

Gunnar HEINSOHN [JUNE 2020]

RAVENNA AND CHRONOLOGY: STRATIGRAPHY *VERSUS* HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM.

**THEODOSIUS
(coin).**

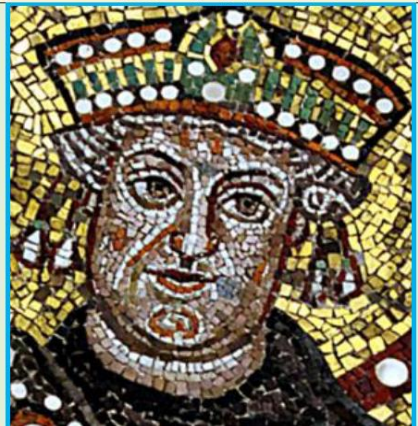
[https://www.wildwinds.com/coins/ric/theodosius_II/i.html.]



THEODORIC

(mosaic was later renamed to Justinian).

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Smuggling_o89f_silkworm_eggs_into_the_Byzantine_Empire.]



**THEODORIC
(medallion).**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodoric_the_Great.]



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I	Can Ravenna, ‘Capital of Late Antiquity’, make up for Rome's missing archaeology between the 230s and 930s AD?
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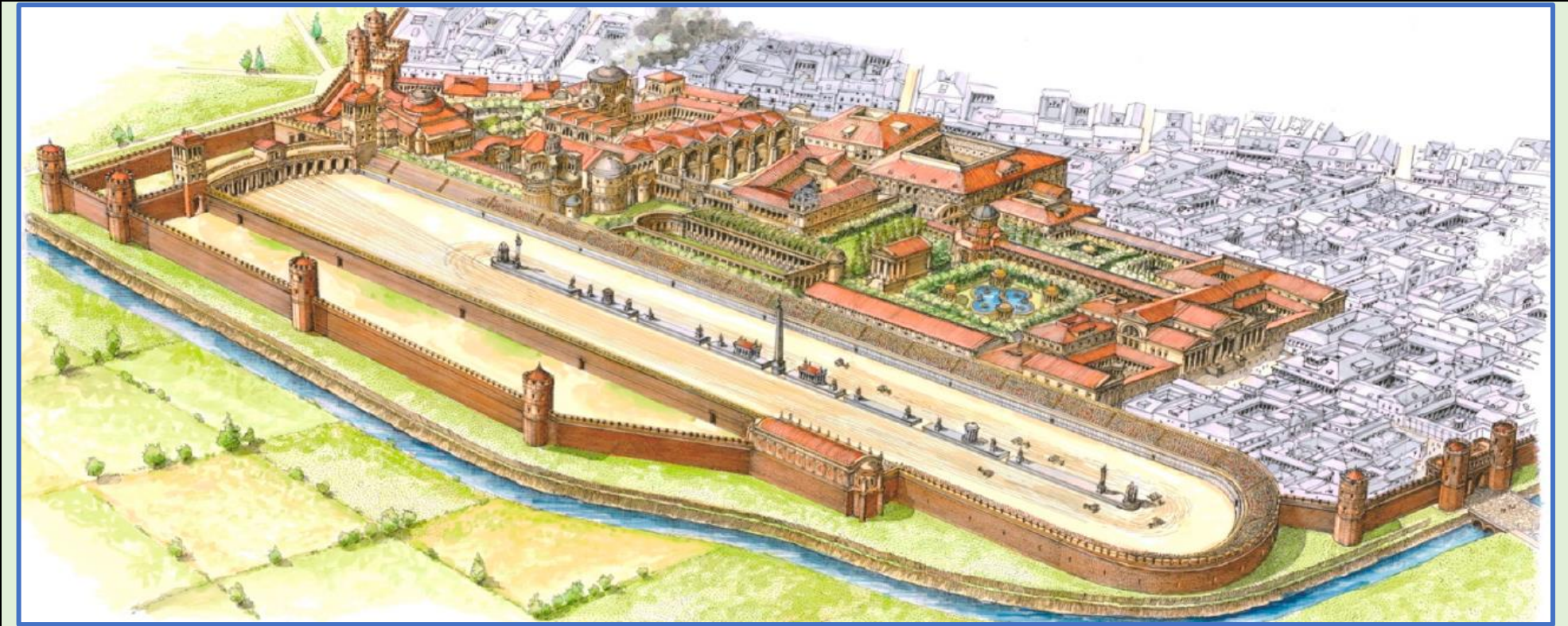
Okay, concede critical readers of *The Stratigraphy of Rome* (Heinsohn 2018 b), we understand that, between the 230s and 930s AD, the supposedly eternal city did not build new apartments, latrines, aqueducts, sewers, streets, ports, bakeries or kitchens. We also understand that Rome’s churches of the 4th and 8th or 5th and 9th centuries repeat the floorplans of 1st and 2nd century basilicas. Moreover, we can recognize that the “later” basilicas were built next to and not above the buildings of the 1st and 2nd centuries. Therefore, these buildings easily fit into Rome’s street grid up to the 230s AD. The critical readers may also be astonished to find that, in Israel’s Capernaum (Kfar Naum), the house of Peter the fisherman was venerated as early as the mid-1st century (Loffreda 1974), but in Italy’s Rome Saint Peter, the former fisherman, was not given a basilica until 300 years later.

Their amazement may lean towards disbelief when they further hear that the shape and the differently colored stone columns of Rome’s St. Peter from the 4th century would fit much more convincingly into Rome’s first century: “First of all, the use of colored marble and granite had already started in the first century. [...] The basilica as a type of building was not chosen from a range of typological alternatives when the plans to build San Giovanni in Laterano and Saint Peter’s were first developed and discussed. A basilica was simply a type of building that had already been used for centuries. / One of the surprising elements of late antique architecture [...] is] material that was imported in the second and third centuries, which was warehoused or stockpiled for later use.” (Bosman 2013, 79/74).

Readers may comprehend that the poor scholars by no means write history of art and architecture. Instead, they produce justifications for an erroneous chronology. They see quite clearly what does not fit into this mistaken chronology, but they do not dare to deviate from it. Scholars may argue here and there, but they all know the chronology by heart, from Emperor Augustus onwards. They want to fill the 1000 years from 1 to 1000 AD with material, but not to question any of it. It can be said that chronology is the only dogma that these highly educated people not only accept but fiercely defend. And yet none of them could name a scholar from the year 400 AD or 800 AD who was able to explain to his contemporaries exactly why they lived in 400 or 800 and not in another year after Christ. As always, dogma thrives on ignorance, and, especially, on its not by any means malicious, but merely clueless variant.

Despite all these insights, readers are reluctant to apply Rome's missing 700 years to the whole of Italy or even the entire world. In any case, they will ask what the situation is like in other Italian cities that functioned as capitals after or alongside Rome. The first thing they will look at is Milan, which – we learn – was made the capital of Italy by Diocletian (284-305 AD) in 286 AD until it was replaced by Ravenna in 402 AD. Decrees by Theodoric from Ravenna also reach the city some 100 years later (Gillet 2003, 163).

Reconstruction of the circus (470 x 85 m) with city wall (4,5 km; 24 towers), and palace of Maximinian (286-305 AD Augustus of the West) in Milan that was built in outline and technology of 1st century AD Rome. [by F. Corni in Guidi 2017, 4.]



But in Milan, governed by Maximian ([285-305]; Augustus of the West from 286-305 AD), we are faced with the difficulty that the impressive buildings dated to the 4th century are amazingly similar in form and construction technique to comparable buildings of the 1st century. This can be shown most clearly in the 470 m long circus: “Comparing the remains of the circus of Milan with other

performance buildings, the most probable structure was composed of a vault forming the ceiling of the corridor, intersected by architraves sustaining the podium. This structure is still visible, for example, in the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum in Rome. Even if these two buildings are [up to 300 years; GH] earlier than the Circus in Milan, they represent the best conserved examples to analyze and understand” Milan (Guidi et al. 2017, 9). On the other hand, between Milan’s 1st and 4th century no public buildings were erected at all.

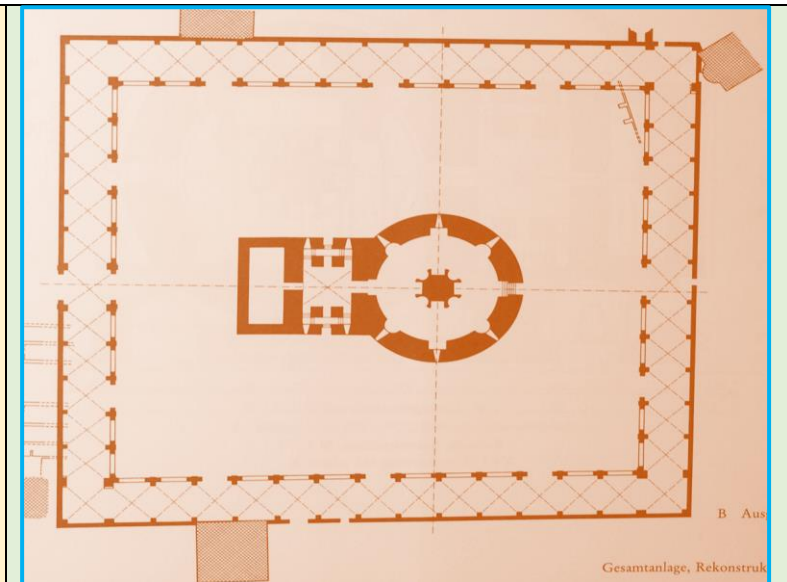
We already know that the Roman circus (on the Via Appia) of Maxentius (Caesar from 306-312 AD), Maximinian's son and the mortal enemy of Constantine the Great (306-337 AD) , must have been built in the first half of the 1st century (and not in the 4th century), because pre-50 AD mausoleums are cut deep into the perimeter wall of Maxentius' own mausoleum (Heinsohn 2018 b, 14).

Layout of MAXENTIUS-MAUSOLEUM on Rome’s Via Appia.

It is dated to the early 4th century (Late Antiquity) but is surrounded by small 1st century mausoleums of Imperial Antiquity cutting into its perimeter wall.

The southern tomb belonged to the *Gens Servilia*. It left only 70 mm of Maxentius’s wall. This brings Maxentius (and his nemesis Constantine the Great, into the first half of the 1st century AD.

[Rasch 1984, table 79b.]



