



# ROMAN BATHS

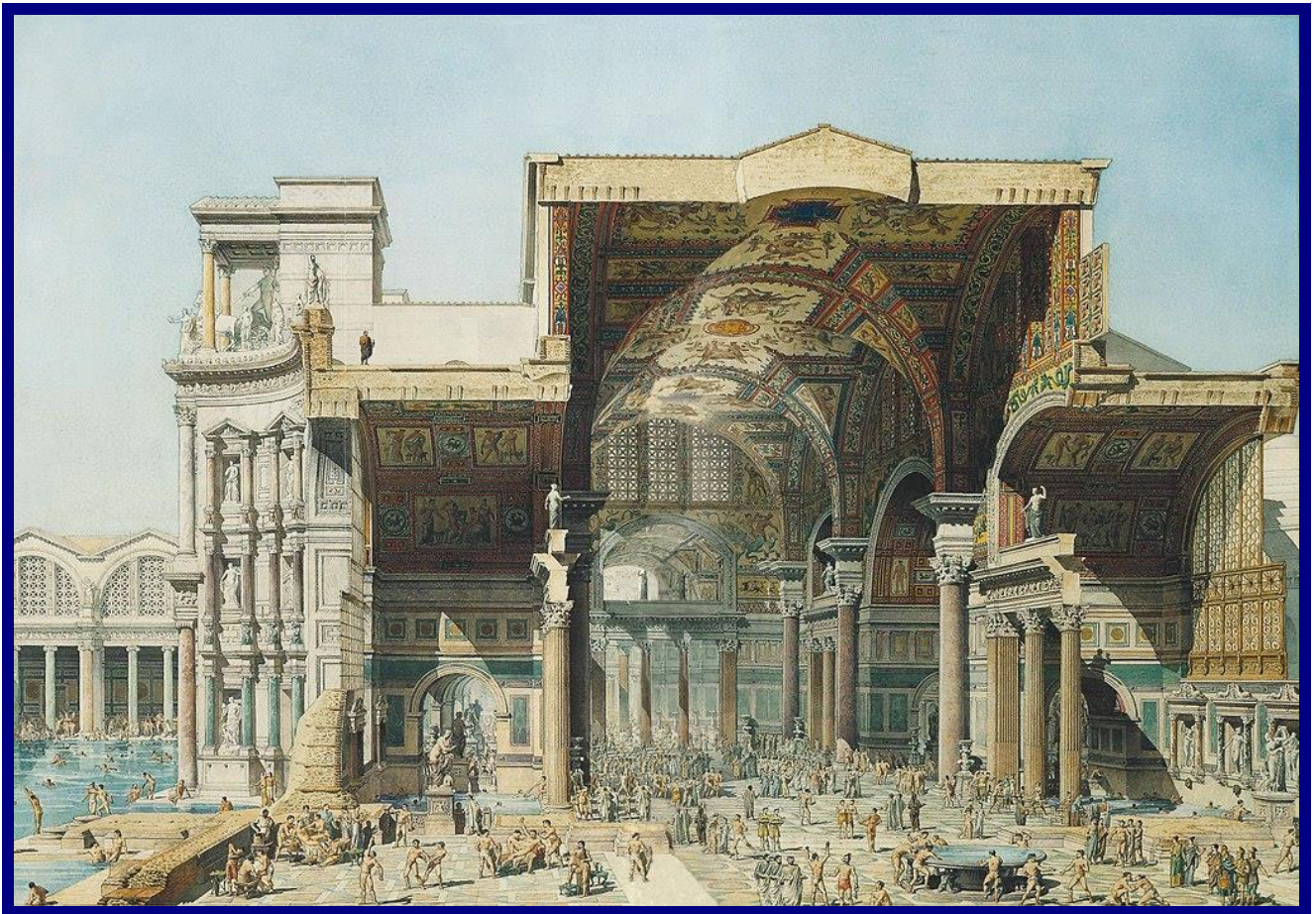
**BRIAN ROBERTS**

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# THE BATHS AT CARACALLA by ALMA-TADEMA



