

IVLII FRONTINI DE AQVIS VRBIS ROMAЕ

LIBRI II

CUM omnis res ab imperatore delegata intentiorem exigat curam, et me seu naturalis sollicitudo seu fides sedula non ad diligentiam modo uerum ad amorem quoque commissae rei instigent sitque nunc mihi ab Nerua Augusto, nescio diligentiore an amantiore rei publicae imperatore, aquarum iniunctum officium ad usum, tum ad salubritatem atque etiam securitatem urbis pertinens, administratum per principes semper ceiuitatis nostrae uiros: primum ac potissimum existimo, sicut in ceteris
2 negotiis institueram, nosse quod suscepi. neque enim ullum omnis actus certius fundamentum crediderim, aut aliter quae facienda quaeque uitanda sint posse decerni, aliutue tam indecorum tolerabili uiro, quam delegatum officium ex adiutorum agere praeceptis, quod fieri necesse est, quotiens imperitia praepositei ad illorum decurrit usum; quorum si necessariae partes sunt ad ministerium, tamen ut manus quaedam et instrumentum agentis. . . . quapropter ea quae ad uniuersam rem pertinentia contrahere potui, more iam per multa mihi officia seruato in ordinem et uelut [in hunc] corpus diducta in hunc commentarium contuli, quem pro formula administrationis *respicere possem*. in aliis autem libris, quos post

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INASMUCH as every office conferred by the emperor demands especial attention; and inasmuch as I am moved not only to devote diligence, but even love to any matter confided to my care, be it on account of inborn zeal, or by reason of faithfulness in office; and inasmuch as Nerva Augustus, an emperor of whom it is difficult to say whether he devotes more love or more diligence to the common weal, has now conferred upon me the duties of water commissioner, (or water works superintendent, *curator aquarum*), duties contributing partly to the convenience, partly to the health, even to the safety of the city, and from olden time exercised by the most distinguished citizens; I therefore consider it to be the first and most important thing to be done, as has always been one of my fundamental principles in other affairs, to learn thoroughly what it is that I have undertaken.

2. There is indeed no better foundation for any business; nor can it in any other way be determined what is to be done, and what omitted; nor is there for a fair-minded man so debasing a course as to perform the duties of an office intrusted to him according to the directions of assistants: a course, however, which must be followed, whenever an inexperienced official takes refuge in the practical knowledge of his assistants; whose services though necessary for rendering help should nevertheless be only a sort of hand and tool of the principal in charge. . . . It is for this reason that I have set down in this commentary all that I could gather as bearing on the subject matter, after having arranged and codified it in accordance with my habit as already exemplified in other offices, so that I might consult it as a guide in the duties of this.

experimenta et usum conposui, succedentium res acta est; huius commentarii pertinebit fortassis et ad successorem utilitas, set cum inter initia administrationis meae scriptus sit, in primis ad nostram institutionem regulamque proficiet. ac ne quid ad totius rei pertinens notitiam praetermisisse uidear, nomina primum aquarum, quae in urbem Romam influant, ponam; tum per quos quaeque earum et quibus consulibus, quoto post urbem conditam anno perducta sit; dein quibus ex locis et a quoto *miliario* coepisset . . . ac quantum subterraneo riuo, quantum substructione, quantum opere arcuato; post altitudinem cuiusque modulorumque . . . erogationes ab illis factae sint, quantum extra urbem, quantum *intra* urbem unicuique regioni pro suo modo unaquaeque aquarum seruiat; quot castella publica [priuataque] sint, et ex is quantum publicis operibus, quantum muneribus—ita enim cultiores appellant—quantum lacibus, quantum nomine [Iulii] Caesaris, quantum priuatorum usibus beneficio principis detur; quod ius *ducendarum* tuendarumque sit earum, quae id sanciant poenae lege, senatus consultis, mandatis principum inrogatae.

LIBER I

4 Ab urbe condita per annos quadringentos quadraginta unum contenti fuerunt Romani usu aquarum, quas aut ex Tiberi aut ex puteis aut ex fontibus hauriebant. fontium memoria cum sanctitate adhuc extat et colitur: salubritatem aegris corporibus afferre creduntur, sicut Camenarum et Apollinis et Iuturnae. nunc autem in urbem influunt aqua Appia, Anio

But my other commentaries were inspired by my own hard-earned practice and experience, and were intended for the benefit of my successors, and this commentary may also be of use to a successor; but, as it has been written at the beginning of my administration, it will serve more especially for my own instruction, and as a guide.

3. And that I may not by chance omit anything which is necessary for the understanding of the whole subject matter, I will first put down the names of the waters which are brought to the city of Rome; then by what persons, and under what consuls, and in what year since the founding of the city each of them was brought in; then at what places and at what mile-stones their aqueducts commence; how far they were carried in underground channels, how far on masonry substructures, and how far on arches; then the height of each of them, and the size and number of taps, and what uses are dependent upon them; how much each aqueduct brings to each ward without the city, and how much within the city; how many public delivery tanks there are, and how much is delivered from them to the places of public amusement, how much to the ornamental fountains (*munera*)—as the more educated call them—how much to the water basins, how much to the use of the State (in the name of Caesar), how much for private uses by grants from the emperor; what is the law with regard to the construction and maintenance of the aqueducts; what penalties enforce it under the laws, votes of the Senate, and Imperial edicts that have been enacted.