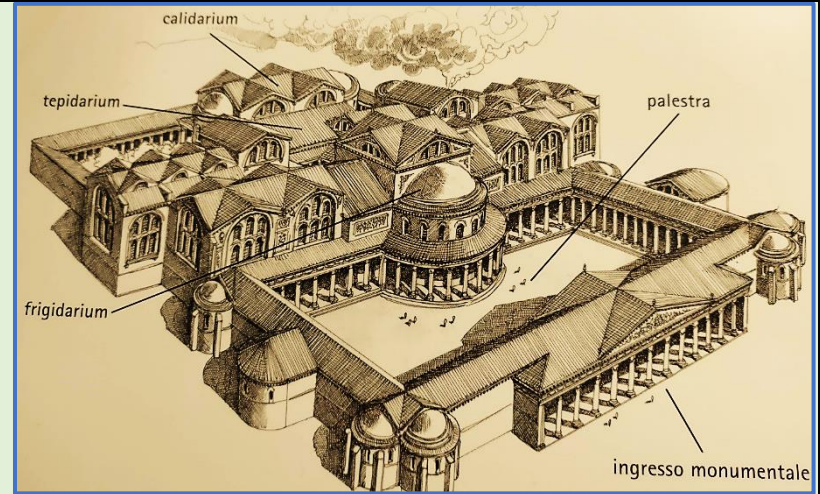
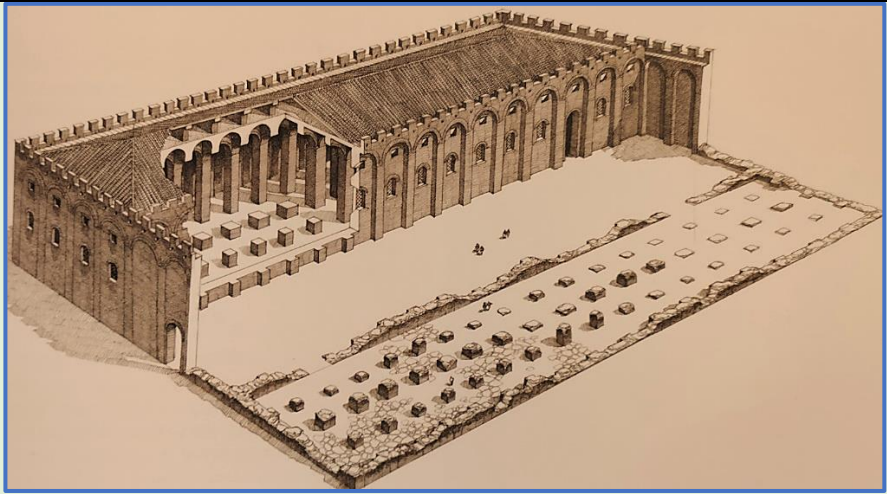
Milan’s most recent Roman residential structure (a *domus*) was “built in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD; [it] was later transformed into a prestigious domus in the 3rd century AD” (Guidi et al. 2017, 3). It is still not known where the circus audiences of the 4th and 5th centuries could have lived. At that time, one does not know where the Milanese took their baths in the first 300 years AD, because

Milan's puzzling 300-year-gap for public buildings, after which form and technology of the 1st century AD is repeated-

Horreum (granary) of the early 4th century in early 1st century outline and technology. [Caporusso 2007, 189.]

Hercules thermal bath of the early 4th century in early 1st century outline and technology. [Caporusso 2007, 180.]

4th century AD
(no residential buildings)



Up to 280s AD

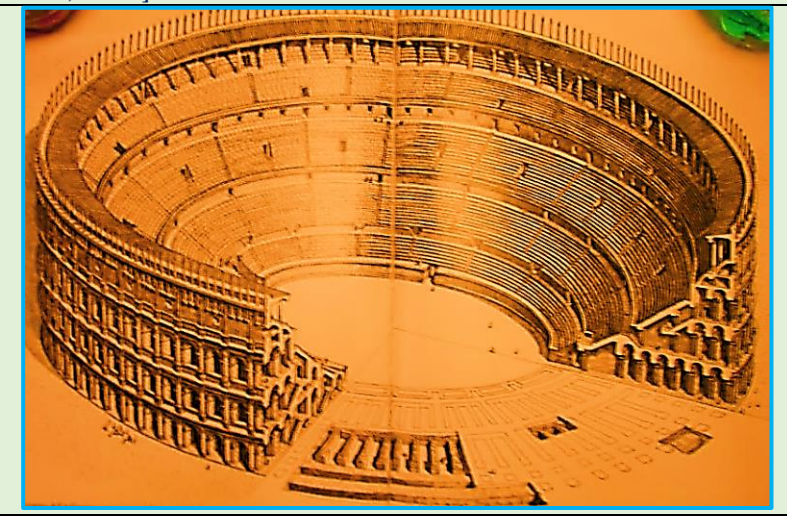
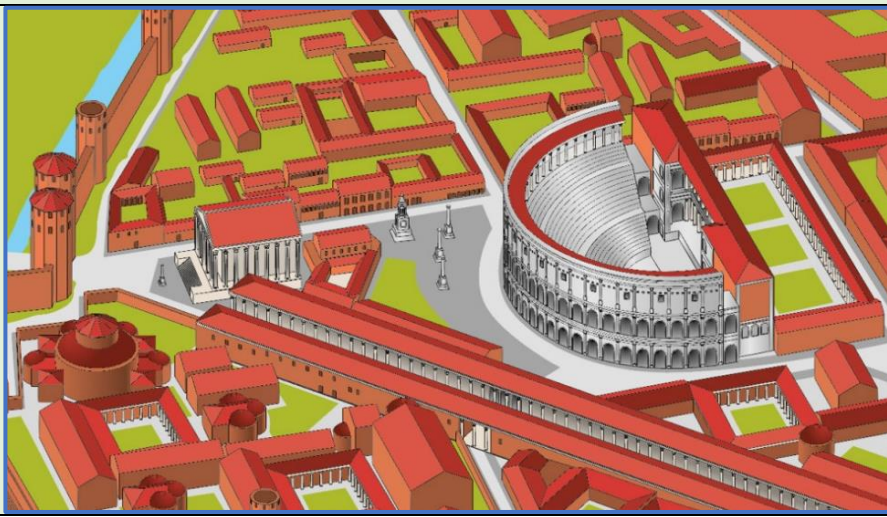
Residential building (domus) up to 230s AD.

No public buildings up to 280s AD.

Theatre (construction started 49 BC) [https://blog.urbanfile.org/2016/10/19/milano-zona-magenta-il-piu-antico-edificio-pubblico-di-milano-il-teatro-romano/.]

Amphitheatre (129.5 x 109.3 m; c. 1-20 AD) [Caporusso 2007, 96 f.]

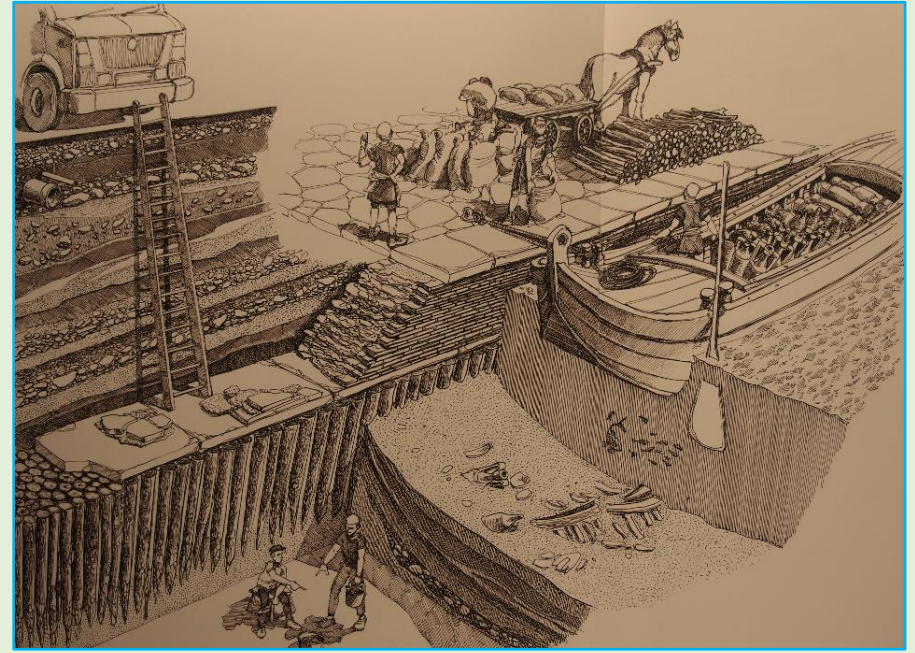
1st century BC to 1st century AD



the Hercules thermal baths were not finished until the 4th century. This was never understood because Milan's "baths were a fundamental place for the life of the city in Roman times, intended both to safeguard the health of citizens and to constitute a meeting place" (Milano Archeologia 2020). In the 4th and 5th century, Milan is in close contact with Ravenna. Theodosius I (379-395 AD) holds power in both cities. Under his daughter, Galla Placidia (c. 390-450 AD), Ravenna replaces Milan as capital. We will see that Ravenna's buildings dated to the 5th and 6th century are made of bricks of the 2nd and 3rd century up to Alexander Severus (222-235 AD). Thus, when Rome stops to build any apartments, latrines and streets after the 230s, Milan perishes, too.

Although Milan cannot compensate for Rome's empty centuries without dwellings and latrines, it suffers a decline whose cataclysmic extent is on a par with the Roman one. A first century BC/AD harbor was discovered by chance during construction work in 1960.

In 1960, during construction work, the quay of the ancient port of Milan (starting in the late 1st century BC) was discovered deep down [Caporusso 2007, 92]. The catastrophe of its burial is not understood. RIGHT: Partial reconstruction [Caporusso 2007, 90/91].



The fact that – despite ancient sources naming Milan as Italy’s second largest city port after Rome – it was completely forgotten and was found deep below the level of today's streets – shows the deadly power of that catastrophe.

Again, critics may admit that Milan, too, does not possess the full 1000 years budgeted for the first millennium. But they still have an ace up their sleeve. Of course, that ace is Ravenna, where Julius Caesar, in 49 BC, gathered his troops for the march on Rome and

Ravenna in the middle of 1st century BC with the first port at the mouth of the river Bedesis (today Ronco; running in two branches north and across the castrum) where, in 49 BC, Julius Caesar gathered his forces before crossing the Rubicon to march on Rome. [Photo by Gunnar Heinsohn in *CLASSIS Ravenna – Museo della Città e del Territorio.*]



where the local historian, Agnellus (805-846 AD; manuscript from 1413), wrote the history of his city in the 9th century AD. Now let's see if Ravenna's stratigraphy shows settlement layers for the centuries that are missing in Rome, Milan and countless other sites.

Ravenna. Hauptstadt des spätantiken Abendlandes (**RAVENNA. CAPITAL OF THE OCCIDENT IN LATE ANTIQUITY**)! Thus Friedrich Wilhelm Deichmann (1909-1993) calls his seminal work on the city, which is located in the *Emilia-Romagna* region of Northern Italy. In three volumes (divided into six books), it was published between 1969 and 1989. Deichmann's title has little to do with the fact that Ravenna, which is west of Asia Minor, lies indeed at the center of Roman civilization. It has a lot to do with the fact that during his lifetime Theodor Mommsen (1817-1903) did not publish the fourth volume of his Roman history, which was awaited worldwide, because he could not decide what the Roman capital was between 300 and 600 AD. After all, Diocletian (284-305 AD) visited Rome only once. Even Constantine the Great is on record for just two visits (Barnes 1982, 49-87). The need for a capital for the 300-600 period continues to this day. Its assumed existence in Ravenna is especially comforting for territories whose scholars cannot show any settlement strata for these 300 years. This includes Poland, where some excavation sites show that even 700 years are missing between the 230s and 930s. The settlements dated between the 700s and 930s and those dated between 1 and the 230s are, however, presented as a continuum (with the painful hiatus in between), although they are never stratigraphically superimposed. Also, they have similar ceramics and Roman coins from the 2nd century in common (for details see Heinsohn 2018c).

