

Gelasius, were designed for a Roman audience. Bronwen Neil offers a different range of interventions by Gelasius. His letters engage with the needs of displaced persons, of people whose patrons could no longer help them, and of victims of judicial failures and of conflict within and beyond the church. Perhaps, Neil suggests, Gelasius (*natione Afer* according to the *liber pontificalis*) imported to Rome an African style of crisis management.

Part III offers two contrasting papers on sixth-century bishops. Dominic Moreau asks why, in September 530, Boniface II was uncanonically nominated as bishop by his dying predecessor, without the support of most Roman clergy. Moreau's answer invokes the lasting effects of the Laurentian and Acacian schisms, theological differences about theopaschism, and political tensions between Ostrogoths and Byzantines. Christopher Hanlon, in a more traditional assessment of Gregory the Great, offers a detailed account of his intervention in Sicily, his relationships with local bishops and officials, and his arrangements for managing the lands and resources owned by the Roman Church.

Geoffrey Dunn's useful introduction to the volume provides the context in current scholarship and draws out themes, interconnections and differences of interpretation in this volume. Change over time, he suggests, varied with changes in the political system, with individual personalities, and especially with geography: it was much easier to intervene in churches nearer to Italy. These papers support his conclusion that the rise of the papacy was not smooth, or undifferentiated, or inevitable.

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Old Saint Peter's, Rome. Edited by Rosamond McKitterick, John Osborne, Carol M. Richardson and Joanna Story. (British School at Rome Studies.) Pp. xxx + 484 incl. 108 ills and 7 tables + 15 colour plates. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. £100 (\$160). 978 1 107 04164 6
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Ralph Waldo Emerson described the present St Peter's Basilica, Rome, as 'an ornament of the earth ... the sublime of the beautiful', and for those whose passion is the fusion of Renaissance and Baroque architecture and style, it remains unsurpassed. However, those whose interests lie in the earlier centuries of classical Christianity will always have a tinge of regret that Old St Peter's could not be saved, and that the present building replaced the older Constantinian church. That said, some parts of the old structure were incorporated into the new basilica, and many artefacts and reminders of the earlier church still survive. This collection of essays, with rich illustrations and diagrams, tell the story of what at present we know of the structure and life of the former building. Built over a protracted period in the fourth century, it was designed to enclose and showcase that part of the area of Vatican hill where tradition placed the burial site of the Apostle Peter. Though the Lateran was the official cathedral, St Peter's was the place that drew pilgrims, and with the withdrawal of the imperial court to Milan and then Ravenna, the pope came to fill the leadership vacuum which this created. Leo I developed the ideology of Peter and Paul, replacing Romulus and Remus as Rome's special guardians, and it was Leo who established the first monastery

on the site since its growing importance required a resident clergy to undertake liturgical services. Pope Symmachus added a baptistery and various rooms for the pope's use. A major renovation was undertaken in the time of Gregory I. Its importance continued to increase, sealed perhaps by the coronation of Charlemagne in 800. Whatever its eminence, the sixteenth century regarded it as not worth keeping, and replaced it with a new temple fit for a renaissance prince. The multi-disciplinary chapters of this study on the old edifice cover archaeology, art, architecture and liturgy. Richard Gem outlines the case for the initial building work commencing in 324 and spanning three decades. Lex Bosman notes how most of the coloured marble columns used in the fourth century were spolia, and Olaf Brandt demonstrates that we are uncertain when and where the old baptistery was built. Rosamond McKitterick takes on the task of examining how the old St. Peter's is represented in *the Liber pontificalis* – as a place of pilgrimage, a place of papal consecrations, of imperial coronations and a papal necropolis. Alan Thacker reconsiders the question of who was responsible for the liturgical celebrations, administration and guardianship of the ever-growing complex of buildings. The liturgy of the old basilica is treated by Peter Jeffery who argues that the office in St Peter's was heavily monastic, since eventually four monasteries served the liturgical life of the basilica. He also stresses that even though it is legitimate to distinguish between a monastic cursus and a Roman cursus of psalm distribution, even the Roman was no longer a secular office but highly monasticised. Also, the practice of singing psalms in alternation, or antiphonally, was not universally known in the old local liturgies of the West, but seems to have been a distinctly Roman and Benedictine feature. Eamonn Ó Carragáin considers the liturgical innovations associated with St Peter's, particularly as a way of asserting Rome's independence from Constantinople. Carmela Franklin discusses the three oldest volumes of hagiographic readings, marked for reading in the Divine Office. Charles McClendon discusses the religious images that were used at St Peter's during the iconoclastic controversy. These were used to witness to the orthodoxy of Rome. Other essays discuss various architectural elements of the old building, as well as relics, and Catherine Fletcher discusses the coronation ceremonies, associating them with the chapel of St Maurice. This is an excellent interdisciplinary study and the editors are to be congratulated on assembling a team competent to give such a panoramic picture of the life and times of the old church.

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Corpus of Byzantine church mosaic pavements from Israel and the Palestinian territories. By Andrew M. Madden. (Colloquia Antiqua. Supplements to *Ancient West and East*, 13.) Pp. xvi + 243 incl. 38 figs. Leuven: Peeters, 2014. €78. 978 90 429 3061 2

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This is a publication based on the author's PhD thesis at the University of Melbourne, and is a catalogue of some three hundred sites which had been decorated with floor mosaics. It has twenty-eight black-and-white figures. The period