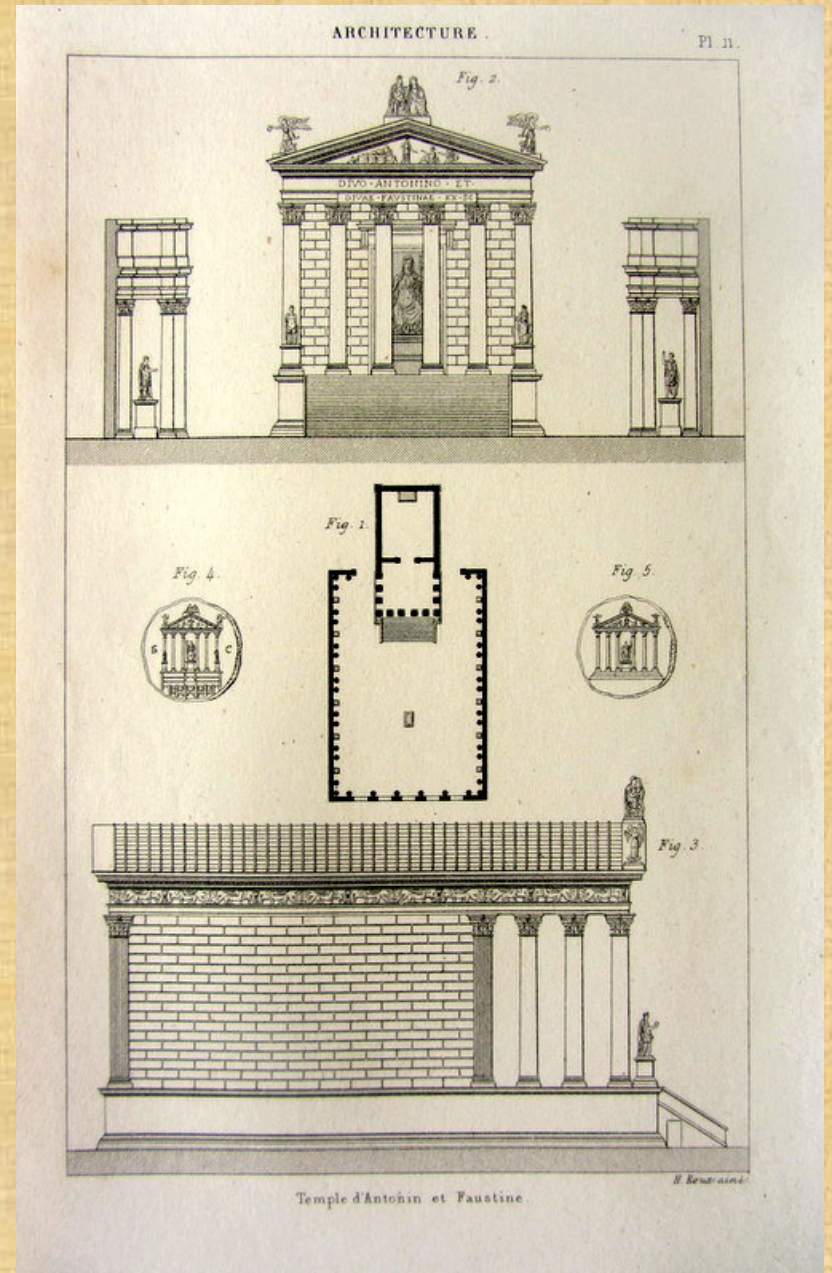
- north of the Regia

- an inscription:

Divo Antonino et / Divae Faustinae ex S(enatus) c(onsulto)



- the temple
- the cella
- statues



Temple d'Antonin et Faustine.