# THE BATHS OF DIOCLETIAN



## ROMAN BATHS

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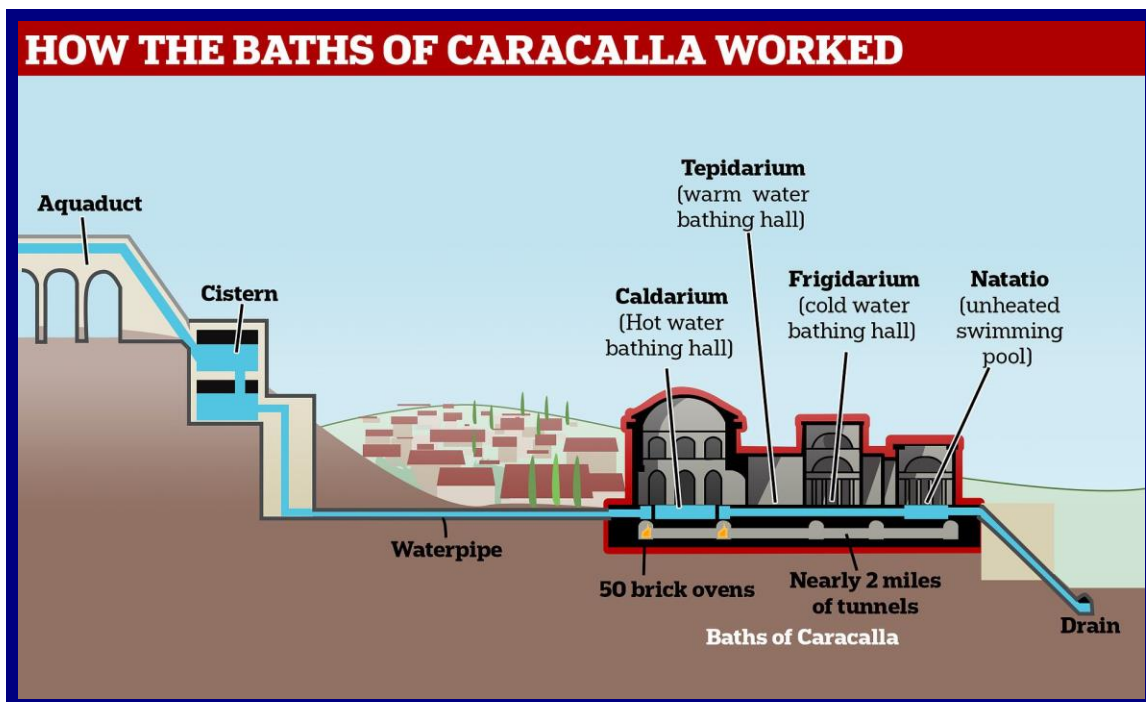
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# ANCIENT ROMAN BATHS AND BATHING