Evidence from Scandinavia is just as meager. Prior to the Viking settlements from the 700s onwards, the Danish town of Gudme is the most prominent site dated to Late Antiquity. However, Gudme is believed to lack settlement strata for the 1st and 2nd century although Gudme's late antique strata contain nothing that would rule out a 1st/2nd century date. In that case, why is Gudme dated between the 3rd and 6th century? Because scholars wanted to finally have a late antique city and some coins seemed to justify the longed-for date. A hoard found in the center of the site, Gudme III, contains coins from **Constantius II [337-361]** (Kromann 1988). Coins, or rather their dates, are regarded as a particularly accurate and therefore "scientific" dating instrument. The dates of the excavated coins are simply looked up in catalogues, and are not determined by material analyses. Explaining catalogue dates is not part of the archaeologists' work. Instead of questioning coin dates, archaeologists take them for granted. That's part of the chronological dogma. A typical dating reads for example as 1st to 4th century AD. A closer look reveals that the settlement strata only extend to the Severans (230s AD). If one asks for the justification for another 100 years, coins from tetrarchs (like Diocletian) to the Constantius of the 350s AD are referred to. Nobody asks if he has already found layers for the "3rd/4th century" in the time before 230 AD. The example of Rome, where mausoleums from the time before 50 AD are carved into the walls of Maxentius (306-313 AD), does not inspire anyone (see above).

Ravenna in the 1st/2nd century AD whose residential quarters and public buildings are mysteriously missing for the later 2nd and early 3rd century AD [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_harbors_and_fleets_Augustus-Severus.png]



However, another coin find at Gudme, the Praestemosen Hoard, contains Roman coins from 64-217 AD (Madsen/Michaelsen 1998). These coins from Nero to the Severan emperors are just perfect for Imperial Antiquity, but not suitable for dating a town to the as-

Coins found together in the leather **purse of Childeric (457/58-481 AD)** indicate the simultaneity of Roman emperors that are artificially divided between Imperial Antiquity and Late Antiquity. Dates in the table show, if known, years of coin issue (after Quast 2015, pp. 178 f.).

Via coins of **Constantius II** Gudme was dated not to the 1st c. of Nero but to Late Antiquity.

Constantius II	351-355	Theodosius II	431-434
Nero	050-068	Theodosius II	441-443
Trajan	098-117	Valentinian III	435
Hadrian	117-138	Valentinian III	452
Antoninus Pius	138-161	Marcian	451-456
Faustina I	138-181	Leo I	457
Marc Aurel	140-180	Leo I	462-471
Faustina II	147-180	Julius Nepos	474-477
Lucius Verus	161-169	Basiliscus	475-476
Commodus	172-192	Basiliscus-Marcus	476
Caracalla	196-217	Zeno	474-491
Julia Domna	193-217	Zeno-Leo	476-477

sumed-to-be-following period of Late Antiquity. Unsurprisingly, a late antique town for Scandinavia's chronology is desperately sought. This is why one happily chooses the coin dates of Gudme III with the catalogue date of **Constantius II**. Suddenly, there is now a late antique period for Scandinavia. A Ravenna ennobled as "Capital of Late Antiquity" must also ennoble the wise decision to bestow Gudme and Scandinavia with serious history for that period, too. Therefore, Scandinavian scholars will defend Ravenna as the heart of Late Antiquity" just as passionately as their Polish colleagues. Only bad luck remains for the Praestemosen Hoard. It is lying around in the landscape at a time when there are no settlements and no people who could have buried it. Or are there?

Denmark's Gudme is seen as archaeological proof of the existence of a Late Antiquity period in Scandinavia. **LEFT: Geographic location.** **CENTER: Gudme III hoard with Constantius II 4th c. coins** [<https://en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-late-iron-age/gudme-gold-gods-and-people/>]. **RIGHT: The wooden posts of two halls (47 x 10m for the larger) at Gudme** [<http://vikingekult.natmus.dk/en/foerkristne-kultpladser/noeglepladserne/gudme/>].



Although coins cannot be dated scientifically, thanks to strokes of luck they are sometimes found not only in a stratum that could be either from Imperial or from Late Antiquity, but are even found in the same purse. An example is the purse that was found in Childerich's grave, on his lap. As in the two hoards from Gudme, the Childerich coins come from Imperial Antiquity and Late Antiquity at the same time. Childerich's purse also contains pieces by **Constantius II**, after whom Gudme was dated into the 4th century. But there are also pieces from Nero to the Severan emperors, which were likewise found in Gudme, but which were not used for dating the town. Could **CONSTANTIUS II have been a border-emperor of NERO**, like Constantine was for Tiberius, and Diocletian for Octavian Augustus (Heinsohn 2019a)? The imperial dress of the Nero period is anyway hardly distinguishable from the garb of Constantius II period though they were not only separated by some 300 years but also by the devastation of the Third Century Crisis (230s-280s AD)

We recall that a firm belief in Constantius's II date from a coin catalogue produced one of the most bizarre historical duplications in world history (Heinsohn 2018b, 54). It concerns the Roman annihilation of the Jewish state in the 1st and 2nd centuries, which is said

Enigmatic re-appearance of imperial posture and ceremonial dress of the 1st century during the 4th century AD.

Nero (54-68 AD) with *pteruges* (stiff lappets to protect shoulders and belly below muscular armor), adorned with civic crown by Agrippina. [http://divinehonours.com/image_03b.html.]



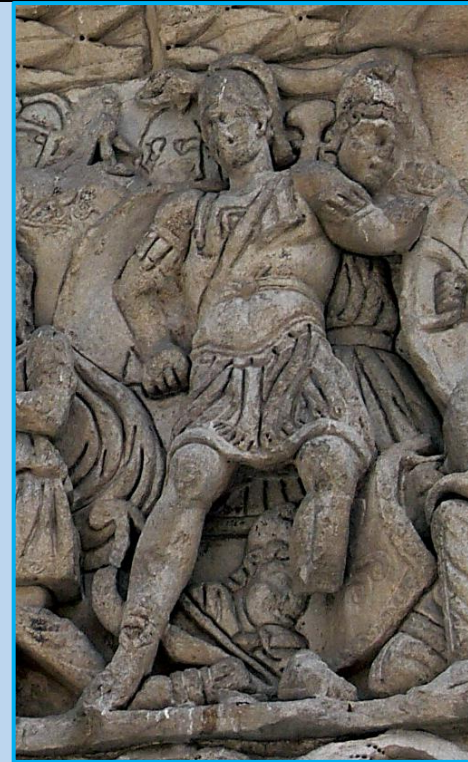
Roman warrior with ridge helmet, and *pteruges*; *Gemma Augustea*, (19x23cm), early 1st century AD.

[wtfarthistory.com/post/21714412903/masterpiece-in-focus-gemma-augustea.]



Roman warrior with ridge helmet, and *pteruges*; Galerius Arch; Thessaloniki, early 4th century AD.

[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:07Thessaloniki_Galerius5.jpg.]





Constantine II [337-340 AD] (with civic crown, and *pteruges*). Coins of his brother Constantius II (337-361) are used to date Gudme.

[<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EONyH7PUcAEsDyk.jpg>.]



to have taken place again in the 4th and 5th centuries, the first time with, the second time without, stratigraphy. The errors in the historiography of Scandinavia and Israel can, thus, be overcome in one go. For Scandinavia this means that the Viking settlements of the Early Middle Ages (700s-930s AD), under which layers for Imperial Antiquity and Late Antiquity (i.e., 1-700 AD) are missing,

belong to the same period as Gudme, where Imperial Antiquity and Early Middle Ages are missing. In the total period of 1-930s AD there are therefore only about 230 years with settlement layers. Gudme and Viking settlements thus enter – after the Tenth Century

Duplication of the Jewish wars against Rome's <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> (caused by the belief in the catalogue date for Constantius II).	
[Banchich 1997; Crown 1989; Dabrowa 1993; Kohen 2007; Strothmann 1997.]	
Jewish wars of 66 - 136 AD against <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i>.	Jewish war of 350s to 420s AD against <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i>
GALLUS (legate of Syria [63/65-67 CE]) marched from Antioch/Syria to attack Judea in September 66 CE in the time of Nero [54-68 AD] . He failed to take Jerusalem.	Constantius GALLUS (sub-Caesar [351-354 CE]; cousin of Constantius II [337-361] whose coins date/create Gudme's + Scandinavia's Late Antiquity)) marched from Antioch/Syria to attack Judaea in 351 CE . He failed to take Jerusalem.
<i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> is active in the Samaria. In Judaea it takes Qumran, Jerusalem, Massada [72 CE]. Thousands of rebels murdered.	<i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> is still in Judaea around 390-420 CE according to the <i>Notitia Dignitatum</i> [completion c. 420s CE] Thousands of rebels murdered.
<i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> becomes sole legion assigned to maintain the peace in Judaea after 70s CE- It is active from its base in Jerusalem against the Bar-Kochba Revolt in the 130s CE. Altogether the Jewish wars last some 70 years (66-136 CE).	<i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> is stationed in Judaea up to the 420s CE under Praefectus <i>DUX PALAESTINAE</i> (according to <i>Notitia Dignitatum</i>). The years from the revolt of 351CE to the 420s CE would give <i>Legio Fretensis</i> c. 70 years in 4 th /5 th c. Judaea
Seals, inscriptions, brick stamp of <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i>	NO seals, inscriptions or brick stamps for <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> during the 4th and 5th centuries CE.
	NO material remains of the garrison of <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> in Jerusalem during the 4th and 5th centuries CE!
<i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> garrisoned at Jerusalem	NO material remains of camps for <i>LEGIO X FRETENSIS</i> anywhere during the 4th and 5th centuries CE!
	

Collapse (Heinsohn 2017) – together into the High Middle Ages of the 10th/11th century (see already Heinsohn 2015b). The Kishle stratigraphy (the longest in Israel) is confirmed for Jerusalem. After Imperial Antiquity, the High Middle Ages immediately follow, while Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages are missing (see Heinsohn 2019b, pp. 5/8).

The simultaneity of Imperial and Late Antiquity coins will help us to understand Ravenna. Zeno (474-491) is a patron and opponent of Theodoric (471-526), the Gothic ruler of Ravenna and Italy. But does Zeno also fit into the time of Caracalla (Augustus 198-217; Caesar already in 215)? At first that sounds strange, if not ludicrous. In the end, the issue must be decided by the logic of stratigraphy. The author is locked in the shackles of stratigraphy. If a city is to have, let us say, 100 years of history, the author holds that the city must have at least some archaeological remains for a few apartments, latrines and fireplaces. He does not have the freedom of mainstream scholars – with all the colorful traditions of their discipline –, who simply claim 1000 years for the 1st millennium and do not have to worry about stratigraphy. He also envies dissidents who, although they give the 1st millennium only 703 years (Illig 2002) or 768 (Larsson/Larsson 2020; drawing on Heinsohn 2011), also don't try to substantiate their centuries with settlement layers. The author has asked (and continues to ask) the three schools to show super-imposed settlement layers for their 1000, 768 or 703 years. There were some 5,000 Roman cities and towns (out of 30,000 sites in total; <http://www.archatlas.org/Trade/Trade.php>). The three schools do not have to prove their year-number for the 1st millennium in 10 percent of those sites. That would be 500. Even one percent is not required. That would be 50. A tenth of a percent would be 5 sites. But even those are not required. A single one would do.