- grooves

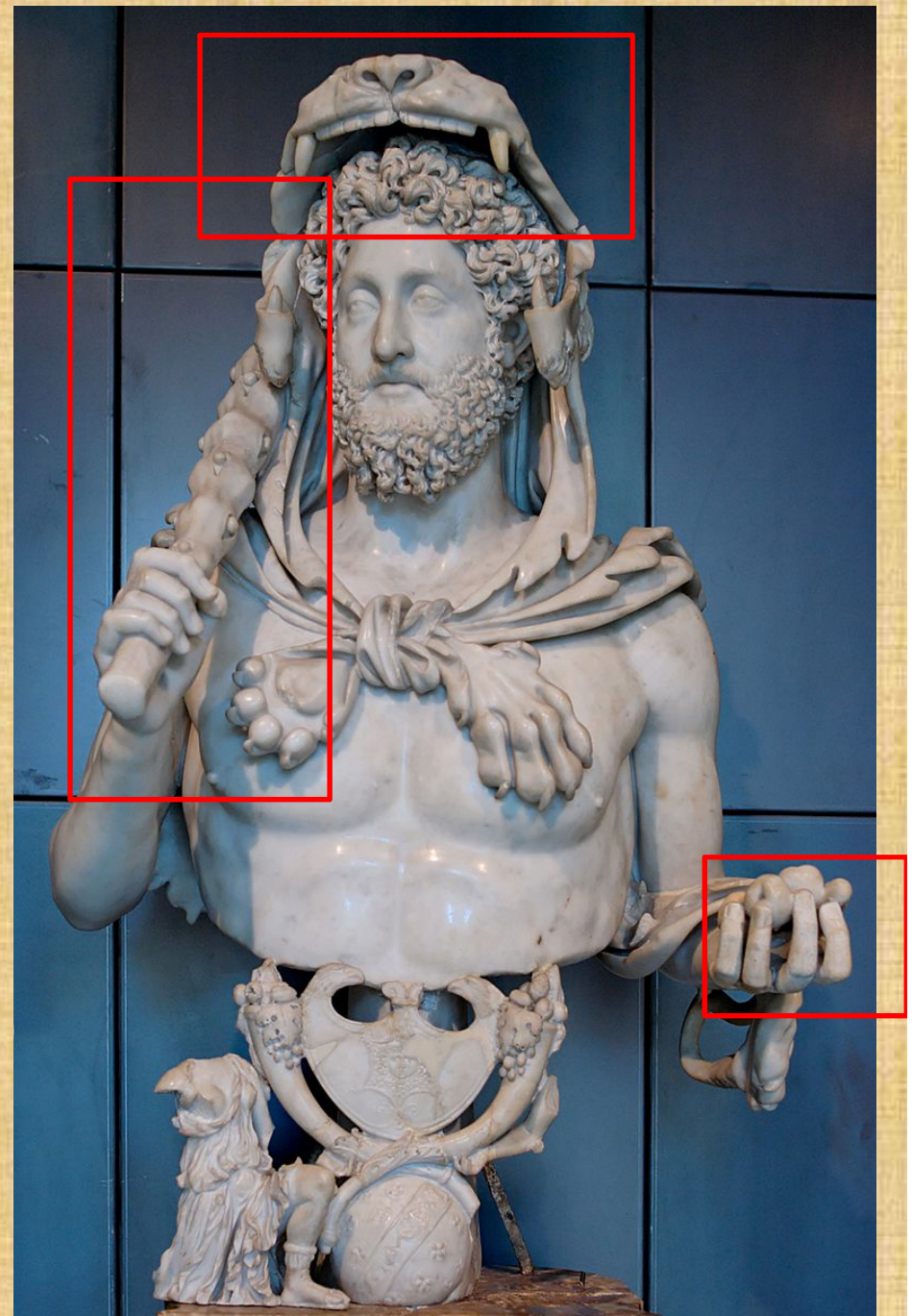
- the central column on the left





Commodus as Hercules

- on the Esquiline (1874)
- a portrait type known from about 12 other copies – 191 – 192 AD
- bare chest including arms and hands



