
Master Gregorius’ account of the marvels to be seen in the city of Rome is one of the most interesting examples of a genre of literature which enjoyed considerable popularity in the late Middle Ages. An Englishman, well-versed in classical history and mythology, he recalls his own experiences visiting and examining ancient buildings and statues which still stood in Rome in the early thirteenth-century. In doing so he presents a vivid picture of the wealth of classical material which still existed in the city, and frequently reveals medieval attitudes towards it.

Unlike the better-known *Mirabilia urbis Romae*, which sought to relate medieval Christian Rome to its antique heritage, Gregorius’ *Narracio* demonstrates little if any interest in the city’s Christian character. Instead he considers ancient art and architecture worthy of interest and study in its own right, in many ways anticipating the antiquarian concerns of future centuries. His work is valuable both for its contribution to our knowledge of Roman art and topography, as well as in the broader context of the history of the classical tradition. The text is known from a single manuscript copy, now in the library of St. Catharine’s College, Cambridge.

The translation is prefaced by a short introduction which discusses the work and sets it in its medieval context, and is followed by an extensive commentary which attempts to identify the objects and buildings seen and described by Gregorius.