The author has begged leading dendro-chronologists to present identical tree ring sequences covering 1000 or 768 first millennium years for just two (not 200 or even 20) cities side by side from timber found inside them. They claim to see such continuous rings for 768 or 1000 years in their forests, which is why only short individual pieces are required for the cities. But nobody is able to take the sequence of 1000 or 768 rings out of the forest and show matching ones for at least the most important cities like Rome, Athens, Constantinople, Ephesus or Jerusalem. As an outsider, the author, however, cannot help but insist on the reproducibility of scholarly evidence. Nevertheless, the author at least has a strong suspicion why nobody wants to show the 1000 or 768 rings obtained from the timber of super-imposed buildings from Imperial Antiquity, Late Antiquity, and the Early Middle Ages. Such a city would first have to be found. Before one gets frightened about their non-existence, it is certainly safer to stay in the forest.

We have to ask now if Ravenna can be this city. Therefore we start with a juxtaposition of its history known from written sources with its stratigraphy that has so far been brought to light by archaeologists. The periods in grey (230s-400/440 and 560s-10th c.) have no archaeology. The two light green periods (130s-240s and 400/440s-560s) are part of a “palimpsest” (Valentina Manzelli 2000), i.e. the “later” period shares urbanism down to the bricks with the “earlier” period.

HISTORY VERSUS STRATIGRAPHY IN RAVENNA'S 1 st MILLENNIUM AD		
[Agnellus 2004, Augenti 2007; Cirelli 2008;2019; Deliyannis 2010; Gillet 2003; Manzelli 2000; McHugh 2017; Nelson 2016.]		
TIMELINE	SELECTED PERSONALITIES AND EVENTS IN RAVENNA'S HISTORY	ARCHAEOLOGY
10 th /11 th c.	Primitive wooden structures upon COLLAPSED royal palace; poor tiny churches; COAST MOVED SEVERAL KM AWAY.	
870 AD	Saracenes sack Sant'Apollinare in Classe that is still located right on the Adriatic coast.	No new residential
9 th c. AD	Agnellus (805-846), local author of Ravenna's history. Hungarians invade Italy in 9 th /10 th century.	buildings. The
800, 801 AD	Charlemagne's Franks rule Ravenna. Bishop Martin (810-818) corresponds with Louis the Pious.	"So-called Theodoric-
8 th c. AD	Paul the Deacon (720-799) calls Ravenna "noblest of cities". Lombards are ruled by Franks.	Palace" is built in
727-728 AD	Lombards take Ravenna after a two year operation.	early 6 th and/or early
580-581 AD	Lombards take Ravenna after a two year operation. GRAVES ON DOMUS TAPPETI.	3 rd century style.
Up to 560s	Ravenna + Classis are no longer silted up but located on the Adriatic coast. COLLAPSE after 560s.	Residential and
552 AD	Totila is defeated by Justinian employing Lombards and Gothic Heruli. Franks attack in 553 AD.	public buildings
530s-550s AD	Totila (father's name unknown; issues coins in the name of Anastasius) conquers Italy with Ravenna but is defeated by Byzantium's Justinian and his Germanic allies.	use 2 nd /3 rd city with 2 nd /3 rd century brick stamps as
491-493 AD	After a two year siege , Byzantium's ally Theodoric conquers Ravenna, and assassinates Odoacer.	"PALIMPSEST".
470s-490s AD	Odoacer (with his son Thela who is made Caesar by Anastasius) conquers and controls Italy, makes Ravenna his capital until he is defeated by Byzantium's ally Theodoric.	Trajan's water system was unchanged but finally
440s AD	"Mausoleum of Galla Placidia" has earliest but most developed mosaics. Goths and Huns in Italy.	repaired after 400 years.
402 AD	Honorius flees Milan and makes Ravenna a <i>sedes imperii</i> , an imperial capital.	No new buildings, no
379-395 AD	Theodosius's (+Galla Placidia's) palace must have been the same as Theodoric's + Amalasuintha's. There is no other!	repairs of Trajan's
312 AD	Constantine the Great takes Ravenna during his march on Rome against Maxentius.	aqueduct. No inscriptions,
306-307 AD	Valerius Severus, emperor of the Western Empire, fled from Rome to take residence in Ravenna.	No navy burials after .
304 AD	Diocletian celebrates his 9 th consulship in Ravenna whose port had silted up from 300 to 400 AD.	250s AD because of a mys-
238 AD	Pupienus leaves Ravenna for Rome where he is made emperor but assassinated in the same year.	terious COLLAPSE.
193-226 AD	Using the fleet Septimius Severus takes Byzantium where his Augustaion houses Justinian's column. Alexander Severus (222-235) makes Maevius Honoratius, chief of the fleet, <i>praefectus</i> of Egypt.	City with its brick stamps of 130s-240s serves as
190s ff.	Goth-like Quadi settle and revolt in Ravenna. Lombards invade Roman Pannonia.	"PALIMPSEST" -
160s/170s AD	In the plague-ridden time of Marcus Aurelius, Goth-like Quadi and proto-Hunnic Iazyges invade Italy. They resemble Goths and Huns invading Italy in the 450s with the former settling in Ravenna,	for the city of the 400s to 560s AD.
Up to 120 AD	Trajan builds 70 km aqueduct to reduce Ravenna's dependence on rivers and wells.	Classis arsenals and docks
68-69 AD	Vitello loses the civil war by losing the Ravenna fleet to Vespasian	(3 km along <i>Fossa Augusta</i>
35-12 BC	Octavian Augustus establishes Ravenna's harbor, Classis, for the 2 nd largest navy of the empire (capacity up to 240 ships in the late 2 nd century). It is located right on the Adriatic coast.	to Ravenna) are the same as in 5 th /6 th century.
49 BC	Julius Caesar gathers his forces at Ravenna before crossing the Rubicon to march on Rome.	
3 rd c.-89 BC	Ravenna has 3 rd c. BC walls, is connected to Via Aemilia (187 BC); is part of the Roman Republic (89 BC).	

The archaeological blank periods in Ravenna's stratigraphy find their equivalent in the city's historiography by Andrea Agnellus (ca. 800-850), a cleric from Ravenna. Already the tradition of his *Liber pontificalis ecclesiae Ravennatis*/LPR (Book of pontiffs of the church of Ravenna) shows some 570 blank years between the book's completion and its first tangible manuscript:

Source history of the <i>Liber pontificalis ecclesiae Ravennatis</i> /LPR by Andrea Agnellus (tentatively c. 805-846 AD) [extract of Deliyannis 2010, 5-9].				
Around 840 AD	840s – 1260s AD	1260s-1413 AD	1413 AD	1708 AD
Completion of the LPR. The original is 100 percent lost.	For 420 years, LPR is never mentioned. All presumed copies of LPR for these four centuries have completely vanished.	For another 150 years, all presumed copies of LPR have completely vanished. Two authors of the 13 th c. mention it.	After 570 years, the 1 st manuscript of the LPR appears in Modena (<i>Codex Estensis</i>).	First printed version of the LPR of 1413 (<i>Cod. Estensis</i>) by Benedetto Bacchini.

Agnellus writes the history of Ravenna for the periods we now call Imperial Antiquity, Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages, dating from 1 to the 930s AD. He himself does not know this division and length of time. For him there is only one single period. Saint Apollinaris (conventionally blossoming around 75 AD) is sent by Saint Peter to found the church of Ravenna. That is a time which we declare as 1st century AD. But Agnellus has no idea that he himself does not live until 800 years later. It is inconceivable to him that for the venerated Apollinaris, the first church is not consecrated in Ravenna until half a millennium after the saint's death (*Sant'Apollinare in Classe* in 549 AD). He would probably have considered such an chronological idea pure madness and, moreover, an unforgivable blasphemy, for the "walls, palaces, and other secular monuments were just as important a part of the antique fabric as the churches , and continued to be important into the ninth century" of Agnellus himself (Deliyannis 2010, 297).

Agnellus (2004, 103 f.) names Vespasian (69-79 AD) as the emperor of the martyrdom of St. Peter. Afterwards, however, to the astonishment of modern researchers, it is not until the 5th century that Agnellus reports anything about the events that appear in modern history books. Agnellus did not live to see the catastrophic extinction of Ravenna, in which the city was cut off from the sea forever. He sees his 9th century as more or less contemporary with the archaeologically provable events of the 5th/6th century. Between Vespasian and Agnellus this time span yields perhaps 130 years, which would result in approximately the following substantiable length for the First Millennium:

8th century (700-800 AD ff.) 770s (=70s) AD for Vespasian and S. Apollinaris.	9th/10th century (800-930s AD) History up to Agnel.lus plus a few years.	930s AD Catastrophic end of Ravenna and Roman civilization.
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Let us now see how this stratigraphy-based chronological tightening and the resulting historical enrichment can be supported.

II Ravenna's assumed first collapse in the 3rd century, later followed by the collapses of the 6th and 10th century

Thoughtful archaeologists of Ravenna, e.g. Andrea Ugenti, are not happy about the overconfidence with which most research is focused on Late Antiquity because that is what the city is famous for. He wants to finally overcome the “Late Antiquity bias” (*pregiudizio tardoantico*) to find out more about Ravenna's buildings before the 3rd century AD (Ugenti (2008, 95). But he wants to adhere to scientific principles, i.e. remain sceptical if written sources do not mention 2nd century buildings until 300 or even 700 years later. The dating of these sources, however, follows textbook chronology, which is blindly obeyed and whose structure is not investigated.

Dates of the first mentions (*prima menzione*) of public buildings and temples of Ravenna's Imperial Antiquity (1st-3rd c.), that makes it difficult for modern researchers to verify their authenticity. Within the first millennium, 2nd century buildings may be first mentioned in sources of the 2nd c. (Imperial Antiquity), or the 6th c. (Late Antiquity), or the 9th c. (Early Middle Ages). If, however, we understand that the three periods run in parallel (during the 8th – 10th c.) and not in sequence, scholarly confusion can be overcome. [Tables from Ugenti 2008, 97/98.]

MONUMENTO	PRIMA MENZIONE	FONTE	MONUMENTO	PRIMA MENZIONE	FONTE
Teatro	V secolo	Salviano	Tempio di Nettuno	II secolo	<i>CIL</i> XI, 126
Basilica Herculis	VI secolo	Cassiodoro	<i>Capitolium</i>	IX secolo	<i>LPER</i>
Circo	VII secolo	<i>LP</i>	Tempio di Apollo	IX secolo	<i>LPER</i>
Anfiteatro	IX secolo	<i>LPER</i>	Tempio di Ercole	XVI secolo	Rossi
Foro	X secolo	<i>AAR</i>	Tempio di Druso	XVIII secolo	Zirardini
			Tempio di Saturno	XIX secolo	Uccellini

Fig. 2. Prime attestazioni degli edifici pubblici di età romana di Ravenna.

Fig. 3. Prime attestazioni di templi antichi a Ravenna.