- an Amazon *pelta*, *cornucopiae* and an orb
- kneeling Amazon
- Herculanean subject
- meaning – victory



- the bust originally flanked by 2 tritons
- original position – not known



PROVINCES

Characteristics:

- about 35 cities – *neokoroi* for the temples of emperors (11 temples known from its ruins)

Temples

Statues

Koinon

- association of cities
- several *koina* within one province
- an association to govern the cult of emperors
- *concilia*

Officials:

- *chief priest* – *agonothetes*, *hierophantes*, or “the chief priest of ...”
- *hymmodoi*
- *theologoi*
- *thesmodoi*
- *grammateis*
- *neopoioi*



Sardis, Lydia

Laodikeia, Phrygia (Lydia or Caria?)

Amaseia, Pontus

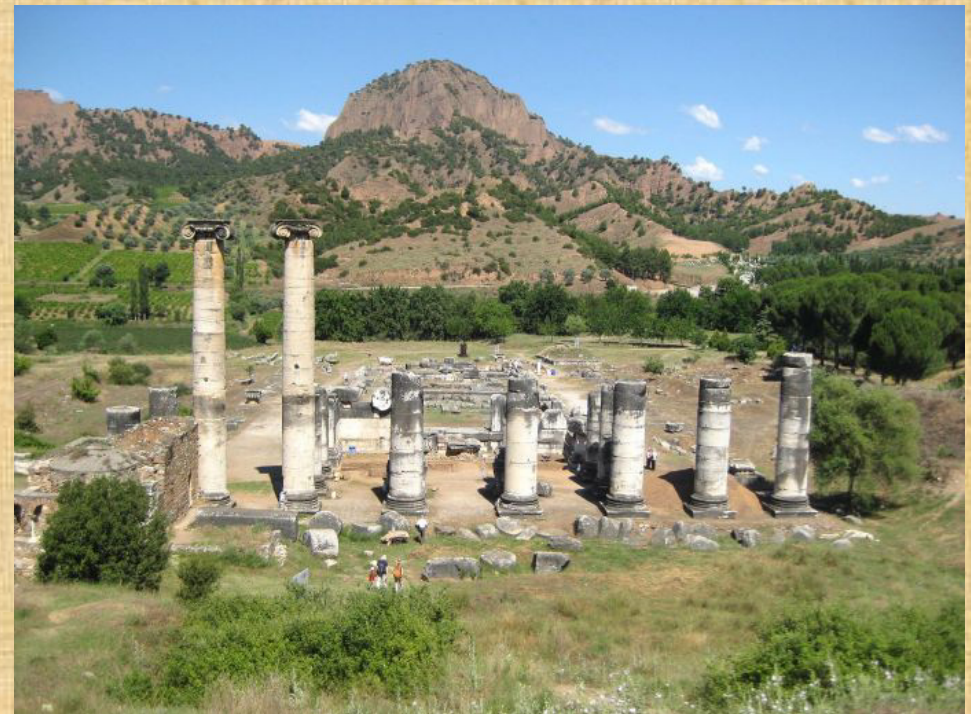
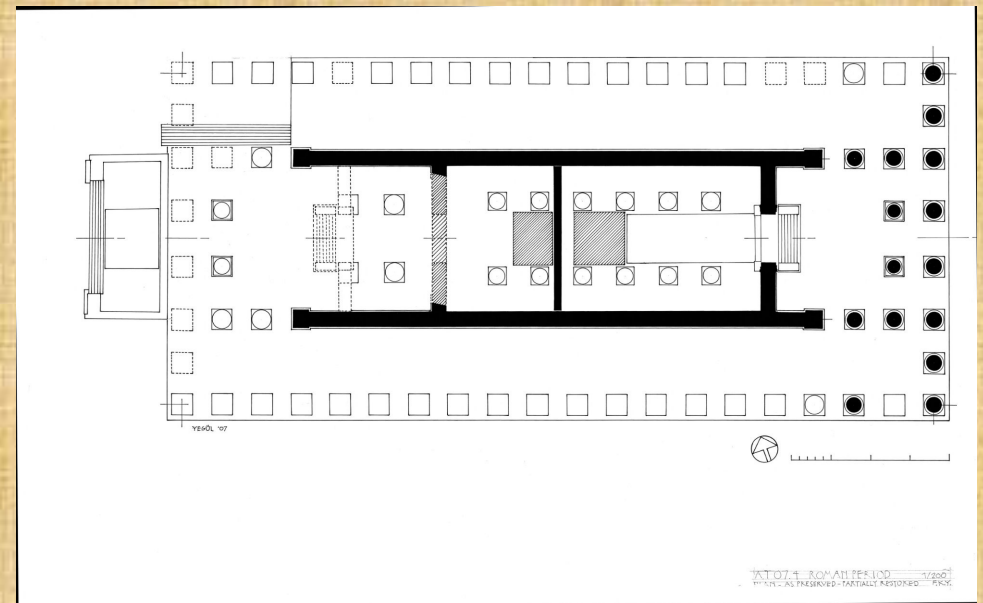
Sagalassos, Pisidia

