

Feeding the City

Rome and the *Annona*

Population of Augustan Rome

| | Low | High |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Plebs frumentaria</i> + families | 520,000 | 520,000 |
| Freedmen + families | 150,000 | 200,000 |
| Slaves | 50,000 | 200,000 |
| Poor & recent migrants | 50,000 | 150,000 |
| Soldiers and members of elite | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| | | |
| Total | 790,000 | 1,090,000 |





Ancient World Mapping Center 2003

Diocletian's Price Edict – AD 301

- Price of Wheat
 - 1 *modius castrensis* (= 1.5 *modii*) = 100 *denarii*
- Cost of transport of wagon-load (= 90 *modii*?) of wheat
 - 20 *denarii* per mile

Diocletian's Price Edict – AD 301

- Transportation of wheat by sea:
 - Alexandria to Rome
 - 16 *denarii per castrensis modius*
 - Syria to Lusitania
 - 26 *denarii per castrensis modius*

Forum Boarium



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Reconstruction in Museo della Civiltà Romana

Severan Marble Plan, showing the Theatre of Pompey, AD 203-11

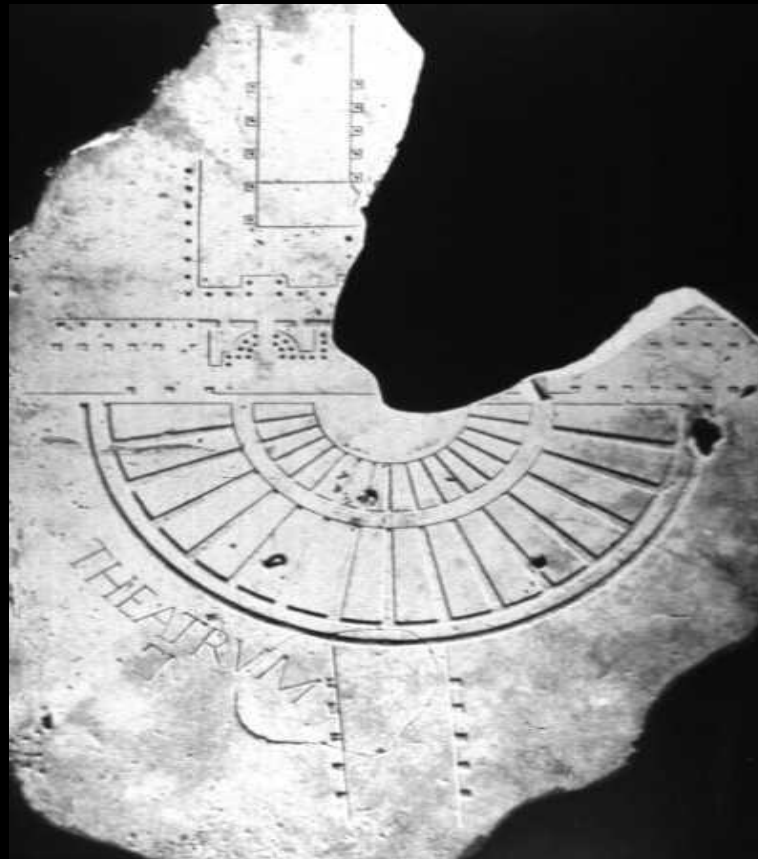
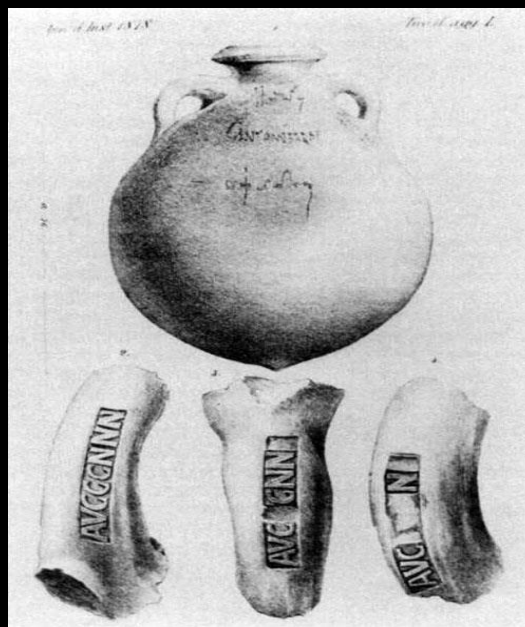


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Monte Testaccio

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Ostia



Grain laws of the late RP

123 BC – Gaius Gracchus' law: subsidized monthly ration at a fixed price for all citizens at Rome.

90s BC – Law of Octavius: reduces number of recipients?

81-80 BC – Sulla abolishes distributions.

73 BC – Law of consuls Terentius and Cassius re-establishes Gracchan rations at fixed price, but for limited number.

Grain laws of the late RP

62 BC – Cato increases number of recipients.

58 BC – Popular tribune Clodius makes the distributions absolutely free.

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21H.331 Julius Caesar and the Fall of the Roman Republic
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