Although it is precisely Ravenna's stratigraphy that would allow an archaeological examination and revision of this chronology, scholars limit themselves to wondering in amazement that so many centuries remain unverifiable. Thus, the fact that buildings from 2nd c. Imperial Antiquity, like the amphitheatre or the Capitolium on the city's forum, are only mentioned in the 9th century

Ravenna at the beginning of the 2nd c. AD after the construction of Trajan's [98-117 AD] aqueduct (c. 35 km starting in Meldola; 110s AD). The main port, Classis/Classe, founded after the 30s BC by Octavian, is located further south. The location and very existence of the circus is controversial (but see Cirelli 2019, 291 f.). The amphitheatre, too, is questioned. It may have been built of wood (Cirelli 2008, 38). [Photo by G. Heinsohn in *CLASSIS Ravenna – Museo della Città e del Territorio.*]

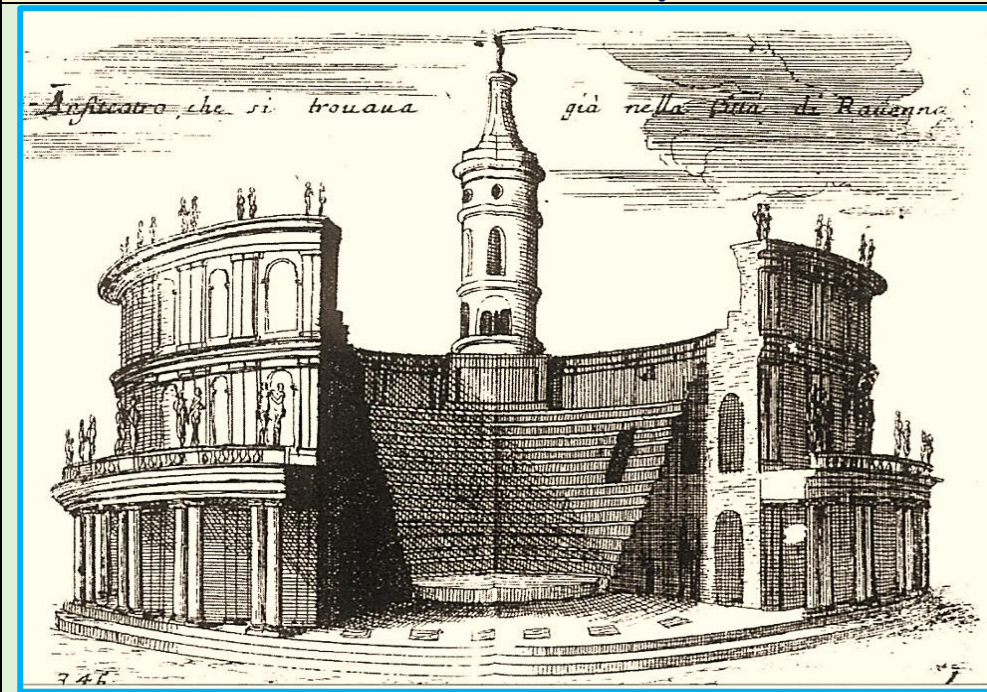


does not lead to doubts about the 700 years in between, but to doubts about the buildings themselves. It is believed that the least well-informed person must be the one who is the most centuries away from the object described. Nobody can imagine that an author from the 9th century is contemporary with an object from the 2nd century, which stratigraphically belongs to that very 9th century. If, on the

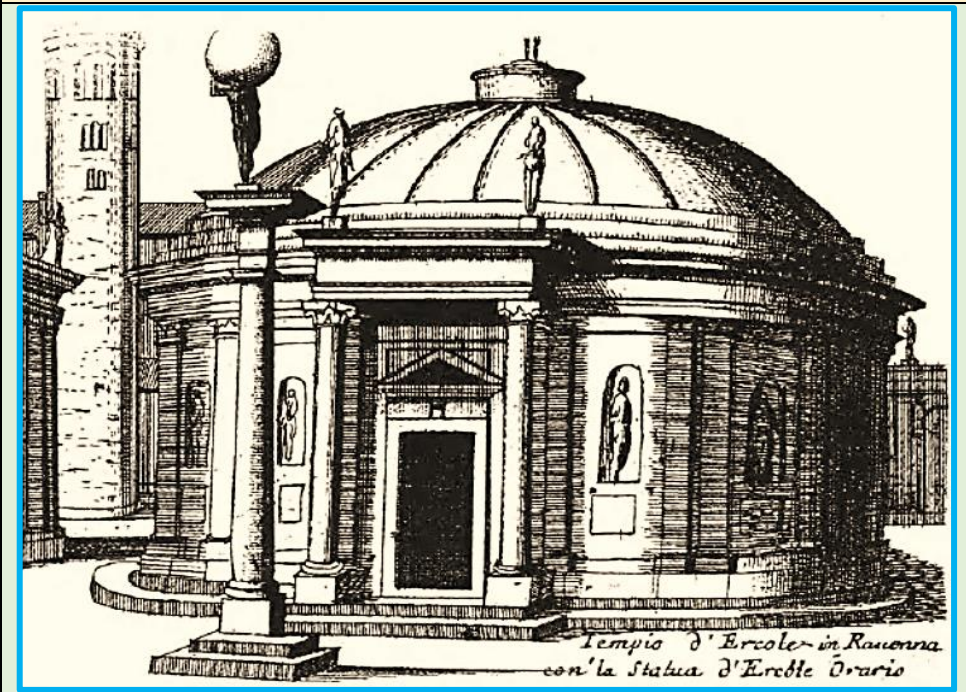
other hand, Ravenna's stratigraphy were to become a benchmark of a substantiable chronology, findings for the 2nd and 9th centuries would prove to be different information pertaining to the same period. This would require, however, to acknowledge the stratigraphic contemporaneity of the 2nd and the 9th century. Such a recognition of the situation in the ground is so far regarded as unacceptable

Nevertheless, there are indeed mere fantasy buildings. These include, for example, a Hercules temple from a 16th century source, which Vincenzo Coronelli imagined as a small pantheon *à la Rome*. The fantasy probably originated from a reinterpretation of the

Vincente Coronelli's imagination (1706) of Ravenna's ruined amphitheatre whose existence is questioned because sources do not mention it before the 9th century [Manzelli 2001, 66].

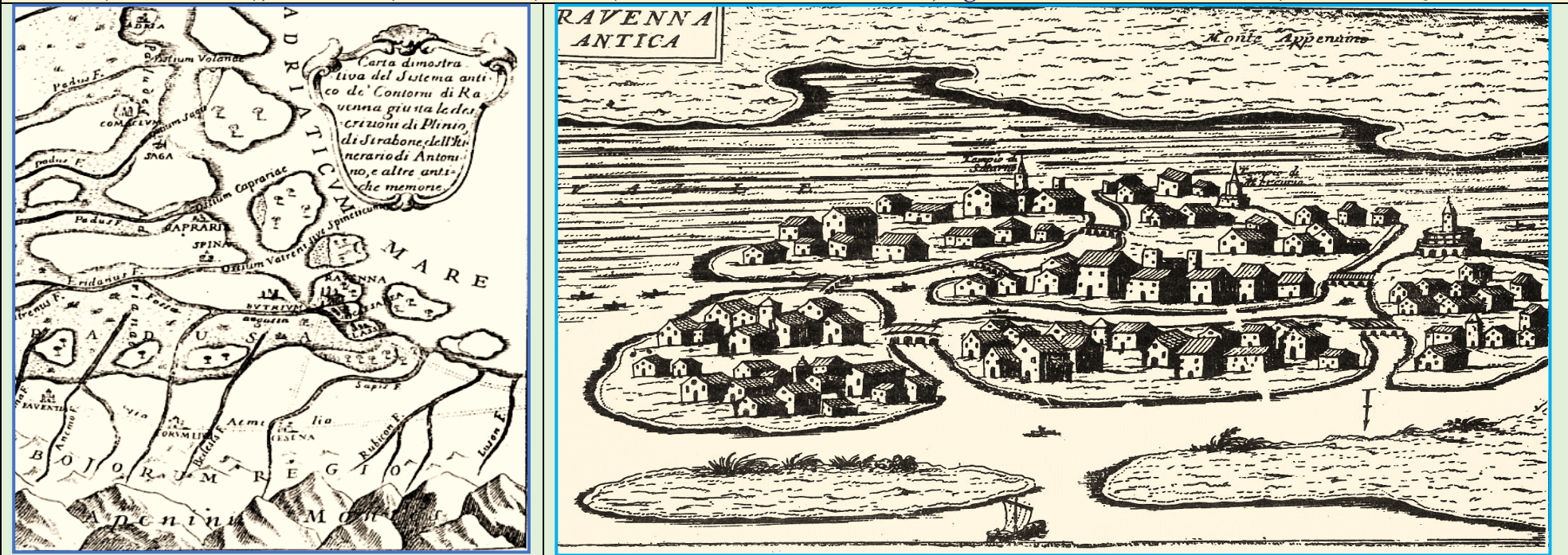


Statue and temple of Hercules in Ravenna as fantasized by Vincente Coronelli (1706) from a 16th century source [Manzelli 2001, 70].



Hercules Basilica, which is nevertheless also questioned, as it is not mentioned before the 6th century, but is supposed to have belonged to the 2nd century of Hadrian (117-138 AD). Nevertheless, the attempts of 17th and 18th century artists to reconstruct Ravenna's long passed location by the sea from the old sources, remain quite impressive.

Attempts by 18th century artist to reconstruct Ravenna's location by the sea during the **1st century BC/AD** on the basis of ancient texts by Strabo (64 BC-24 AD), Suetonius (69-c. 122 AD) et al. (left: Francesco Ginanni 1779; right: Vincenze Coronelli 1706) [Quilici/Quilici-Gigli 1997, 175 /177]



Notwithstanding the researchers' neglect of Ravenna's Imperial Antiquity, there is, in Classe, evidence for streets, sewers, factories, and lower class residential quarters (Maioli 2005, 49). Major buildings of Ravenna and Classe were implanted on the remains of re-

Stratigraphy of Ravenna buildings from Imperial Antiquity to Late Antiquity [Deliyannis 2010, 117]; Cirelli 2008, 41-48; Augenti 2008, 103-105]

VIA D'AZEGLIO houses Begun in 5th/6th century AD	S. ANDREA MAGGIORE Begun in 6th century AD	SAN VITALE Begun in 6th century AD	SANTA CROCE Begun in 5th century AD*	SAN SEVERO IN CLASSE Begun in 6th century AD
Unclear duration of abandonment	Unclear duration of abandonment	Unclear duration of abandonment	Unclear duration of abandonment	Unclear duration of abandonment (if at all)
Built upon small houses begun in 2nd century BC	Built upon <i>domus</i> begun in 1st century BC	Built on suburban villa begun in 1st century AD	Built on suburban villa begun in 2nd century AD	Built on suburban villa (Hadrian time) from early 2nd century AD

*If Gallia Placidia (she commissioned Santa Croce) is an alter ego of Amalasuintha it would be **6th century** (see chapter IV below).

sidential buildings erected before 200 AD. No one can say how much time has elapsed between the two periods. If someone were to claim that all "late antique" buildings were erected and blossomed between the 180/190s and 230/240s AD, it would not be easy to refute such a claim stratigraphically.

But such a chronological solution would solve many problems. The plague involving the Antonine Fires of the 160s to 190s (Merrifield 1983, 143 ff.), with the burning of Rome's State Archives (tabularium) during the Commodan Fire in 192 AD, was a watershed. Wars raged. People who did not die from the plagues died by the swords of invading tribes. Quite a few *domus* of Ravenna were ruined, too (Cirelli 2008, 52). Many property owners perished and ever more buildings fell into disrepair. Cities became smaller. To protect the best maintained areas, new walls were quickly constructed with *spolia* from the deserted quarters (well documented for Ephesus [Heinsohn 2016, 5f.]). In Rome, the Severan period (190s ff.) “consisted of massive reparation work” (Bukowiecki/Wulf-Rheidt 2015) The city’s relative loss of power – due to the loss of her archives and the defeats suffered by her armies – had to be compensated for by the rise of countless local Caesars. Known as “barracks-emperors”, many of these local rulers were later placed chronologically after the events and, thus, had to let plague and Gothic wars take place once again (in the 203s to 250s AD), with additional fictitious repetitions taking place in Late Antiquity. In the minds of survivors, the ancient gods had failed, but the apocalyptic books of the Bible had been proven right. Spontaneous conversions to the various Judaism-derived sects quickly increased throughout the empire. To no avail, Rome’s sacrificial altars were kept burning day and night in hopes of reinvigorating the pagan deities (Fündling 2008, 97).

