

un testo importante per chi intenda osservare in modo più completo i monumenti funerari imperiali romani.

*Fabio Caruso*

JOACHIM GANZERT: *Im Allerheiligsten des Augustusforums. Fokus "Oikoumenischer Akkulturation"*. Sonderbände der Antiken Welt. Verlag Philipp von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein 2000. ISBN 3-8053-2692-0. 120 pp. EUR 34,80.

Joachim Ganzert's book is an interesting addition to the good and, by now, long series of the editorial house of Philipp von Zabern, dedicated to museums, archaeological sites, groups of objects, special areas of art, and border zones of the Classical world. The present volume is somewhat different in seemingly concentrating on one building only, but in reality giving a full-fledged evaluation of the topographical area around the temple of Mars Ultor in the Augustan Forum in Rome.

The author takes the reader first to the site of the future Imperial Forum, from the Archaic period through Late Antiquity, and the topographical situation is clarified by interesting drawings and plans. The monument was already appealing to Renaissance artists and has been ever since, even if it lay partly hidden by later architectural data. He draws the reader's attention to Gismondi's model and the notorious excavations in the 1930s, which did not offer remarkable discoveries compared to the artistic views of the preceding centuries. It is only the recent excavations since the 1990s that have finally given the opportunity to understand the temple inside the Augustan Forum.

The monument is described from its substructure up to the details of the capitals and sculptural decoration. The Augustan method of making a monumental building is compared with modern practices and supported with photos from a modern construction site. No stone has been left unturned, as even the route used for transporting the ready-cut marble blocks from the production area near Emporium through the city to the Forum is suggested, and quite creditably at that. A computer simulation of the interior is also presented and set alongside the pictures of the current situation. The temple of Mars Ultor was one of the first monumental buildings culminating in an apse. This feature is enlightened by a discussion on the practices transmitted from the Greek and Hellenistic world. Another chapter is dedicated to the idea of using an *arcus* as a utilitarian gateway from the Augustan Forum to Subura, and, on the other hand, as an elevation from the cella to the apse, the holy of the holies with an acrolith statue. This monument was the focus of the Roman Empire's acculturation; a rather complicated subtitle for a good book, and needing explanation both in the text and glossary. The book consists of several chapters, which can be read independently. At first sight, this seemed a less lucky solution, but a persistent reader could find many challenging ideas in the text, which is meritoriously complemented with good plans, drawings and pictures.

*Leena Pietilä-Castrén*