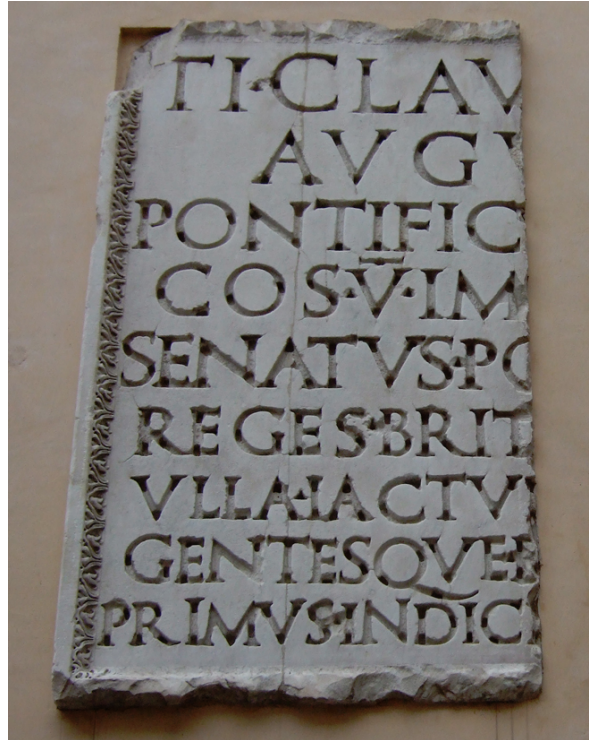


Additional evidence: Impressions

1. The Arch of Claudius no longer exists but much of its inscription has survived and can be reconstructed (CIL VI.920–923 = 31203–4):



Ti(berio) Clau[dio Drusi f(ilio) Cai]sari / Augu[sto Germani]co / pontific[i maxim(o)]
trib(unicia) potes]tat(e) XI / co(n)s(uli) V im[p(eratori) XXII? cens(ori) patri pa]triai /
senatus po[pulusque] Ro[manus q]uod / reges Brit[annorum] XI d[iebus paucis]
sine] / ulla iactur[a devicerit et regna eorum] / gentesque b[arbaras trans]
Oceanum sitas] / primus in dici[onem populi Romani redegerit]

The Roman Senate and People to Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, son of Drusus, Pontifex Maximus, Tribunician power eleven times, Consul five times, Emperor 22 times, Censor, Father of the Fatherland, because he received the surrender of eleven kings of the Britons defeated without any loss, and first brought barbarian peoples across the Ocean into the dominion of the Roman people.

Image: By Jenni Ahonen - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3127113>

2. Strabo, a Greek who spent some time living in Rome, was more impressed by the Campus Martius and its buildings than by the rest of the city, including the forums and the Capitoline.

The size of the Campus Martius is astonishing. It has enough space for chariot races and other equestrian sports, and for the multitude of people who exercise there by wrestling and playing ball games. It is adorned with sculptures, and the gardens are in bloom throughout the year ... Nearby is a second field, with many colonnades and sacred groves, magnificent temples, three theaters, and an amphitheater. All these are so close together that they give the impression that the rest of the city is unimportant.

This quotation is from Strabo's *Geography* (5.3.8). Strabo (c. 64 BC - c. AD 24) was a Greek, born in Pontus (in modern Turkey), who traveled extensively. He lived in Rome from 44 BC until at least 31 BC.

The quotation gives an idea of how a visitor to Rome might have felt on seeing the Campus Martius. Strabo divides the Campus Martius into two parts. The northern part (approximately north of the Aqua Virgo) is more open; the southern part (Strabo's 'second field') is covered in fine buildings.

- i. What does Strabo tell us about the reasons people might visit the Campus Martius?
- ii. What buildings were on the Campus Martius?
- iii. How would a visitor to Rome feel when they went to the Campus Martius?