This wave of conversions to Christianity caused even a Marcus Aurelius – himself later succumbing to the plague – to react with persecutions. Yet, it is still not understood why no churches were built for the countless new Christian believers. After all, the 210s and 230s AD are an excellent time for church building, because Elagbal (218-222 AD) is not a persecutor. Christian elements form part of the education of Alexander Severus (Dal Covolo 1987; 1999). He acts as an emperor of tolerance. In Ravenna, on the other hand, the cause of the “late antique” wave of church construction is not understood, either. It is known, however, that Marcus Aurelius had to accept Goth-like Quadi as settlers around Ravenna (Cassius Dio LXXI, 11). No one knows what happened to them. The mystery of the Quadic traceless disappearance can be overcome if Ravenna's new Gothic buildings and churches are erected from the 210s onwards, i.e. during the later Severan period and not centuries later.

Also, the two famous riddles of Christianity now become resolvable: (1) It is the only high religion that seemingly does without separate houses of worship for 300 years. (2) When Christianity finally starts building temples from the 4th century on, Christian architects follow the style of basilicas that were constructed in the 1st century, a style that had been outdated for 300 years. The following overview summarizes many other mysteries concerning the origin of Christianity, which may find a solution by replacing

Enigmas of European Christianization during the First Millennium AD			
930s ff. AD	High Middle Ages with triumph of Christianity but primitive housing and tiny churches (70m ² instead of 1,000s)		
Ca. 930 AD	CATASTROPHIC DESTRUCTION OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION		
	IMPERIAL ANTIQUITY (1-230s AD in textbook chronology resemble religious situation of 700-930s AD.)	LATE ANTIQUITY (4 th -6 th /7 th c. AD in textbook chronology resembles religious situation of 700-930s AD.)	EARLY MIDDLE AGES (700-930s AD resemble religious situation in Imperial as well as Late Antiquity.)
NEW WAVE of conversions	>Wave of conversions after plague + Antonine Fires under Marcus Aurelius + Commodus (160s-190s).	>Massive wave (cause unknown) of new churches in the 5 th /6 th century.	>Massive wave of conversions (Bulgarians; Franks etc.)
ENIGMAS	>No churches or bishop palaces; no New Testament. Beyond the apostles no missionaries are on record.	>Churches are still built in the 300 year old basilica style of Imperial Antiquity.	>Churches + bishop palaces still follow 700 year old styles of 1 st /2 nd century.
EARLY DEVELOPMENT of Christianity	>Around 100 AD Christianity is far advanced. Pliny reports to Emperor Trajan that Asia Minor has too many Christians to persecute them all. >Northwest Europe has Christian hierarchies (whose palaces and churches are missing) from Lyon to Trento, from Cologne to Switzerland. >Beyond the apostles and their disciples (main activities in Italy and the East), missionaries are hardly known. >The Latin speaking faithful do not even have rudimentary translations of the Bible. Such fragments (<i>Vetus Latina</i>) only appear in the 4 th /5 th century.	>Around 400 AD Christianity is not much further advanced than in Imperial Antiquity >Christian hierarchies of the 4 th c. impress with churches and palaces built in the style of 1 st c. basilicas. >5 th /6 th c. Irish-Scottish missionaries (missing in Imperial Antiquity) are successful in Northwest Europe. >A Latin translation of the Bible (<i>Vulgata</i>) becomes available in the late 4 th century (some 350 years after the end of Jesus).	>Around 800 AD Christianity is not much further advanced than in Imperial and Late Antiquity >Christian hierarchies of the 8 th /9 th c. impress with churches + palaces built in the style of 1 st /2 nd century. > Anglo-Saxon missionaries convert Germanic tribes, and even reach Saxon territories in Northwest Europe. >The Latin written in the 8 th /9 th c. is indistinguishable from 1 st /2 nd century Latin. That standstill of linguistic evolution was never understood.
ENIGMAS	>Neither New Testament nor churches or bishop palaces. >Rich settlement strata all over the empire provide fertile ground for conversions but (beyond apostles) missionaries are hardly known.	>The Irish-Scottish missionaries are well documented but have settlement strata neither in Ireland nor in Scotland. >Missionaries use the same Latin as in Imperial Antiquity.	>The Anglo-Saxon missionaries have no settlement strata in England. >They use Latin of Imperial Antiquity (some 700 years without evolution).

textbook chronology with a stratigraphy-based chronology. If information from the three periods is freed from its 700-year textbook mistake, i.e. if the three periods are parallelized according to stratigraphy, the enigmas quickly disappear.

The foundation for Ravenna's flowering are the civil and military ports, the latter big enough for 240 ships (Jordanes, *Getica* XXIX, 150). Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD) praises the lighthouse, which rivals the famous Pharos of Alexandria (*Natural History*, 36, 18). However, what is considered strange is that – after all port activities ceased around 300 AD – it is still being celebrated by mosaics

Port of Classis/Classe (founded around 27 BC by Octavian Augustus). It was home of the Imperial Fleet. During the time of the Severan emperors (190s-230s AD), that fleet, according to Cassius Dio (155-235 AD), was as large as 240 ships
 [Jordanes, *Getica* XXIX, 150]. **Mosaic in the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuove (dated around 500 AD).**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classe,_ancient_port_of_Ravenna#/media/File:Harbor_of_Classe_mosaic_-_Sant'Apollinare_Nuovo_-_Ravenna_2016.jpg]



supposedly created in the 5th/6th century. Even Agnellus in the 9th century knows the lighthouse, although the city had supposedly fallen into ruins in the late 6th century, when primitive wooden huts were built in the wreckage of Theodoric's Palace. Ravenna seems to repeat the miracle of Alexandria, where the magnificent Pharos, despite the collapse of both Western and Eastern Rome, did not collapse until around the 950s AD (Thretheway 2019, 20).

No other Roman port has provided more evidence about the personnel of the Roman navy than 1st to 3rd century Ravenna. About 590 names are known from inscriptions, mostly on gravestones (Frassinetti 2005). Even job titles like *fabri* (carpenters), *pausari* (rowers), or *vexilliferi* (flag bearers) are reported. Up to 10,000 persons were employed on land and at sea by the imperial fleet (Bollini 2005).

But suddenly something incomprehensible happened. Around 250 AD at the latest, life in Ravenna stops so profoundly that there are not even graves for the people who look after the fleet, and thus secure the life of the city. This is incomprehensible because the city's greatest flowering is supposed to actually begin towards the end of the 3rd century. Only at the end of the 1st century BC and at the beginning of the 1st century AD did Ravenna experience a similar upswing. Now, in the year 297 AD under Diocletian (284-305 AD), a very similar prosperity is supposed to take place again. Until then, Ravenna rules only *Flaminia*. Now she becomes sovereign over *Flaminia et Picenum*.

Everything seemed to be progressing splendidly. In 304 AD, Diocletian celebrated his 9th consulship in Ravenna. But there seems to be neither living nor dead in the city: "Inscriptions with names of members of the navy disappear from Ravenna's cemeteries after the mid-third century. / After Diocletian's reign and the rest of the fourth century, there is almost no recorded activity of imperial or any other activity in Ravenna" (Deliyannis 2010, 36). And even after this collapse, there will never be gravestones for the sailors of the fleet again, although the great battles on land and at sea for power over the city are only supposed to reach their peak between the 470s and 550s AD.

Not only do Ravenna's missing graves make it impossible to determine who could have fought these battles, it is believed that the port itself "had been drying out and filling with silt" (Deliyannis 2010, 37). And yet, in the 5th century, everything is supposed to work perfectly again: Gaio Sollio Sidonio Apollinare [430-486 AD] describes Ravenna around 467 AD as a "the city affected by a

branch derived from the Po, which surrounded and protected the walls and which was divided into canals that crossed the inhabited area facilitating trade (Ep., I, 5, 5); the same urban landscape already in Roman times characterized the city” (Farioli Campanati 1998).

LEFT: Port buildings in Classe (1st/2nd century AD). A port during 400-600 AD can only have existed if the same 1st/2nd buildings were still in use, although the port is said to have been filled with silt from 300 and 400 AD [https://www.sitiarcheologiciditalia.it/en/port-of-classe-ravenna/].
RIGHT: Location of the ancient port of Classis (upper left) in relation to walls and important monuments of the city of Classis (detected under the fields by magnetic prospecting). [Augenti/Boschi 2013, 14.]



No one knows how this miracle of immutability could have been accomplished. It becomes even more complicated because the harbor buildings of the 1st/2nd century excavated in Classe must have been used from 400 to 600 AD, as well, because there are no new buildings of the 5th/6th century on top of the ruins from the 1st/2nd century ruins.

We have seen, however, that San Severo in Classe, dated in the 6th century, continues to use a villa wall from the time of Hadrian (117-138 AD). This brings us back to the crisis period of the 160s to 190s AD under Marcus Aurelius and Commodus, after which churches are urgently needed due to the mass conversions.

So if the supposed Late Antiquity in Ravenna, Classe and the rest of the world falls into the late period of Imperial Antiquity (180s/190s to 230s AD), the bizarre loss of the port due to its disappearance half a century before Diocletian still has to be explained. Undoubtedly the port disappears under soil soon after 900 AD and then right up to today. So we are talking about the first and the last of the supposed three collapses of Ravenna between the 230s and 930s AD, when neither apartments nor latrines were built in Rome. Diocletian and his successors – such as Constantine the Great, Constantius II etc. (see chapter I above) – then belong to Ravenna's upswing of the early 1st century, which so amazingly resembles their own from the supposed early 4th century. Their upswing by no means remains without a trace, but is identical with the great period of the 1st century, which they organize as border emperors. They do this from their own capitals so that the Roman homeland is not once again worn down by civil wars à la 88 to 31 BC (strictly within the framework of textbook chronology, Elton [2018] has a good feeling for the obligations of Rome's border emperors).

Diocletian no longer needs to be considered demented for doing everything in exactly the same way as Octavian Augustus 300 years before him. He is not a mad general who, in order to imitate Augustus, sends his troops into battle with weapons that are 300 years out of date. Instead, he belongs in the 1st century AD (stratigraphically the 8th century; see in detail Heinsohn 2019b).

The simultaneity of the early 1st and early 4th centuries is also demonstrated, for example, by Rome's *praefectus urbi*, **Seianus** (with his own coin issue; Syme 1956), from the time of Emperor Tiberius (14-37 AD). After 14 AD he served as *praefectus* of the Praetorian Guard. In 26 AD, Tiberius retires to Capri. Seianus becomes *praefectus* of the empire's capital. Five years later, in 31 AD, he becomes consul, but is overthrown in the same year. Seianus resembles **Caeionius** (Gaius Caeionius Rufius Volusianus), known only from texts (courtesy Jan Beaufort). In 309 AD, he serves as *praefectus* of the Praetorian Guard. He is subordinate to Emperor Maxentius (306-312 AD) whose supposedly 4th century mausoleum's perimeter wall is cut into by small mausoleums of the early 1st century AD (see chapter I above). In 310 AD, Caeionius is *praefectus* of Rome and, one year later, also *praefectus* of the city. Soon he is consul, too. But there are no coins issued by Caeionius.