Nikomedia, Bithynia

Sardis – The temple of Artemis

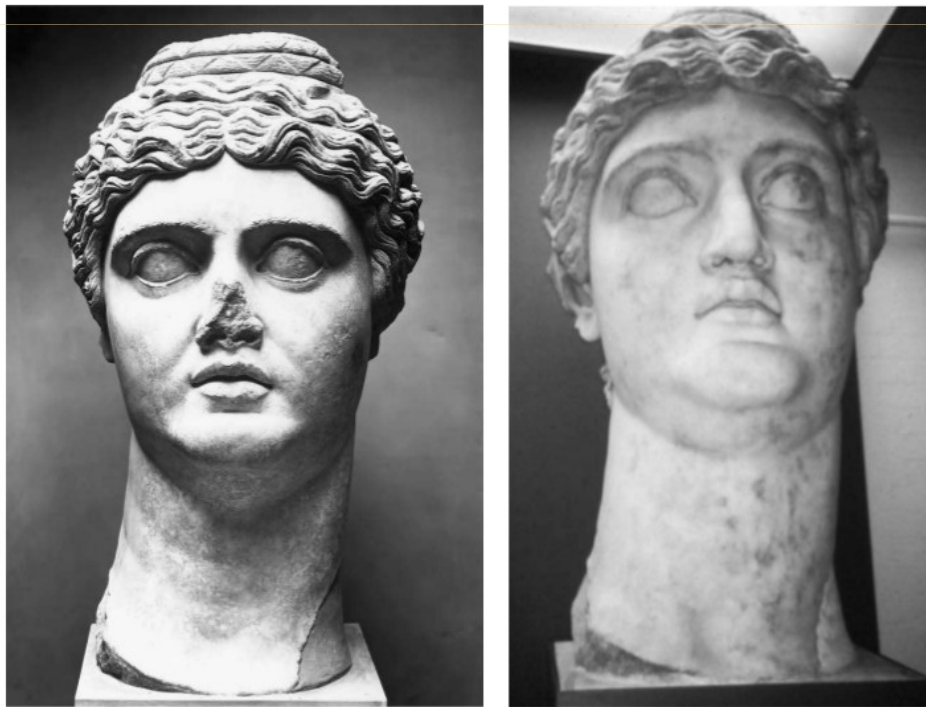
- Antoninus Pius
- in the the temple of Artemis
- 3 male and 3 female colossal statues
- Artemis and the Antonines

