

PRINCIPLES OF BEAUTIFUL CITY

Sister City (Città Gemella) Roma - Ankara

Mehmet TUNÇER



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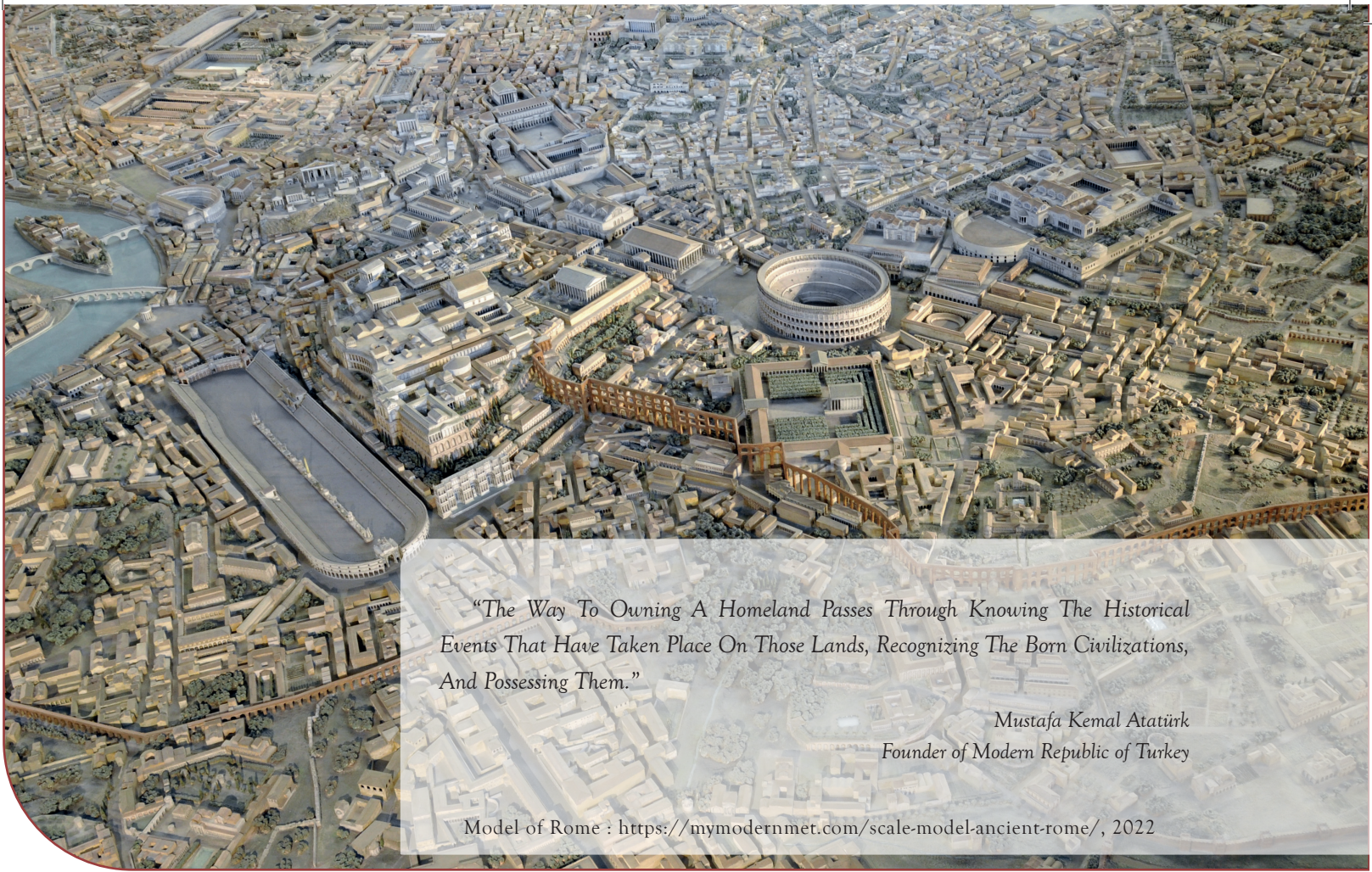
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This book is dedicated to Raci Temizer, Hamit Zübeyir Koşay, Necdet Pençe, and Tahsin Özgüç, who participated as museum curators, archaeologists, and restoration experts as architects and designers in most of the archaeological excavations carried out by the Turkish History Institution and the General Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Museums in the early years of the Republic, and who worked together with Mahmut Akok (1901-1993) in the first systematic excavation works in Türkiye and Ankara. I also remember my dear teacher Prof. Dr. Cevat Erder with respect and love; founder of the Department of Restoration at METU, with whom we were together in Rome, and who is the President of ICCROM.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet TUNÇER

Ankara, 19.03.2022



“The Way To Owning A Homeland Passes Through Knowing The Historical Events That Have Taken Place On Those Lands, Recognizing The Born Civilizations, And Possessing Them.”