After Maxentius's defeat against Constantine in the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312 AD, Caeionius temporarily loses all offices. However, the parallels do not end there. In 21 AD, Seianus orders an uncle, Junius Blaesus, to put down a rebellion in Africa. In 306 AD, Caeionis also put down a rebellion in Africa. Just as Ravenna does not even have graves during the 4th century, so too are newly built residential quarters and latrines missing in Africa at this time. Thus, Caeonius and Seianus are one and the same person in the time of Tiberius, Maxentius and Constantine.

In passing, the 1st century as the time of Constantine and Maxentius also solves the greatest mystery in the already enigmatic history of Christian church building. It is still not understood why the terrain of St. Vartan Chapel in Jerusalem's Holy Sepulchre is only used until the 1st century AD (Corbo 1982, I, 112 f.; Fiamminghi 2019, 105), although it was not built until Constantine's assumed 4th century. The problem is solved with Maxentius *and* Constantine *in* the 1st century. At the same time, it becomes clear why Constantine's precisely hewn Meleke blocks are indistinguishable from the Herodian ones 300 of the 1st century.

	SEIANUS (20 BC – 31 AD)	CAEONIUS (early 4th century)
Hard evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Blossoming 1st century Rome > Issues coins > Small mausoleums of Seianus's time (contemporary of Tiberius [14-37 AD]) cut into the perimeter wall of the grand mausoleum of Maxentius from Caeonius's time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > No new residential quarters, latrines etc. in Rome > No coins > The perimeter wall of the grand mausoleum of Caeonius's master Maxentius (306-312 AD; nemesis of Constantine the Great [306-337 AD]) is cut by small mausoleums from Seianus's time.
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > <i>Praefectus</i> of the Praetorian Guard > <i>Praefectus urbi</i> > Promotion to consul followed by the loss of consulship > Suppression of a rebellion in Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > <i>Praefectus</i> of the Praetorian Guard > <i>Praefectus urbi</i> > Promotion to consul followed by the loss of consulship > Suppression of a rebellion in Africa

We will see, in chapter IV, that the fate of Ravenna's port is repeated by the residential quarters in Ravenna proper. Houses supposedly inhabited in the 5th/6th century are indistinguishable from houses of the 2nd /3rd century. But first, the reader's inevitable question must be answered: how can the length of Ravenna's Late Antiquity fit into the much shorter time of the Severan reign during Imperial Antiquity?

III Artificial extensions of Late Antiquity's chronology through the multiple use of identical historical sequences

How can Ravenna's Late Antiquity, with buildings between the 440s and 540s, fit into the period from the 180s/190s to the 230s? If Ravenna's late antique history is twice as long as the period assigned to it, then the solution proposed here may be wrong, or Ravenna's history may have been artificially lengthened. Understandably, the author chooses the second solution. However, he does not do so without reason. This shall be shown for two sequences. (1) The Gothic Wars of the 470s-490s and 530s to 550s, and (2) the father-daughter successions Theodosius>Galla Placidia (378-440s AD) and Theodoric>Amalasuintha (combined rule 476-535 AD).

(1) Let us begin with the Italian Gothic Wars, both of which were accompanied by a plague and which used comparable personnel in comparable battles. The wars of the 470s to the 490s have been handed down in worse detail than the wars of the 530s to the 550s. This has always been surprising, because the first war brought the downfall of the western Roman Empire in 476 AD and historical information should have been handed down in many details. The second war is better documented from text sources, but falls into a period that must make do without settlement layers in reliably recorded long stratigraphy. In Alexandria (Kom el Dikka) in Egypt, for example, to the astonishment of the excavators, the period from Justinian to Heraclius (527-641 CE) was without archaeological layers (Majcherek 2015, 43 f.). The same situation occurred in ancient Dyrrachium-Durrës/Albania (Hoti et al. 2008; for the stratigraphy of both sites see Heinsohn 2019c, 17/18).

Wars of THELA (son of Otach-Re/Odoacer [453?-493]) during the 470s-490s AD compared to wars of To-TILA/Ba-DUILA (ruled 542-552 ; father not known) in the 530s-550s AD .			
	THELA , in 491 AD, is made Caesar by Anastasius (491-518 AD).	TOTILA (542-552) issues coins in the name of Anastasius (491-518 AD).	
490s ff.	After THELA'S battles Rome is repaired by Theodoric,	After TOTILA'S battles repairs of Rome are not known.	
492 AD	THELA loses his empire to Goths under Theodoric that are loyal to Byzantium	TOTILA loses his empire to Goths (leader's name unknown) fighting for Byzantium.	552 AD
490 AD	THELA and Odoacer lose battles of Verona and at the river Adda (some 110 km from Verona by road).	TOTILA loses against Narses, arriving from Verona , at Tadinum (improbable 450 km from Verona by road).	552 AD
481 AD	THELA and Odoacer conquer Dalmatia .	TOTILA conquers Dalmatia .	535 AD
477 AD	THELA and Odoacer conquer Sicily .	TOTILA conquers Sicily taken by Belisar in 535 AD.	550 AD
476 AD	THELA and Odoacer take Rome .	TOTILA takes Rome (again in 550 AD).	546 AD

Assumed borders of Empire of THELA (with father Odoacer) ending 490s AD.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odoacer#/media/File:Odoacer_480ad.jpg.]



Assumed borders of Empire of Totila (father not known) ending 550s AD.

[<http://euro-synergies.hautetfort.com/archive/2014/07/28/totila-king-of-the-goths.html>.]



The main figure of the second war, Totila (542-552 AD), is a well-known hero in German-speaking cultures. Thela as the main young hero of the first war, however, is barely remembered, although he is promoted to Caesar by Emperor Anastasius (491-518 AD). We don't know Thela's date of birth. His father, Ocoacer, is dated 433-493 [murdered by Theoderic in Ravenna]. So Thela could have been born in the early 450s AD). Hardly anything else is known about him. Totila, on the other hand, issues his own coins as King of Rome in Rome's mint. We do not have such coins from Thela whose father, after all, made Rome a Germanic capital.

**Silver coin of Totila/Badvila in the name of Anastasius (491-518 AD):
D N ANASTASIUS P A / D N/BADV/ILA/RIX.**

[[https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details/collection_image_gallery.aspx?assetId=874715001&objectId=3292624&partId=1.](https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details/collection_image_gallery.aspx?assetId=874715001&objectId=3292624&partId=1)]



**Decanummi of ToTILA/BaDUELA minted in Rome:
DN BADVELA REX / DN B-ADV-ILA-REX.**

[[https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces152008.html.](https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces152008.html)]



Totila, hero of the second war, surprises posterity by the fact that he could also have been promoted to Caesar by Anastasius, because he issues coins in the name of that very emperor. This looks like a miracle, because Anastasius has been dead (518 AD) already a quarter of a century before Totila's accession to power (542 AD). However, if we are not dealing with two different Italian wars, but with two different narratives about the same war, we can do without miracles in this segment of Ravenna's history.

The biggest mystery in Ravenna's monetary history is the lack of coins for Theoderic and his daughter Amalasuintha. Although Theoderic possesses a gold treasure of about 20 tons (Wolfram 2003, 483), he leaves behind only a single gold medallion.

FLAVIUS THEODOSIUS I (c. 347/379-395 AD). [Ernesti 1998; Cormac et al. 2008; Williams/Friell 1995.]	FLAVIUS THEODORIC (c. 454/493-526 AD). [Arnold et al. 2016; Gillet 2003; Wolfram 2001.]
<p>FLAVIUS THEODOSIUS I coins are difficult to distinguish from Theodosius II (408-550) coins. Frontal portrait coins (right) are attributed to lawgiver Theodosius II but resemble lawgiver Theodoric's medaillon portrait. Profile views are attributed to Theodosius I. Beyond frontal or profile portraits, there are no distinctions between the Theodosius coins.</p>	<p>FLAVIUS THEODORICUS leaves no portrait coins, just one medaillon (right) though he owns the Ostrogothic gold treasure (20 tons) and has his own mint in Ravenna. Like ToTILA (50 years after him), he uses coins of Anastasius. If the frontal portrait coins of Theodosius "II" are coins of Theodosius "I", too, they may be Theodoric's missing coins.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I has a Hormisdas as his man for the East (Thessaloniki and Egypt). THEODOSIUS II has a Hormisdas in charge of the East, too. Both are candidates for having paid for a tower in Byzantium's Theodosian wall.</p>	<p>THEODORIC has a Hormisdas as his envoy to the East (Byzantium). He is ruled out as the Hormisdas with a tower in the Theodosian wall (begun by 2nd/3rd c. Septimius Severus) for chronological reasons ('too late').</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I visits Rome only once (no material traces found)..</p>	<p>THEODORIC visits Rome only once (brick stamps on Palatine + in walls).</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I must have had a place to reside in Ravenna. The structure started in the 4th century lacks a dining room (<i>triclinum</i>).</p>	<p>THEODORIC's Ravenna palace should be the one used by THEODOSIUS and Galla Placidia, to which Theodoric added a <i>triclinum</i>.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I issues coins with his own portrait at Milan.</p>	<p>THEODORIC issues coins in the name of Anastasius at Milan but coins with his own portrait are missing.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I resides at Milan.</p>	<p>THEODORIC rules Milan whose envoys beg him to restore order.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I bears the title Augustus. He is shown with a Gothic guard (Byzantium obelisk; silver dish) that would rather fit a Goth like Theodoric.</p>	<p>THEODORIC bears the title Augustus, repairs the walls of Rome that hon-ors him with a gilded statue, but modern researchers reject his imperial title.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I is responsible for massacre in Thessaloniki.</p>	<p>THEODORIC attacks Thessaloniki.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I, though son in law of Justina, a fanatic Arianist, via her daughter Galla, supports Trinitarianism and restrains his Arianists.</p>	<p>THEODORIC, though an Arianist, guarantees Trinitarianism, i.e. does not allow to expand Arianism at the cost of Trinitarianism.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I resides in Macedonia's metropolis Stobi at the city's cost.</p>	<p>THEODORIC conquers Stobi and plunges it into poverty.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I is <i>magister militum</i> and Commander of Moesia.</p>	<p>THEODORIC is <i>magister militum</i> and Commander of Moesia.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I becomes master of Ravenna after a legendary <i>Raben-Schlacht</i> (Battle of Ravenna).</p>	<p>THEODORIC becomes master of Ravenna after a <i>Raben-Schlacht</i> (Battle of Ravenna).</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I is the first to settle Goths in the Roman Empire.</p>	<p>THEODORIC is the first to settle Goths in Italy.</p>
<p>THEODOSIUS I employs Goths in war against other Goths. .</p>	<p>THEODORIC employs Goths in war against other Goths..</p>
<p>ALARIC ("I"), an Amalung in charge of Spain, plunders Rome, helps Theodosius, has ally named Theodoric..</p>	<p>ALARIC ("II", an Amalung in charge of Spain, helps Theodoricus, helps taking Rome from Odoacer.</p>
<p>Alaric's brother in law, Ataulf, an Amalung in charge of Spain, marries THEODOSIUS'S younger daughter, GALLA/AELIA PLACIDIA.</p>	<p>THEODORIC forces his youngest daughter, AMALASUNTHA, to marry a Visigothic Amalung from Spain, by the possible name of Eutharic.</p>

Although Theodoric is called IMPERATOR (*ILS* 827; Moorhead 1992, 39 ff.) and, like Theodosius, holds the imperial VICTORIA ON THE GLOBE in his hand, modern authors deny his imperial title and position (exception Arnold 2014).