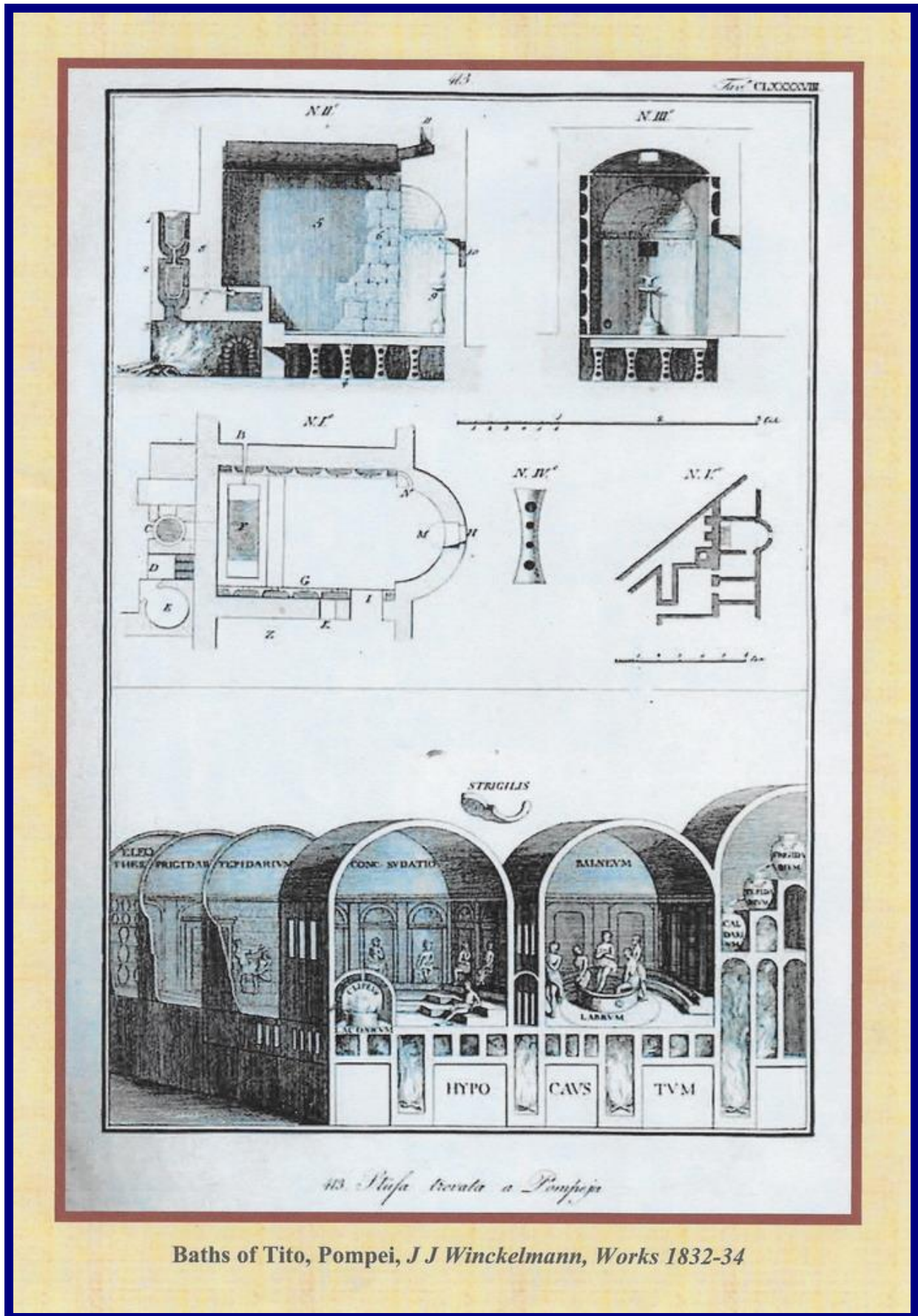
Bathing was an important part of ancient Roman culture and society, often one of their daily activities, practiced in communal baths (**thermae**). A catalogue from 354 AD shows there were 952 baths of varying sizes in Rome. The largest of these, the Baths of Diocletian, could hold 1500 or more bathers. Roman baths were some of the most common and important public buildings established in the cities that they conquered or built throughout their expanding empire. The Romans copied many bathing practices from the Greeks, but went on to build even larger and more elaborate baths, throughout both Europe and North Africa.

The Roman constructed aqueducts to supply water for their domestic, agricultural and industrial requirements and to provide water for their large communal baths where it was heated by braziers, fires in large brick chambers and later by metal heat exchangers (**miliarium**).

Most baths contained an **apodyterium**, a room close to the entrance where the bathers stored their clothes. The bather then progressed into the **tepidarium** (warm room), then into the **caldarium** (hot room) "for a steam", and finally into the **frigidarium** (cold room) with its tank of cold water. The larger Roman Baths often had three entrances: one for men, one for women and one for slaves. At first, it seems that men and women had separate bathing facilities, but by the 1st Century AD it is recorded that mixed bathing was common and may have been one of the many reasons for the eventual decline of the Roman Empire. The Romans also constructed baths in their colonies, taking advantage of the natural hot springs in France (Aix-en-Provence and Vichy), in England (Bath and Buxton), in Germany (Aachen and Weisbaden), and in Austria (Baden).