The temple



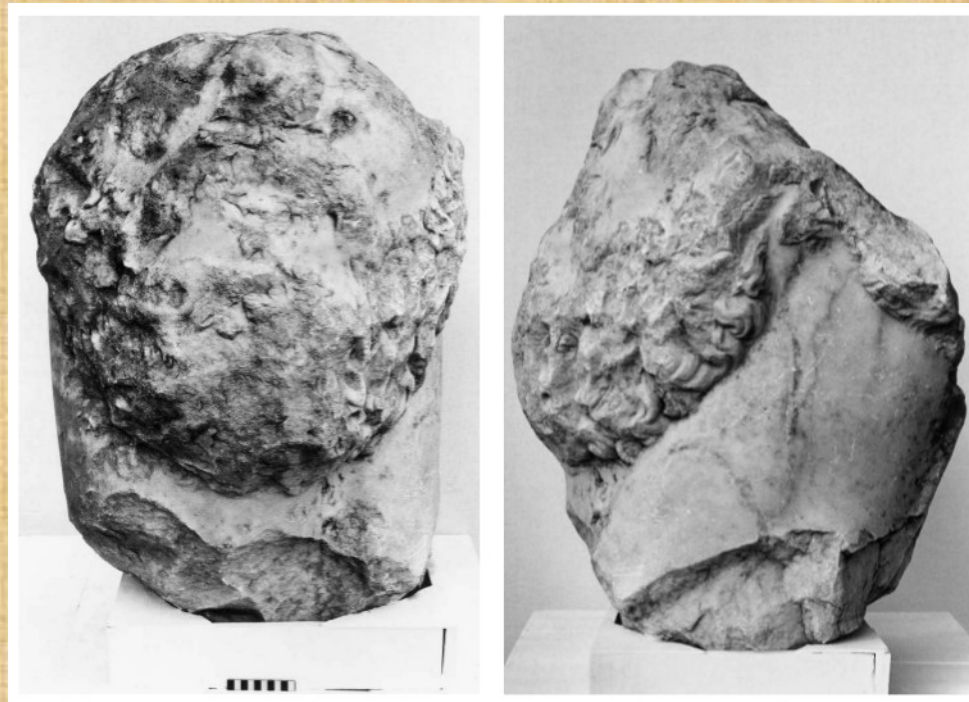
The statues:

Antoninus Pius

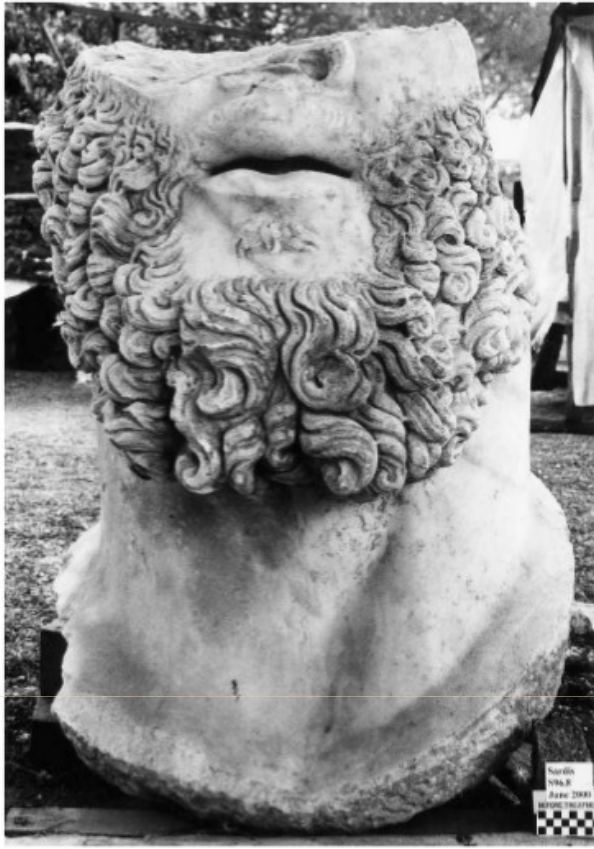


Faustina the Elder

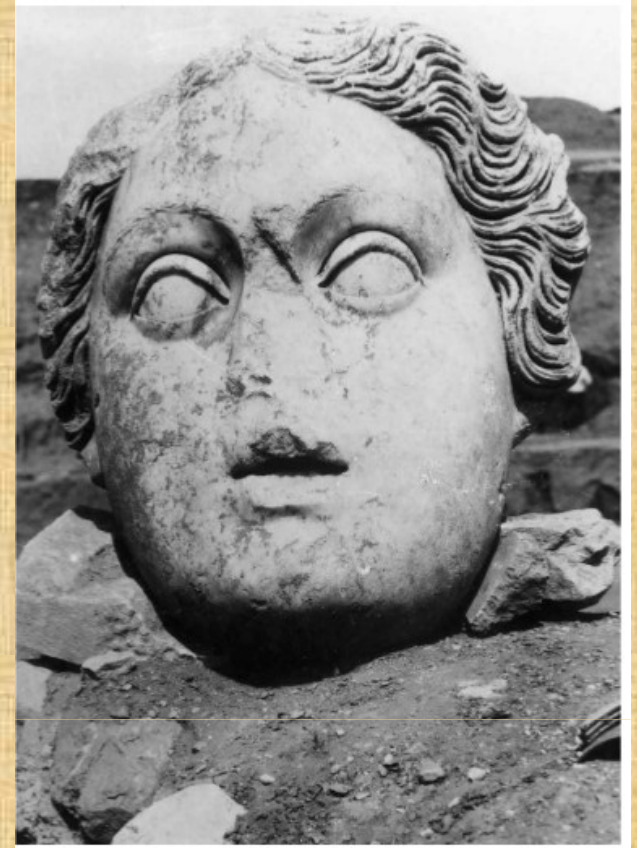
Marcus Aurelius



Faustina the Younger



Lucius Verus (or Commodus?)



Lucilla

organization:

- scale differs, seated and standing
- 1. male statues and female statues – separated
- 2. male and female statues in pairs

Sagalassos (Pisidia)

- excavation campaigns 2003-2004, Belgium, Turkey
- the temple of divine Hadrian and Antoninus Pius



- the temple, a large *temenos*, *propylon*
- paved courtyard
- *pronaos* almost as deep as the *cella*



Amaseia (Pontus)

- Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus - concord
- capital of Pontic kingdom



Nikomedia (Bithynia)

- Saoterus of Nikomedia (180 – 182), Commodus' chamberlain – very influential
- Saoterus (officially Commodus and the Senate) gave the right to build a temple of Commodus (Cassius Dio), withdrew at Saoterus' fall
- citizens asked for festival and the temple (soon cancelled)
- no sign it was ever celebrated, the temple was built but later used as the temple of the imperial cult, not the temple of Commodus