BOOK I

4. From the foundation of the city for 441 years¹ the Romans were content with the use of the waters which they drew, either from the Tiber, or from wells, or from springs. Springs have held, down to the present day, the name of holy things, and are objects of veneration, having the repute of healing the sick; as for example, the springs of the Prophetic Nymphs (*Camenaë*),² of Apollo, and of Juturna.³ But there now run into the city: the Appian aqueduct,

¹ Until 313 B. C.

² Livy, i. 21, 3, etc. See Kiepert and Hülsen.

³ Near it was the Temple of Castor and Pollux, who were reputed to have watered their horses there, after the battle of Lake Regillus.

uetus, Marcia, Tepula, Iulia, Virgo, *Alsietina* quae eadem uocatur Augusta, Claudia, Anio nouus.

- 5 M. Valerio Maximo P. Decio Mure consulibus, anno post initium Samnitici belli tricesimo aqua Appia in urbem ducta est *ab* Appio Claudio Crasso censore, cui postea *Caeco* fuit cognomen, qui uiam Appiam *a porta* Capena usque ad *urbem* Capuam muniendam curauit. collegam habuit C. Plautium, cui ob inquisitas eius aquae uenas Venocis cognomen datum est. sed quia is intra annum et sex menses deceptus a collega tamquam idem facturo abdicauit se censura, nomen aquae ad Appii tantum honorem pertinuit, qui multis tergiuersationibus extraxisse censuram traditur, donec et uiam et huius aquae ductum consummaret. concipitur Appia in agro Lucullano uia Praenestina inter miliarium septimum et octauum deuerticulo sinistrorsus passuum septingentorum octoginta. ductus eius habet longitudinem a capite usque ad Salinas, qui locus est ad portam Tergeminam, passuum undecim milium centum nonaginta: *ex eo riuus est* supterraneus passuum undecim milium centum triginta, supra terram substructio et *opus* arcuatum proximum portam Capenam passuum sexaginta. iungitur ei ad Spem ueterem in confinio hortorum Torquatianorum *et Epaphroditianorum*¹ ramus Augustae ab Augusto in supplementum eius additus . . . loco nomen . . . † denti Gemellorum. hic uia *Collatina*² ad miliarium sextum deuerticulo sinistrorsus passuum nongentorum octoginta proxime uiam Collatiam accipit fontem. cuius ductus usque ad Gemellos efficit riuo subterraneo passuum sex milia trecentos sexaginta. incipit distribui *Appia* imo Publicii cliuo ad portam Trigeminam [qui locus Salinae appellantur].

¹ Lanciani, *Frontino*, 248.

² Lanciani, *Frontino*, 249.

Anio Vetus, Marcia, Tepula, Julia, Virgo, Alsietina, which is also called Augusta, Claudia, and Anio Novus.

5. Under the consulate of M. Valerius Maximus and P. Decius Mus,¹ in the thirtieth year after the beginning of the Samnite war,² the Appian water was brought into the city by the censor Appius Claudius Crassus, who later received the surname Caecus,³ who also had charge of the construction of the Appian Way, from Porta Capena⁴ to the city of Capua. He had for his colleague C. Plautius, who received the name of Venox (the searcher of springs), on account of his search for the springs of this water; but since Plautius resigned the office of censor before the expiration of the eighteen months,⁵ as a result of the erroneous impression that his colleague would do the same, Appius alone enjoyed the honor of giving the aqueduct its name; and it is said of him, that by various contrivances he managed to extend the term of his office as censor until he had completed not only the aqueduct, but also the highway. The intake of the Appia is on the estate of Lucullus on the (Collatian) Praenestine⁶ Way, between the seventh and eighth mile-stones, on a cross-road, 780 paces⁷ to the left (going from Rome). The aqueduct from the intake to the Salinae at the Porta Trigemina has a length of 11,190 paces; of which 11,130 are in underground channels, and 60 paces above-ground on masonry sub-structures and on arches near the Porta Capena. With it connects a branch of the Augusta, at the Spes Vetus,⁸ in the vicinity of the Torquatian and Plautian gardens, arranged thus as a supplementary supply by Augustus, who at the same time gave it the significant name of the Twins. This branch has its intake on the Praenestine Way, at the sixth mile-stone, on a cross-road, 980 paces to the left, very near the Collatian Way, and the aqueduct extends in an underground channel 6,360 paces before joining the Twins. The distribution of Appia begins at the foot of the Publician steps (acclivity), near the Porta Trigemina, at the place called the Salinae.

¹ 313 B. C.; Middleton, ii. 335.

² The Samnite war referred to is the one of 343 B. C.

³ Livy, ix. 29; Diod. Sic. xx. 36.

⁴ Martial, iii. 47, and Kiepert and Hülsen.

⁵ The normal term of office.

⁶ Lanciani says this should be Collatian. See also Middleton, ii. 336.

⁷ The Roman double pace, about 5 feet long, is meant.

⁸ Middleton, ii. 198; Livy, xl. 51.

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