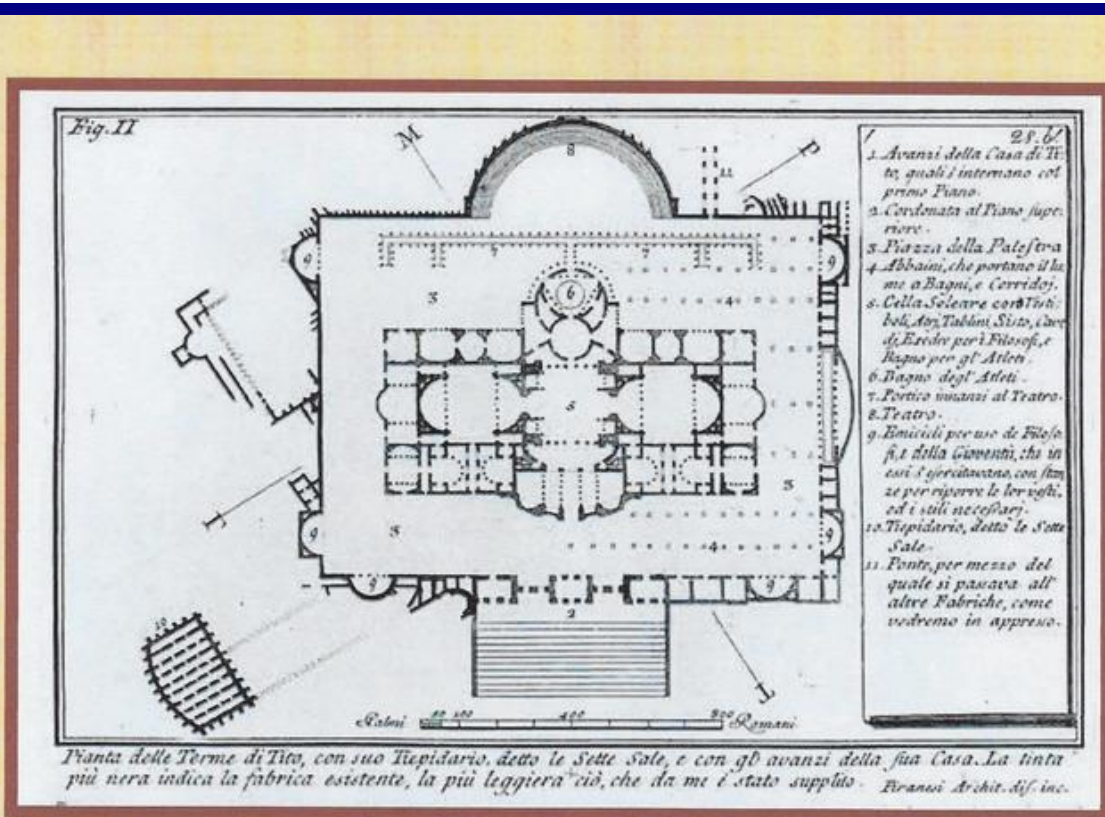


# BATHS OF TITO AT POMPEI

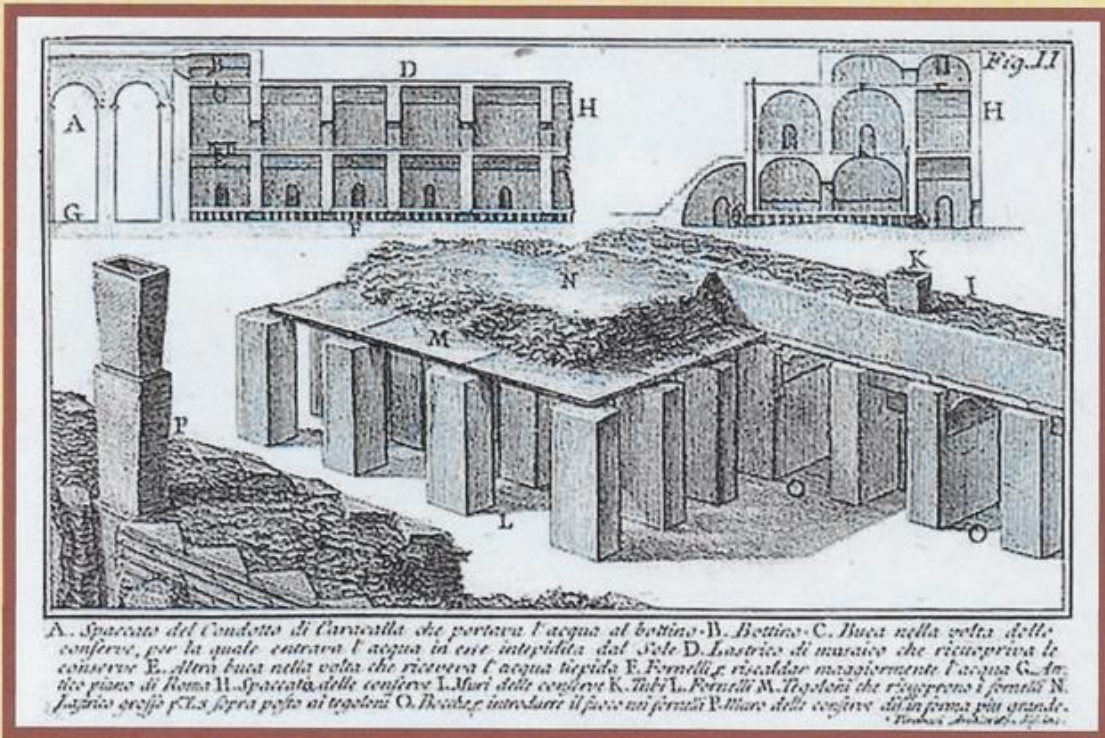


Baths of Tito, Pompei, J J Winckelmann, Works 1832-34