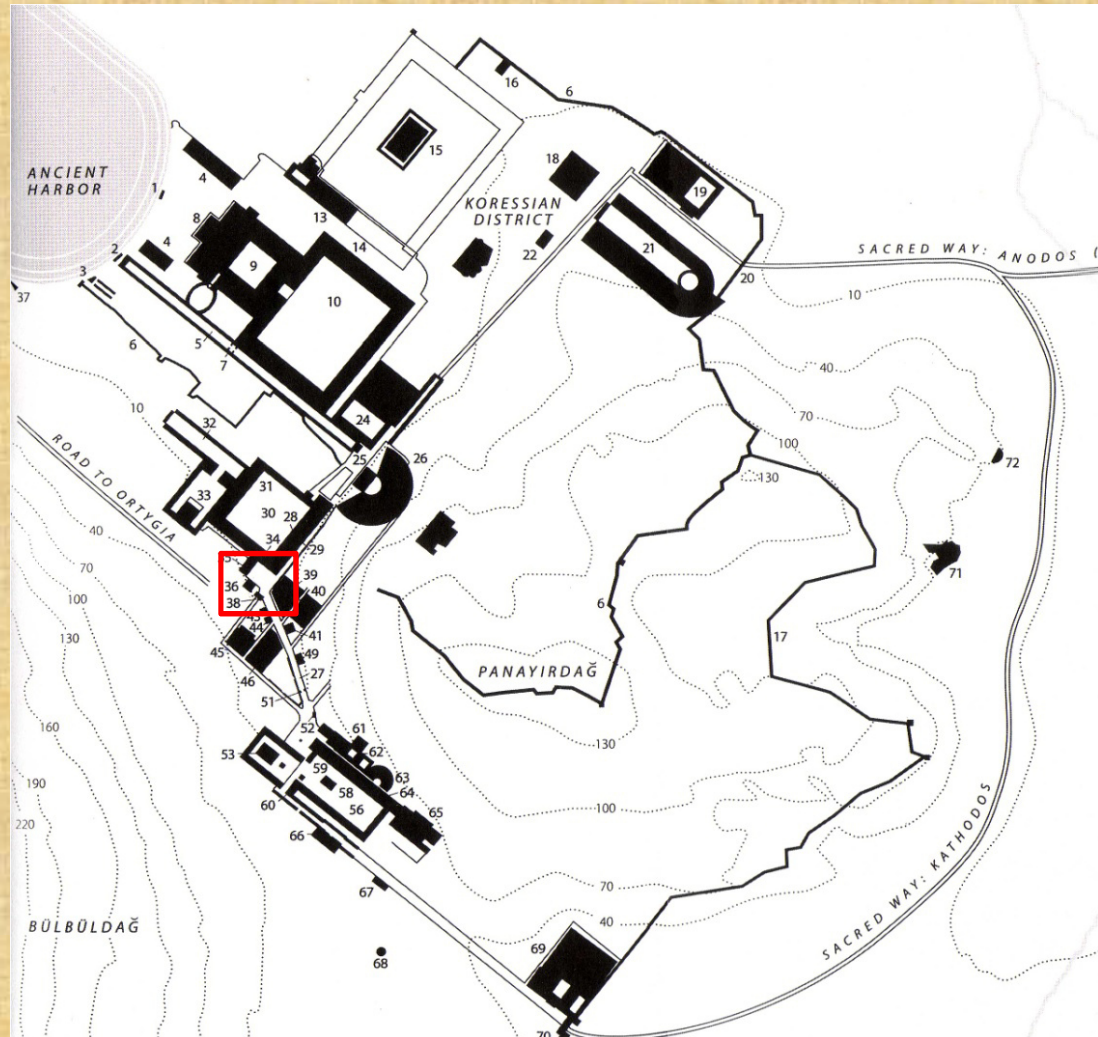
Laodikeia (Phrygia)

- Commodus made Laodikeia *neokoros*-inscriptions
- the same reason as Nikomedia – but through Cleander
- early in his reign, but *damnatio memoriae*
- rehabilitated by Septimius Severus (festivals) and Caracalla (*neokoria*)
- 1993 – 1999 – a survey – large colonnaded *temenos* near the city's eastern gate
- low podium at the back wall – monumental building
- probably a temple with spiral-fluted columns set on square bases (no excavations done there)
- only measures – the temple 30 x 65 m, mid. 2nd c. AD (unsure until the excavations)
- how many times *neokoros*? – Commodus, Caracalla, Elagabalus



The Great Antonine Altar at Ephesus

- location: ancient Ephesus
- now in Vienna
- date: highly controversial
 - 140 – to glorify Hadrian
 - 169 – death of Lucius Verus**



