

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

### THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF AUGUSTAN ROME

This volume investigates the neighborhoods of ancient Rome during the reign of the first Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus (27 B.C.E.–14 C.E.). Focusing on a group of neighborhood-based voluntary associations that were important political and social communities for the city's diverse population of slaves and ex-slaves, it locates the Augustan neighborhoods within the broader context of the history of Rome. John Bert Lott stresses their importance as physical and cultural divisions of the city and investigates the distinctive relationship between local neighborhoods and Augustus himself. An interdisciplinary study that makes use of archaeological, epigraphic, and topographic evidence, this book makes an important contribution to our knowledge of the urban life of Rome's lower classes and to our understanding of the imperial ideology that supported the development of the dynastic Roman monarchy.

John Bert Lott is assistant professor of classics at Vassar College.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF AUGUSTAN ROME

J. BERT LOTT

*Vassar College*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press  
32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521175494](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521175494)

© J. Bert Lott 2004

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2004  
First paperback edition 2011

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Lott John Bert, 1966-

The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome / J. Bert Lott.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-82827-9

1. Neighborhoods – Rome. 2. Rome – Social life and customs.  
3. Rome – History – Augustus, 30 B.C.–14 A.D. 1. Title.

DG78.L67 2004  
937'.607 – dc22 2003061323

ISBN 978-0-521-82827-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-17549-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*Parentibus*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
<b>1 Introducing Neighborhoods at Rome and Elsewhere</b>	1
Neighborhoods at Rome	4
Defining Neighborhoods	12
Defining <i>Vici</i> in Ancient Rome	13
Neighborhoods in Modern Thought	18
Voluntary Associations	24
Conclusion	25
<b>2 Neighborhoods in the Roman Republic</b>	28
Dionysius of Halicarnassus and Neighborhood Religion	30
The Middle Republic	37
The Late Republic	45
Social Disaffection, <i>Populares</i> , and Community Action	45
<i>Magistri Vici</i> and <i>Collegia Compitalicia</i>	51
Neighborhoods in the Final Years of the Republic	55
Conclusion	59
<b>3 Republic to Empire</b>	61
Julius Caesar	61
The Triumvirate	65
The Augustan Principate Before 7 B.C.E.	67
A Statue for Mercurius on the Esquiline	73

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

4	The Reforms of Augustus	81
	The Mechanics of Reform	84
	The Ideology of Reform	98
	Neighborhood Religion	106
	Emperor and Neighborhood	117
	Conclusion	126
5	The Artifacts of Neighborhood Culture	128
	Think Globally, Act Locally	130
	Altars in the Neighborhoods	136
	Altar from the Vicus Statae Matris	137
	Vatican Inventory 311	140
	Altar of the Vicus Aesculeti	142
	Altar of the Vicus Sandaliarius	144
	Ara Augusta of Lucretius Zethus	146
	Two Augustan Neighborhoods	148
	Vicus Compiti Acili	148
	Vicus of the Fasti Magistrorum Vici	152
	Numerius Lucius Hermeros	161
	Some Other Dedications and <i>Magistri</i>	165
	Conclusion	168
6	Conclusion	172
	Conclusion	175
	Appendix. Compital Dedications by Year	180
	Augustan Dedications	181
	Post Augustan Dedications	203
	Restorations of Augustan Compital Shrines	206
	Unknown Date but Certainly Augustan and Compital	209
	Unknown Date but Possibly Augustan and Compital	213
	Monuments Relevant to the Study of the Augustan	
	Neighborhoods	217
	Notes	221
	Reference List	239
	Index: Neighborhood Officers by Name	257
	General Index	259

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## FIGURES AND TABLES

Thanks are especially due to the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Rom, the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma (Museo Nazionale Romano), and the Soprintendenza Archeologica delle province di Napoli e Caserta (Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli) for kindly providing photographs and permissions.

## FIGURES

1	Map of Augustan Rome showing the new fourteen regions.	3
2	The Vicus Stablarius on the Severan Marble Plan.	16
3	Possible compital shrine on the Severan Marble Plan.	17
4	Base for the Lares Augusti given to the Vicus Censori by four <i>ministri vici primi</i> in 7 B.C.E.	71
5	Inscription recording Augustus' gift of a statue of Volcanus to some neighborhood near the Forum in 9 B.C.E.	75
6	Map showing the area around the neighborhood that received the statue of Mercurius in 10 B.C.E., including the Porticus Liviae.	77
7	Fasti from a <i>vicus</i> below the southwest slope of the Aventine.	94
8	The Belvedere altar. Face showing Augustus distributing statuettes of the Lares Augusti to <i>magistri vici</i> .	105
9	Base for statues of the Lares Publici given by Augustus to a neighborhood on the Palatine in 4 B.C.E.	122
10	Map showing the route of the Sacra Via across the Palatine.	123