# BATHS OF TITO & CARACALLA

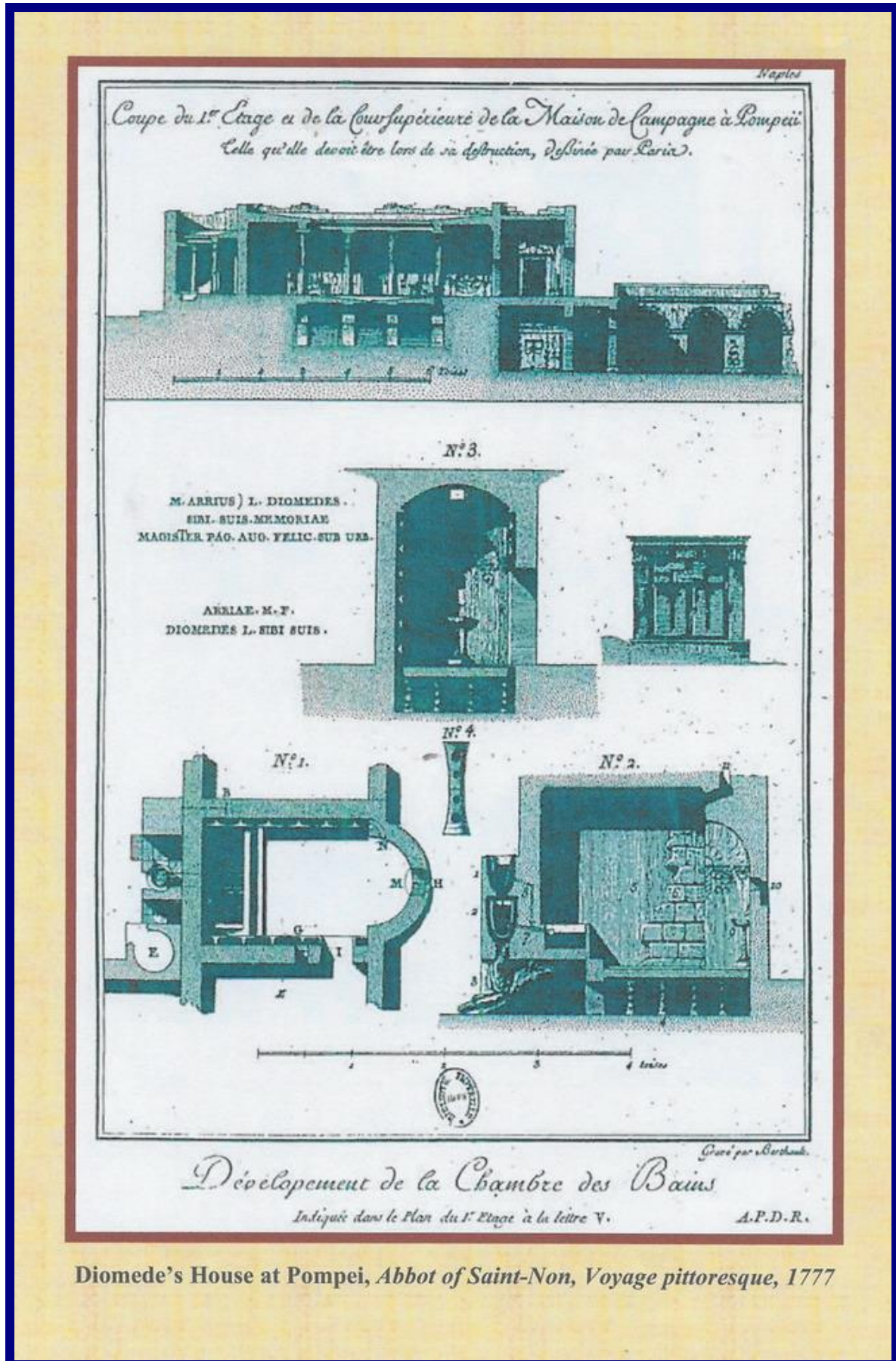


Baths of Tito, Piranesi 1784



Baths of Caracalla, 1784

# DIOMEDES HOUSE AT POMPEII