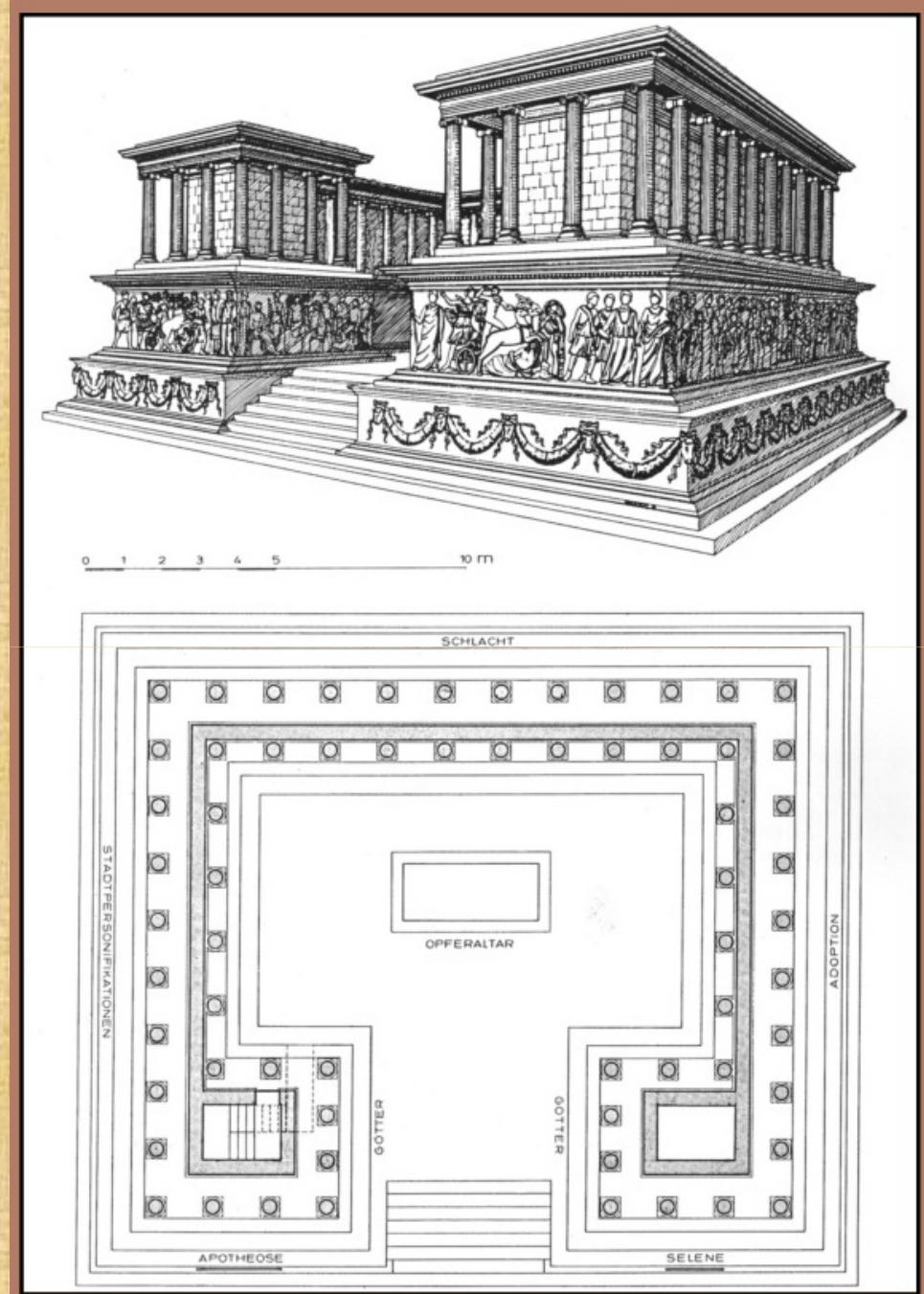
- U-shaped altar based on Hellenistic prototypes

- slabs

- the order – numbers, chronology

- styles: motionless, active

- two decorated podia





Topics:

1. *Lucius Verus – adoption*
2. *Campaign in Parthia in 163 – 166 AD*
3. *Apotheosis of Lucius Verus*
4. *Divine sphere*

1. Lucius Verus – adoption





- Sabina, Faustina the Elder
- near the adoption scene – sacrifice

2. Parthian campaign







personifications of cities of the empire



3. Apotheosis



4. Divine sphere