*Mustafa Kemal Atatürk
Founder of Modern Republic of Turkey*

Model of Rome : <https://mymodernmet.com/scale-model-ancient-rome/>, 2022

PREFACE

Our country’s almost 100-year-old capital Ankara proudly carries the layers of civilization and culture ranging from the Hittite and Phrygian civilizations to the Republic, including the Roman period. Having hosted and served as the capital for many civilizations and states, ultimately becoming the symbolic city of the Republic and the War of Independence, our city houses valuable areas from the Roman period, such as the Augustus Temple (Monumentum Ancyranum), also known as the “Ankara Monument” in the world, and its inscription, Res Gestae Divi Augusti, known as the “Queen of Inscriptions,” as well as important structures such as the Roman Theater and Roman Bath in Ulus. The focus of our work, which is carried out by the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality’s Department of Culture and Natural Assets, is on this valuable area from the Roman period.

Within the framework of our Department of Culture and Natural Assets, a UNESCO Commission was established in January 2021 to carry out work related to the evaluation of culturally and naturally valuable heritage within the boundaries of Ankara province, identification of those that could be included in UNESCO’s permanent and temporary lists, and the implementation of related procedures. Among the cultural and natural heritage sites in Ankara listed on UNESCO’s World Heritage Temporary List are Gordion (2012), Tuz Gölü Special Nature Conservation Area (2013), Arslanhane Mosque (2018), Beypazarı Historical City (2020), as well as the Augustus Temple along with Hacı Bayram Mosque (2016). While the Ministry of Culture and our municipality carry out various types of work regarding all heritage sites, the Augustus Temple and Res Gestae inscription hold a special importance for the city. Intensive work is ongoing in the Roman period layer of the city.

Ankara, in 25 BC, became the capital of the Galatia province and therefore an important center where propaganda structures of the Roman Empire were erected. The theater, located on the northwest slope of the Ankara Castle, is thought to have been built in honor of Augustus between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Compared to other theaters in Anatolia, it is one of the smaller ones with a closed plan. The restoration project of the Roman Theater, which has a history of about two thousand years, has been approved by the Protection Board, and the field practices will be completed by the end of 2022.

Among the ongoing projects in the Roman period layer of the city, there is an Archaeopark located on an approximately 17,000 square meter area right next to the Roman Theater. In the Archaeopark area, there are the “Roman Ankara” Exhibition Building, a visitor reception area, open play areas introducing archaeology for children, thematic open exhibition areas, a museum shop, and Ankara bookstore, as well as observation paths and terraces. In recent excavation research, the Roman Road, vaults, and building remains have been uncovered, turning it into a genuine archaeological site.

The landscaping works at the Roman Bath, which is the most significant Roman structure that has survived to the present day in Ankara, have been approved during a meeting of the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Council, and work in this direction continues.

The main street forming the north-south axis of the ancient city, the Roman Road (Cardo Maximus), was uncovered next to the Zincirli Mosque in 1995. It is very important for understanding both the dimensions and continuity of settlement in the city, as well as the street system of the Roman period in the ancient city. Restoration work is ongoing for the widest known street in the Roman city.

Some of the ongoing efforts related to the Roman layer in Ankara include the digital reconstruction of the entire Roman period of the city, creating a virtual experiential environment with different display options, establishing the historical and technical background of this, and exhibiting its outputs in an information center with interactive tools in the “Roman Ankara” Exhibition Building, under the Culture and Natural Heritage Department.

All of these efforts will create a new gain for Ankara’s Roman period layer and a prestigious cultural event space for the people of Ankara. Such efforts will change the atmosphere of the historic city, bring an artistic and aesthetic perspective, and also strengthen the historical memory of the city. The book by esteemed researcher and urban planner Mehmet Tunçer introduces Rome, one of the ancient capital cities, which Ankara sees as its “sister city,” with its physical traces that have survived for 3000 years until today, and evaluates it within the framework of the “Beautiful City Principles” that he defines. The book “Beautiful City Principles: Old Prague - Old Ankara” compares and develops proposals for these two cities within the context of these principles.