# HADRIANS VILLA TIVOLI

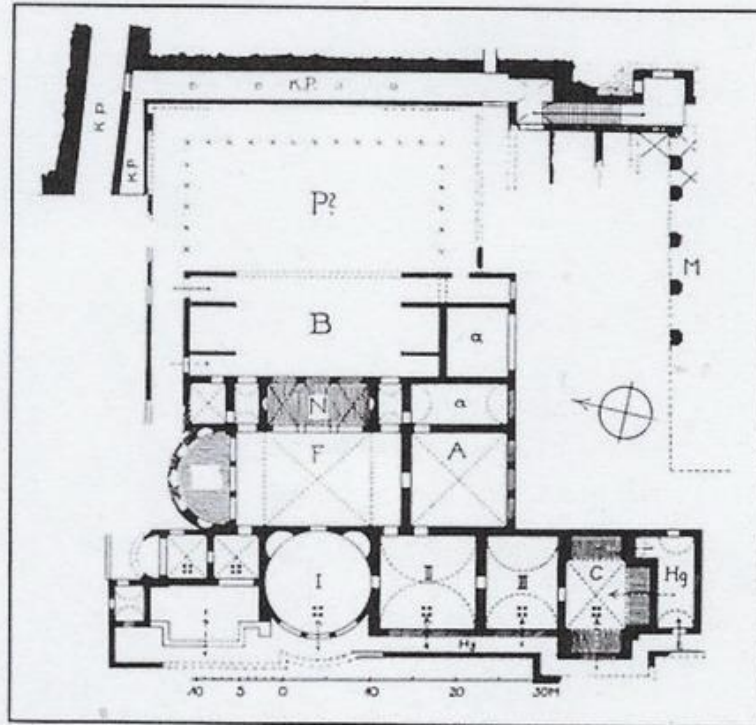


Figure 2-11 Large baths, Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli (Krencker).

