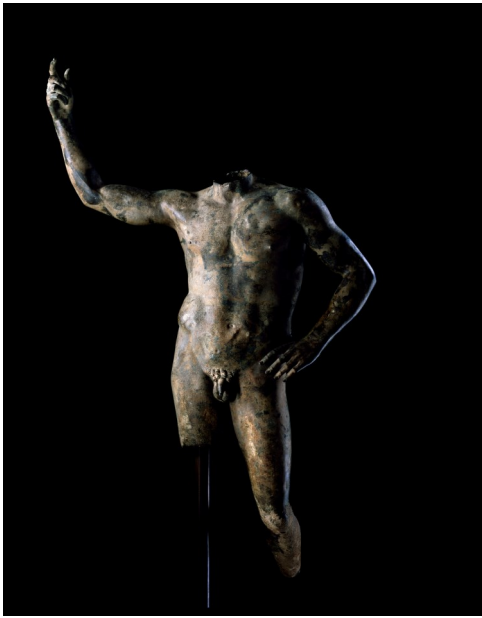


THE LIBRARIES OF
MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*
Hirsch Library Research Guide



Portrait Figure of a Ruler

Unknown Roman

Roman, Severan Period, 200-225 AD
Bronze: 82 x 49 3/4 x 17 1/2 in. (208.3 x 126.4 x 44.5 cm)

Museum purchase funded by D. and J. de Menil in memory of Conrad Schlumberger

This larger-than-life-size bronze depicts a Roman emperor with godlike perfect proportions. The first Roman emperor, Augustus, followed the example of antiquity's most famous conqueror, Alexander the Great, and declared himself divine. Subsequent emperors did the same and their statues and monuments portrayed them as perfect gods with little regard for their actual appearances.

This rare bronze stands proudly, his lifted arm once held a lance in a gesture of victorious authority. It was probably made for an imperial cult temple in Asia Minor, where the emperor was worshipped.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

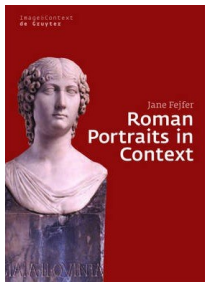
Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

[Baharal, Drora. "Portraits of the Emperor L. Septimius Severus \(193-211 A.D.\) as an Expression of his Propaganda." *Latomus* 48, no. 3 \(1989\): 566-580.](#)

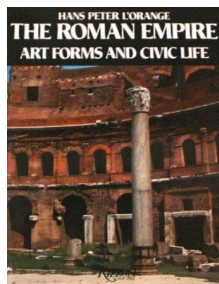
[Kozloff, Arielle P. "The Cleveland Bronze: The Emperor as Philosopher." *The Bulletin of the Cleveland Museum of Art* 74, no. 3 \(1987\): 84-99.](#)

[Matheson, Susan B. "A Bronze Hermes in the Polykleitan Style." *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* 38, no. 3 \(1983\): 14-21.](#)

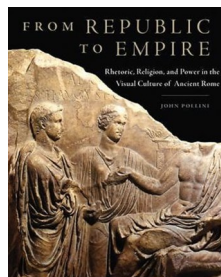
Print Resources:



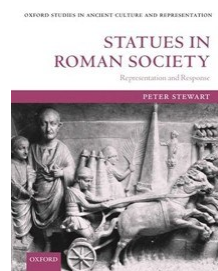
[Roman Portraits in Context](#)



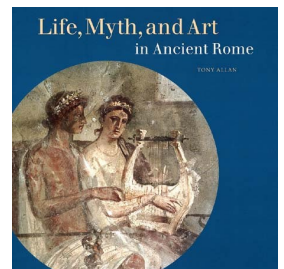
[Roman Empire: Art Forms and Civic Life](#)



[From Republic to Empire](#)



[Statues in Roman Society: Representation and Response](#)



[Life, Myth, and Art in Ancient Rome](#)

Bibliography

Object Specific Information

[Oliver-Smith, Philip. "The Houston Bronze Spearbearer." *Antike Plastik* 15, no. 8 \(1976\): 95-109. N 576 .H7 H68 1976 Ready Ref.](#)

[Hoffmann, Herbert. *Ten Centuries that Shaped the West: Greek and Roman Art in Texas Collections*. Houston: Institute for the Arts, Rice University. N 5603 .H6 W53 Ready Ref.](#)

General Surveys of Roman Art

[Gardner, Helen, Fred Kleiner, and Christin J. Mamiya. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*. 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. N 5300 .G25 2005 Ref.](#)

[Janson, H. W., and Penelope Davies. *Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007 Ref.](#)

[Stokstad, Marilyn, and David A. Brinkley. *Art History*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. N 5300 .S923 2008 Ref.](#)

Roman History and Culture

[Mayer, Emanuel. *The Ancient Middle Classes: Urban Life and Aesthetics in the Roman Empire, 100 BCE - 250 CE*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012. DG 78 .M42 2012](#)

[Roberts, Timothy R. *Ancient Rome*. New York: Metro Books, 2000. DG 209 .R54 2000 Reserve](#)

[Spencer, Diana. *Roman Landscape: Culture and Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. BH 301 .L3 S64 2010](#)

Roman Art

[Beard, Mary, and John Henderson. *Classical Art: From Greece to Rome*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. N 5610 .B295 2001 Ref.](#)

[Brilliant, Richard. *Roman Art from the Republic to Constantine*. London: Phaidon, 1974. N 5760 .B74 1974 Reserve](#)

[Grant, Michael. *Art in the Roman Empire*. London: Routledge, 1995. N 5760 .G74 1995 Reserve](#)

[Henig, Martin. *A Handbook of Roman Art: A Comprehensive Survey of All the Arts of the Roman World*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983. N 5760 .H36 1983 Reserve](#)

[Strong, Donald, and Jocelyn Toynbee. *Roman Art*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1976. N 5760 .S68 Reserve](#)

Roman Bronzes

[Frel, Jiří. *The Getty Bronze*. Malibu: J. Paul Getty Museum, 1978. N 582 .M25 A6 no. 9](#)

[Kozloff, Arielle P., David G. Mitten, and Suzannah Fabing. *The Gods Delight: The Human Figure in Classical Bronze*. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art in cooperation with Indiana University Press, 1988. NK 7909.3 .G64 1988](#)

[Mattusch, Carol C. *The Fire of Hephaistos: Large Classical Bronzes from North American Collections*. Cambridge: Harvard University Art Museums, 1996. NB 135 .M39 1996 Reserve](#)

[Mitten, David G. *Classical Bronzes*. Providence: Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, 1975. NK 7907.3 .R47 1975](#)

[Mitten, David G., and Suzannah F. Doeringer. *Master Bronzes from the Classical World*. Mainz: P. von Zabern, 1967. NK 7907 .M5](#)

[Moon, Warren G. *Polykleitos, the Doryphoros, and Tradition*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995. NB 101 .P63 1995](#)

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "Roman sculpture" and "Roman portraiture" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Portrait sculpture, Roman
Sculpture, Classical
Bronzes, Roman

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfah.org