It is valuable to discuss Mehmet Tunçer’s efforts to define the processes that will lead to a “Sister City” agreement between Ankara and Rome, along with the concept of “Beautiful City Principles”. We hope that the studies conducted by Ankara

Metropolitan Municipality on the physical layers of the Roman era will lead to sincere and visionary collaborations at an international level.

BEKİR ÖDEMİŞ

*Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Head of
Cultural and Natural Heritage Department*

November 2021

PRESENTATION

Ankara (Ankyra), a city located in the center of the country, has been continuously inhabited since the Phrygian period (8th century BC) and has maintained its importance throughout history, including during the ancient period. The settlement that began with the Phrygians in Ankara, with the exception of the tumuli and ceramics found in archaeological excavations in the vicinity of Ulus that are associated with the tumuli, does not contain data on the nature of the Phrygian Era settlement. There is little archaeological evidence related to the period when Ankara served as the capital of the Tectosages, a Galatian tribe, in the 3rd century BC. However, during the early Roman Empire period in 25 BC, Ankara (Ankyra), which became the capital of the Galatia Province under Roman rule, experienced its most prosperous period in history. Many architectural structures and remnants of this era have survived to the present day, allowing us to understand the architectural texture of a capital city from this period. These structures include the Augustus and Roman Temple, ancient theater, great bath (Caracalla Bath), the main north-south artery of the city's *cardo maximus*, the colonnaded street and monument column (Julian Column?). Many other structures, such as the stadium, monumental fountain (nymphaeum?), provincial government building (palatium?), and private residences, have been excavated but destroyed by modern urbanization and are also part of the Roman city structure. First Emperor of Rome, who ruled for nearly 45 years the Emperor Augustus and Goddess Rome Temple, which housed inscriptions in two languages, Ancient Greek and Latin, describing the accomplishments of Augustus during his lifetime, is also known as the "Queen of Inscriptions." Information and images of this important temple and its inscriptions in Ankara can be seen in the Augustus Peace Altar (Ara Pacis Augustae) highlights the deep roots of relations between both capitals, which was decided to be built by the Roman Senate in 13 BC and completed in 9 BC and is now restored as a museum on the banks of the Tiber River in Rome.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Tunçer, who has been at the forefront of efforts to preserve Ankara's historical artifacts and pass them on to future generations for many years, compares the Roman city of Ancyra (Ankyra/Angora/Ankara), a Roman city, with *The Principles of the Beautiful City* and focuses on the preservation and exhibition of visible and possible underground layers, the preparation and implementation of management plans, and the transformation to the future in a much better and well-preserved way that can be exhibited in accordance with the principles of the beautiful city. This valuable study entitled "*Principles of the Beautiful City and Towards Twin Cities (Città Gemella): Ancient Rome-Ancient Ankara*".

I congratulate Prof. Dr. Mehmet Tunçer, who has prepared this valuable study that you will enjoy reading.

Prof. Dr. Musa KADIOĞLU

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BEAUTIFUL CITY / SISTER CITY ROME BOOK PURPOSE



Photo: (<https://blog.biletbayi.com/roma-tarihi-yerler.html/>, 2022)

Atatürk knew that the necessary foundation for a strong country was a sense of history and culture, and therefore he never severed his connection and interest in history and archaeology until his last moments. After founding the Republic, Atatürk also said, “As much as we protect what’s above ground, we must also protect what’s beneath the ground.” Atatürk famously declared that “The foundation of the Republic of Turkey is culture.”

The objectives of this study titled “Beautiful City Principles and the Journey Towards Sister City (Città Gemella) Status: Ancient Rome-Ancient Ankara (Ankyra)” are as follows:

- » To compare the Beautiful City Principles of ancient Rome and Ankara in a comparative manner.
- » To preserve and exhibit the above-ground and possible underground layers that have survived from ancient times to the present day in line with the Beautiful City Principles.
- » To prepare management plans and carry out the implementation stages.
- » To transfer them to the future in a much better and preserved form, exhibited to the greatest extent possible.

- » To conduct studies identifying unique Roman and Byzantine-era monuments that could qualify for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- » To contribute to the “Sister City” status between Rome and Ankara, in line with their objectives.

In line with these goals, the remains of the Ancient Roman era, which can now be visited as an open-air museum, have been prioritized as the first stage of the study, starting with the Colosseum and continuing with the Caracalla Baths, churches, Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, and the Capitol, along with Piazza Venezia (the Monument to Vittorio Emanuele II). North of this area, the Renaissance settlement of Rome, which dates back to the 14th-15th centuries and was constructed by famous painters, sculptors, architects, and engineers, along with its streets, squares, monumental fountains, and the series of parks that complete it, has been chosen as the second stage of the study.