Solidus of **THEODOSIUS "II"** (**Hormisdas**, his man for the East, is possibly the sponsor of a tower in the Theodosian Wall). **AD 403-408**; mint of Constantinople (CONOB).
Inscriptions: D N THEODO_SIVS P F AVG / CONCORDI_A AVGG.
[\[https://www.beastcoins.com/RomanImperial/X/TheodosiusII/TheodosiusII.htm.\]](https://www.beastcoins.com/RomanImperial/X/TheodosiusII/TheodosiusII.htm.)

Medallion (triple solidus) of **THEODORIC**. **Hormisdas**, his man for the East, is excluded for chronological reason as sponsor of a tower in the Theodosian Wall. **AD 491/501**.
[\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodoric_the_Great#/media/File:Teodorico_re_dei_Goti_\(493-526\).png.\]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodoric_the_Great#/media/File:Teodorico_re_dei_Goti_(493-526).png.)



For Theodoric's daughter, Amalasuintha, there is not even a medallion. This richest lady in the history of Ravenna leaves nothing of any value. On the other hand, nothing is known about a gold treasure of their predecessors as rulers of Ravenna, Theodosius I (c. 347/379-395 AD) and Galla Placidia (c. 390 to 440s AD). But their gold coins are amply documented. Beyond the gold, however, the two ruler sequences amaze with so many parallels that it would be too easy to dismiss them as mere coincidences. A selection of the similarities is listed in the two tables above and below.

GALLA PLACIDIA (c. 390 to 440s AD) in Ravenna's 4th /5th century AD. [Sivan 2011; Salisbury 2015.]	AMALASUINTHA (c. 495 to 535 AD) in Ravenna's 5th /6th century AD. [Lensky 2003; Vitiello 2018; Wolfram 2001.]
Alaric's brother in law, Ataulf , an Amalung in charge of Spain, marries THEODOSIUS'S younger daughter, GALLA (also AELIA) PLACIDIA.	THEODORIC forces his youngest daughter, AMALASUINTHA , to marry a Visigothic Amalung from Spain, by the name of Eutharic.
GALLA PLACIDIA had received a classical education including Greek.	AMALASUINTHA had received a classical philosophical education , and was fluent in Gothic, Latin, and Greek.
GALLA PLACIDIA was, at Ravenna, regent to her only son, Valentinian (III).	AMALASUINTHA was, at Ravenna, regent to her only son, Athalaric, However, she is neither mentioned on coins or in laws.
GALLA PLACIDIA issued laws.	AMALASUINTHA's laws were never found.
GALLA PLACIDIA issued medaillons and gold coins carrying her name and portrait.	AMALASUINTHA held the Ostrogoths' gold treasure of 20,000 kilograms , but left neither coins nor medallions.
GALLA PLACIDIA , about whose wealth nothing is known, leaves behind in Ravenna mighty churches with the most beautiful mosaics.	AMALSUINTHA , despite her enormous wealth, leaves no buildings in Ravenna.
GALLA PLACIDIA made her brother, Honorius, her consort and co-ruler.	AMALASUINTHA made her cousin, Theodehad, her consort and co-ruler.
GALLA PLACIDIA fled Ravenna for exile in Constantinople.	AMALASUINTHA tried to flee (with the Gothic gold treasure) from Ravenna to Constantinople.
The cause of the death of GALLA PLACIDIA is not known.	The cause of the death of AMALASUINTHA was assassination.
GALLA PLACIDIA was not buried in Ravenna's so-called Mausoleum of Galla Placidia. The small building was originally connected to the church (Santa Croce) of the palace of THEODOSIUS that was also the palace of THEODORIC.	It is not known where AMALASUINTHA was buried. The mosaics of the so-called Mausoleum of Galla Placidia are hardly distinguishable from the mosaics of THEODORIC'S time. Though supposedly a century younger, they represent the highest, i.e., latest evolution of that style.

Again, we can assume that we are dealing with two narratives about the same events, which were connected chronologically one after the other. After all, almost all of the lost original sources are only known through copies that have been modified again and again, until fixed editions were first published in the 16th century of the Renaissance. Galla and Amalasuintha can be Latin and Germanic names for the same woman. One of the sources that presents them as different persons are the *Variae* of Cassiodor (485-585 AD). However, the *Variae* are unknown until at least the 12th century. Until then they are never cited. A first original from the 10th century is only assumed. Not one line of it has survived. Not a single line of the intermediate copies over 200 years, which are also only assu-

Assumed but today oftenly rejected portrait of

GALLA/AELIA PLACIDIA (c. 390 to 440s AD).

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galla_Placidia#/media/File:Aelia_Galla_Placidia.jpg.]



Assumed portrait statue of

AMALASUNTHA (c. 495 to 535 AD).

[<http://www.kleio.org/de/geschichte/mittelalter/frueh-hochmittelalter/bedeutende-koniginnen/amalasantha/>.]



med, has survived either. Nobody knows who composed this text from which components and with which chronological ideas of before and after during the first millennium AD. A first printed edition does not appear before 1533 (O'Donnell 1979, XXXIV).

Medallion (left) and coin (right) of **GALLA/AELIA PLACIDIA**). There are no medals and coins for **AMALASUINTHA** though she held the Ostrogoths' **gold treasure of 20 tons** (Wolfram 2001, 336). [<https://www.shutterstock.com/editorial/image-editorial/art-coins-medals-various-5850762am>; [https://www.pngkey.com/detail/u2r5a9u2t4t4r5e6_galla-placidia-gold-coins-of-chandragupta/.](https://www.pngkey.com/detail/u2r5a9u2t4t4r5e6_galla-placidia-gold-coins-of-chandragupta/)]

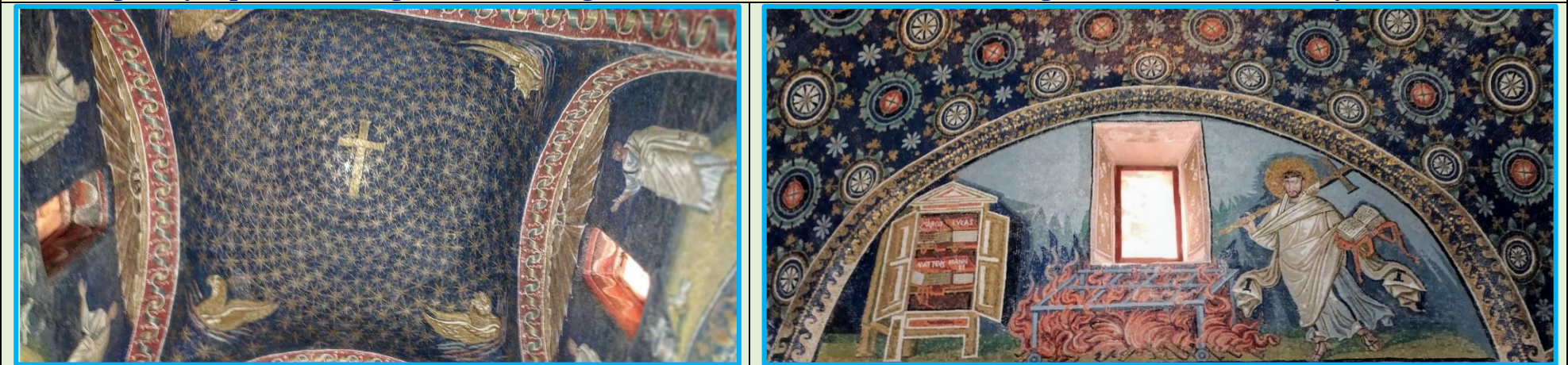


Agnellus's *Liber* on the pontiffs of Ravenna (LPR), which was written in the 840s, but only becomes tangible after an unknown number of modifications in the *Codex Estensis* of 1413, is familiar with Galla Placidia (Agnellus 2004, 124) and Theodoric, but knows nothing about the Theodosiusses or Amalasuintha. On the other hand, Agnellus sees Galla Placidia, who is thought to have died around 450 AD, buried in San Vitale. This is rejected by modern research as a "chronological impossibility" (Agnellus 2004, 70 and chapter 42). San Vitale is, after all, only begun in 526 AD. For Amalasuintha, who died around 535 AD, this would have fit

very well. At some point in the half millennium with manipulations of the original texts that can no longer be counted or reconstructed, two names of one person have become two persons with different names placed one behind the other. The resulting absurdities, such as gold-studded monarchs with their own mints but no coins, can only be revealed by today's archaeologists, about whom nobody worried in the Middle Ages.

If splendid Galla and gold-studded Amalasuintha (with treasure and mint right by the palace) are *alter egos* of each other, they stand at the end and not at the beginning of the late segment of Ravenna's history, with hard evidence. We finally understand why the buildings assigned to Galla have the most sophisticated ceiling mosaics. Thus, Ravenna by no means experiences an artistic decline from Galla to Amalasuintha, but rather reaches with the latter a climax that one can expect from the richest woman in the history of the city.

The mosaics in Ravenna's so-called *Mausoleum of Galla Placidia* (c. 440s AD) are considered the earliest ceiling mosaics in the city, although they represent the highest artistic stage that Amalasuintha, with her tons of gold, could afford easily. [Photos G. Heinsohn.]



If one compares the Theodosiuses (no brick stamps for the 70 years of their history) with Theodoric, then there is ample hard evidence, such as brick stamps on the Palatine and the walls of Rome (Bukowiecki/Wulf-Rheidt 2015, Erdkamp et al 2015, 154 Pfeiffer et al. 1905), and inscribed lead water pipes in Ravenna, only for Theodoric. A scraped-out inscription on Rome's Coliseum

is attributed to Theodosius II on the basis of a partially still legible *invictissimus*. Theodoric explicitly calls himself *invictissimus* on the back of his medallion (Hauck 1970, 92). So he undoubtedly paid for urban development. He had his own mint, the *moneta aurea*, in Ravenna, too (Augenti 2005, 23-31). The fact that Theodoric alone remains without coins, although for him alone an enormous treasure of gold is proven by sources, looks decidedly bizarre.

Lead pipes from Theodoric's palace in Ravenna (500s AD):
D(OMINUS) N(OSTER) REX THEODORICUS CIVITATI REDDIDIT. [Photos G. Heinsohn.]



Ravenna's building history from the 440s to the 540s can therefore be significantly reduced. The peak years of Theodoric from 493 AD to 526 AD and for Amalasuintha up to 535 AD add up to a solid 40 years with hard evidence, which are also calculated for the Severan emperors (190s-230s AD). The demonstration of a double use of the same story finally explains why even today there is a dispute about which events belong to Anastasius and which to Justinian. Totila belongs indisputably to Justinian (see more in chapter VI below). Just as undisputedly he issues coins in the name of Anastasius. Today there are about fifty modern states in the territory of the Imperium Romanum. They have simultaneously half a hundred 'Augusti' and many times more 'Caesares'. A city can be the capital of the whole nation and a province at the same time. All this is indisputable, It was the same in Imperial Antiquity. Only the historiography after 1000 AD with its belief in '1,000' years since Christ has to put contemporary figures in sequence in order to fill that 'millennium'. This must lead to confusing solutions and 'eternal' riddles (in more detail on the original definition of a time frame of 1-1000 AD, into which the historians later insert their materials (see Heinsohn 2018c, 53 f.).

TO BE CONTINUED WITH PAGES 38 TO 68!