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Purpose: Lecture Programme

Aspects of the History and Archaeology of the Herods of Roman Judaea and their Connection to the Julio-Claudians

Herod the Great: Architectural Innovator Sharing a Progressive Vision with Augustus
Brief introduction to the Herods. Herod was a personal friend of Augustus and Vipsanius Agrippa, and the three shared a vision, as can be seen from the archaeological evidence and symbolic motifs in Herod's innovative structures. The Roman Herods were also responsible as a protective presence in the Parthian buffer zone.

The Herods: Oriental Despots or Roman Judaeans?

A more detailed introduction to the Herodian Dynasty, beginning with Antipater, and its relationship with the Julio-Claudians. The Herods were not only clients of the Julio-Claudians but also their personal friends. They seem to have enjoyed high status in Rome. Although Herod I was Hellenistic, he and his family were Roman, beginning when Julius Caesar granted them citizenship. Their cultural self-identification was more complex, though.

Herod I's Entertainment Architecture

Herod was well-travelled, multicultural and a great innovator. Aspects of his outlook and innovation are seen in his entertainment structures.

What do the Herodian Palaces Reveal about the Herods' Cultural Identity?

Herod's cultural self-identification (what culture he saw himself as being) was complex, but can be seen from the archaeological evidence.

The Aqueduct of Pontius Pilatus and Agrippa I

Various advanced technological innovations are revealed from recent archaeological studies of the Roman Bier Aqueduct in Jerusalem.

Agrippa I: The Fugitive at Malatha

Josephus writes quite an exciting tale of the Roman Agrippa's reluctant return to his birth country, Judaea, including his hiding in an abandoned frontier fortress on the Frankincense Trail; spying on Antipas the tetrarch of Galilee; and fleeing Roman authorities by sea at night. Josephus relates that Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the Great, grew up in Rome with the Julio-Claudian family and then was forced to flee to a border tower in a remote desert area of Palestine (the Negev). Why did Agrippa really flee to the Tower of Malatha, and how might this connect with events taking place during Tiberius' reign? I shall examine this question, as well as archaeological indication for the fortress site to which he fled.

Agrippa I, Gaius "Caligula" and Claudius

A discussion on Agrippa I's connection with Gaius Caligula and Claudius, and how this boosted his career. An examination will also be made, with some archaeological evidence from Roman Gaul, of Caligula's and Claudius' true natures.

Agrippa I as a Cultural Intermediary

Agrippa attempted to get along with and keep the peace between opposing factions in his kingdom, including the orthodox Jews and Greco-Roman inhabitants. To what extent was he successful in this? There were no uprisings during his reign, but they began again immediately afterwards.

The Wall of Agrippa I in Jerusalem: Implications and Speculations

Why did the Romans oppose Agrippa's northern wall? What was his motive for building it? What can the newest archaeological evidence tell us about this wall? What else was Agrippa up to at this time which concerned the Romans: Was he a Roman traitor (like Armenius) or simply misunderstood?