In the context of the Beautiful City Principles of Rome-Ankara and in terms of the Roman era works considered in Ankara, the main ones include Ankara Castle and the Kaleiçi neighborhood, the Roman Bath on Hisar Street, and the Roman Theater (Odeon) in Bendderesi, which was uncovered in the 1990s and left unmaintained for many years. Across from the theater is the Phrygian temple dedicated to Men and Cybele, located on Ankara’s Frig Acropolis, which is known to have been built upon in the Galatian and Roman periods with the Augustus Temple, and in the Ottoman period with the construction of the Hacı Bayram-ı Veli Mosque.

This area, which should have been a very important archaeological excavation site, but has been largely destroyed in the last 15-20 years, has been mainly addressed. The Roman Bath, which is the most important group of structures remaining from the Roman period in Ankara and the second largest Roman Bath in the world, has been excavated and restored with great efforts, but some parts of it were destroyed in the 1980s due to the surrounding construction on Çankırıkapı Street, and the archaeological remains in its surroundings have been evaluated.

This study will include some important documents, traveler accounts, and information and documents related to the recent damage of the “Res Gestae Divi Augusti,” also known as the “Monumentum Ancyranum” (Ankara Monument) and the “Queen of Inscriptions,” on which the will of the Roman Emperor Augustus is written. Ankara’s history, especially from the 15th-16th centuries, and the most notable aspects will be examined in this study.

The magnificent capital of the Roman Empire, Rome, should be considered in two parts: ancient Rome and Renaissance Rome. The principles of urban beauty, including transportation (pedestrian-vehicle-public transport), green spaces and parks, along with the most valuable art and cultural heritage of the Renaissance found in “Piazza Navona,” “Spanish Steps,” “Piazza Venezia,” “Piazza del Popolo,” and all the parks, Villa Borghese, churches and important structures that integrate them, are briefly discussed in this work. Another important objective is not only to provide a tourist guide but also to evaluate the reasons and necessities of the processes that led to the “Sister City” signature between the cities of Rome and Ankara, including archaeological remains from the Roman period. This work does not aim to provide all the information and data regarding archaeological sites or structures in these areas, but rather to emphasize some of the observations made as an expert in urban planning and restoration.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Musa Kadioğlu, who wrote the Preface of this book, and Mr. Bekir Ödemiş, who wrote the Introduction. Their contributions to the writing and restoration of the unknown aspects of Ankara archaeology and history are very important.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Mayor of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Mr. Mansur Yavaş, and the Director of the Department of Culture and Natural Assets, Mr. Bekir Ödemiş, for their important contribu-

tions to the scientific projects and restoration efforts related to the long-neglected urban and archaeological sites in Ankara since 2019. We also need to thank the “Academic Advisory Board,” consisting of valuable academics, for their efforts in organizing competitions and supporting the restoration work for Ulus and the entire city of Ankara.

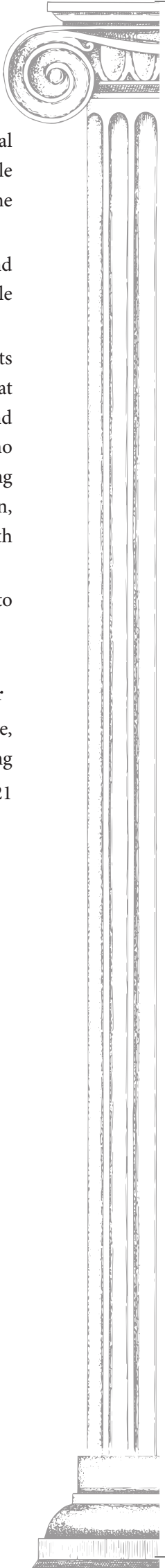
We also need to express our gratitude to Mr. Şevket Bülent Yahnici, who has been at the forefront and guiding force of the conservation, development, and cultural tourism initiatives in and around Ankara Castle for many years as the head of the Ankara Castle City Council working group.

