

MMW3, D13

April 11, 2006

Research Log #1

Topic #1: Art in China

Topic #2: Roman cities and urbanization

Barnard, Noel, ed. *Early Chinese Art and Its Possible Influence in the Pacific Basin*. Vol. 1.
New York: Intercultural Arts Press, 1972.

This book is comprised of a series of papers concerning the dispersion of artifacts and art forms throughout the Pacific Basin, and how they are all believed to have originated from ancient China. It begins by analyzing the major components of the Ch'u archeology, and the significance of many of the artifacts, especially the Silk Manuscript. It also discusses how some of the elements in Ch'u art have been found in other Western cultures, thus exhibiting how China held an early influence over other civilizations. The next two volumes discuss other art forms, such as embroidery, bronze, and pottery. If I decide to write about art in China, I think that this text will be helpful because it discusses how art shows the influence of a powerful culture on the surrounding societies, and how those elements exhibit stylistic and cultural development.

Favro, Diane. "Meaning and Experience: Urban History from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period." *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58.3 (1999): 364-373.

<<http://links.jstor.org/sici+00379808%028199909%02958%03A3%03C364%03AMAEUHF%03E2.o.CO%03B2-9>>

This article is an overview of architectural and urban history; it discusses the formation of cities and urban processes. The author also references a number of other sources that could be useful for background information. Although this article is not specifically linked to Rome, it provides a setting for comparison that could be helpful if I choose to write about Roman cities.

Gascoigne, Bamber. *The Dynasties and Treasures of China*. New York: Viking Press, 1973. This book gives a wide-ranging account of the “images” that represent China’s history by examining art forms that represent the eight dynasties. Among them, a common theme is writing and Chinese characters, and Gascoigne talks about how “the nature of the script and of the language also has a profound effect on Chinese methods of expression” (17). The art forms include bronze, oracle bones, jade, pottery, silk, and tapestries. I think I might focus on pottery, because a lot of my sources have said that it is the defining element of Chinese art. This book would be useful if I decided to focus on pottery because it extensively covers the eight dynasties and shows the evolution of the stylistic forms in pottery that span Chinese history, as well as other elements that influenced its development.

Jones, R. F. J. “A False Start? The Romans Urbanization of Western Europe.” *World Archaeology* 19.1 (1987): 47-57.

<<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici+00438243%028198706%02919%03A1%03C47%03AAFSTRU%03E2.o.CO%03B2-6>>

This article concerns the urbanization of Western Europe under the Roman Empire, specifically about how the social classes and systems contributed to that change. It deals with archaeology and how shifts in public buildings and architecture represent different social attitudes and how that was a factor in urbanization. I am interested in writing about the Roman state as well as the architecture, so I thought that this article would be helpful in showing the social connection to the development of the state in terms of architecture.

Sirén, Osvald. *A History of Early Chinese Art: The Prehistoric and Pre-Han Periods*. New York: Hacker Art Books, 1970.

This text focuses on the origins and very early historical artifacts that became Chinese art. It begins with the prehistoric period and moves into the Yin and Chou, commenting on the use of bronze and pottery as a form of art, and goes into some detail describing tombs and burials, stating that “the more numerous the ritual sacrifices and the religious festivals became, the greater was the need for appropriate artistically worked vessels and sacrificial implements” (21-22). Although this book discusses some of the earlier periods of China, I think that it will be useful in terms of background information. My topic is still very general, but I think that this book provides a good overview of the subject.