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## FIGURES AND TABLES

11	Altar for the Lares Augusti given to the Vicus Statae Matris by four <i>magistri vici</i> .	139
12	Altar for the Lares Augusti and G[enii Caesar]um (?) given to a neighborhood by four <i>magistri vici primi</i> in 7 B.C.E.	141
13	Altar for the Lares Augusti given to the Vicus Aesculeti by four <i>magistri vici</i> .	142
14	Altar for the Lares Augusti given to the Vicus Sandaliarius by four <i>magistri vici</i> in 2 B.C.E.	145
15	Inscribed tablet recording an <i>ara augusta</i> dedicated by L. Lucretius Zethus in 1 C.E.	147
16	Reconstruction of the Augustan <i>aedicula</i> at the Comitium Acili.	151
17	District around the FMV, including the “schola” (circled), the Horrea Galbana, and the Porticus Aemilia.	153
18	Fragment of a calendar from Rome with the heading “MAG II.”	157
19	Plaque from a compital dedication to Volcanus Quietus Augustus and Stata Mater Augusta in year five of the Vicus Armilustri.	167

## TABLES

1	Known <i>magistri vici</i> from the reign of Augustus.	92
2	Number of dedications by neighborhood officers per year.	124

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations for periodicals follow those of the *American Journal of Archaeology* (1991: 95.4–16) and *L'Année Philologique*. In addition the following abbreviations are used throughout.

- AE        *L'Année épigraphique*. 1888–.
- CIL        *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, ed. Th. Mommsen *et al.* Berlin: G. Reimerum, W. De Gruyter, 1863–.
- CAR        *Carta archeologica di Roma*, vols. 1–3. Florence: Instituto Geografico Militare, 1962–1977.
- Diz. Ep.    *Dizionario epigrafico di antichità romane di Ettore de Ruggiero*. Roma, L. Pasqualucci, 1895–. Reprinted Rome: “L’Erma,” 1961–. 5 Vols.
- FUM        Emilio Rodriguez-Almeida. *Forma urbis marmorea: Aggiornamento generale*. Rome: Edizione Quasar, 1981.
- FUR        *La pianta marmorea di Roma antica (Forma Urbis Romae)*, ed. G. Carrettoni *et al.* Rome: Ripartizione X antichità e belle arti de Comune di Roma, 1960.
- Helbig<sup>4</sup>    Wolfgang von Helbig. *Führer durch die öffentlichen Sammlungen klassischer Altertümer in Rom*, fourth edition, updated by H. Speier. Tübingen: E. Wasmuth, 1963–1972.
- ILMN        *Catalogo delle inscrizioni Latine del Museo Nazionale di Napoli*, vol. 1. Naples: Loffredo Editore.
- ILS         *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*, ed. Herman Dessau. Berlin: Weidemann, 1892–1916. Reprinted Chicago: Ares, 1979.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

#### ABBREVIATIONS

- Insc. Ital. *Inscriptiones Italiae*, vol. 13 *fasti et elogia*, ed. Attilio Degrassi. Rome: La Libreria del stato, 1963.
- KA *Kaiser Augustus und die verlorene Republik*. Catalogue of the exhibit (June 7–August 14, 1988) in the Martin-Gropius-Bau. Mainz: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 1988.
- LFUR Rodolfo Lanciani. *Forma Urbis Romae*. Milan: U. Hoepli, 1893–1901. Reissued Rome: Edizione Quasar, 1990.
- LTUR *Lexicon topographicum urbis Romae*, vols. 1–5, ed. M. Steinby. Rome: Edizione Quasar, 1993–2000.
- NS *Notizie degli Scavi di Antichità*. 1886–.
- NTDAR Lawrence Richardson. *New Topographical Dictionary of Ancient Rome*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.
- OCD<sup>3</sup> *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, third edition, ed. Simon Hornblower and Antony Spawforth. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-17549-4 - The Neighborhoods of Augustan Rome

J. Bert Lott

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book was initially conceived as a first “new project” after graduate school – an article or short series of articles at most. As such projects do, it became more.

It would be impossible, because of limitations of space and the reader’s attention, to acknowledge by name all the colleagues, scholars, and friends who have contributed to my study. I must mention Ann Kuttner and Bob Palmer, who have in different ways left marks on many pages and saved me from many an error. All mistakes that remain are my own.

Both the Research Committee and the Classics Department at Vassar College provided financial assistance whenever requested. My colleagues in Classics provided other, more intangible, support through their friendship, advice, and interest.

My greatest thanks go to Jane Livingston for her constant love, understanding, patience, and support. This book is dedicated to my parents, John and Sandra Lott, whose generosity and love have never failed.