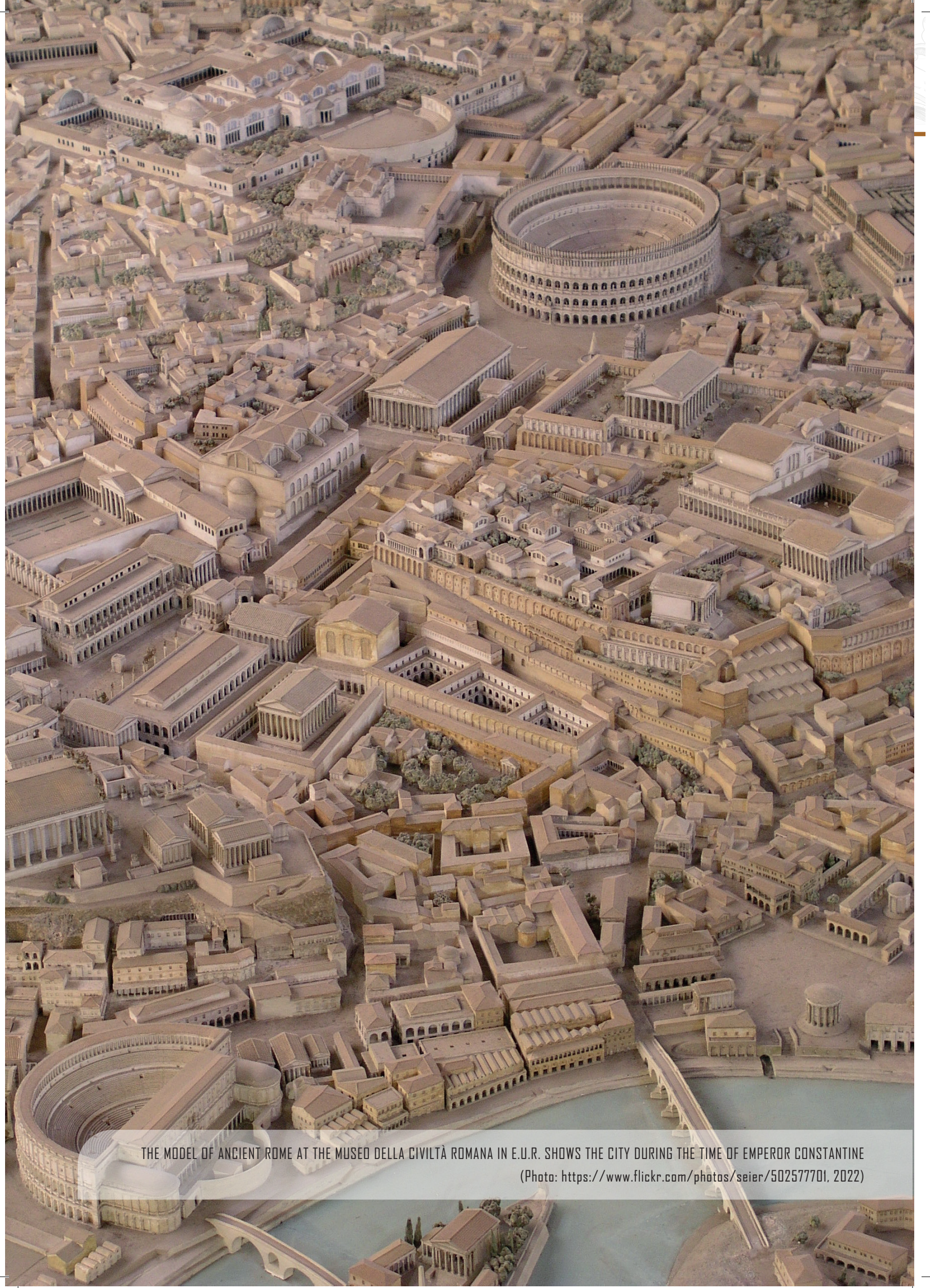
We know that during the Ottoman period, great powers made efforts to take archaeological monuments and artifacts abroad, but Osman Hamdi Bey, who opened a new era with the Asar-ı Atika regulations that prevented the smuggling of these monumental archaeological works and many small-scale sculptures and objects abroad, deserves to be remembered with respect and mercy. There have been numerous people who have contributed to the preservation and exhibition of archaeological sites in Ankara since the beginning of the Republic. These include Ernest Mamboury, Hamit Zübeyr Koşay, Mahmut Akok, Ali Saim Ülgen, Mübarek Galip Raci Temizer, Necdet Pençe, and Tahsin Özgüç. I also remember these important people with respect and gratitude.

I would to thank Mustafa Taşkın, Ahmet Soyak, Mehmet Arabacı, and Deniz Seyran for allowing me to use their photographs and to Yasin Dilmen from Akademisyen Yayınevi.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Tunçer

Çankaya University, Faculty of Architecture,
Department of City and Regional Planning
Ankara, 20 March 2021





THE MODEL OF ANCIENT ROME AT THE MUSEO DELLA CIVILTÀ ROMANA IN E.U.R. SHOWS THE CITY DURING THE TIME OF EMPEROR CONSTANTINE
(Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/seier/502577701>, 2022)

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