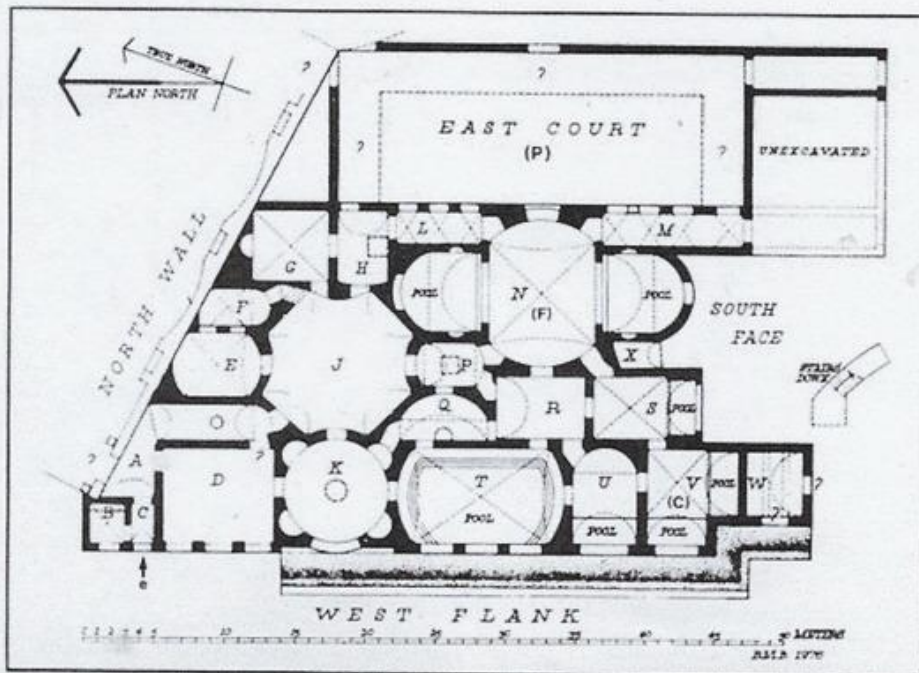


Figure 2-12 Small baths, Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli (courtesy of B.M. Boyle and W.L. MacDonald).



# HADRIANS VILLA & OSTIA BATHS

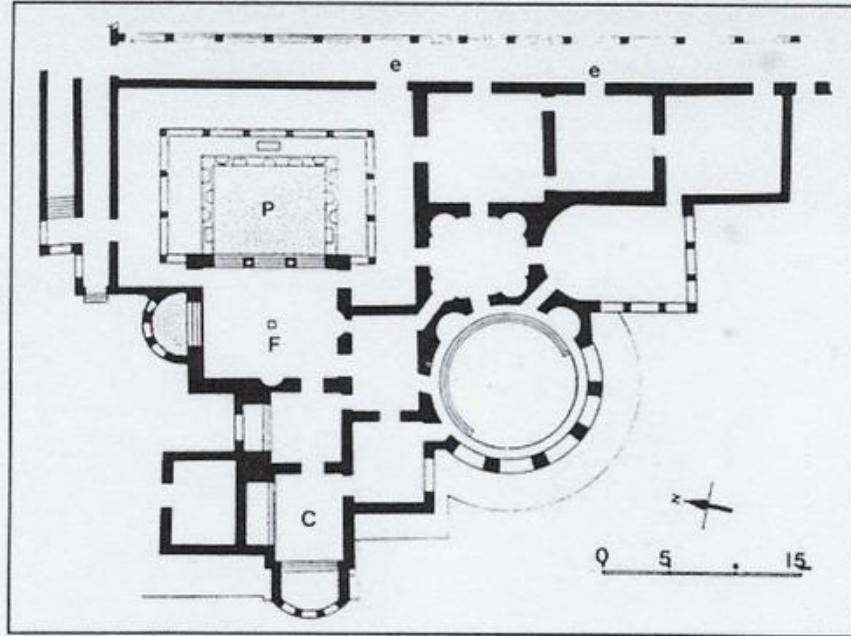


Figure 2-13 Baths-with-Heliocaminus, Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli (Hermann).

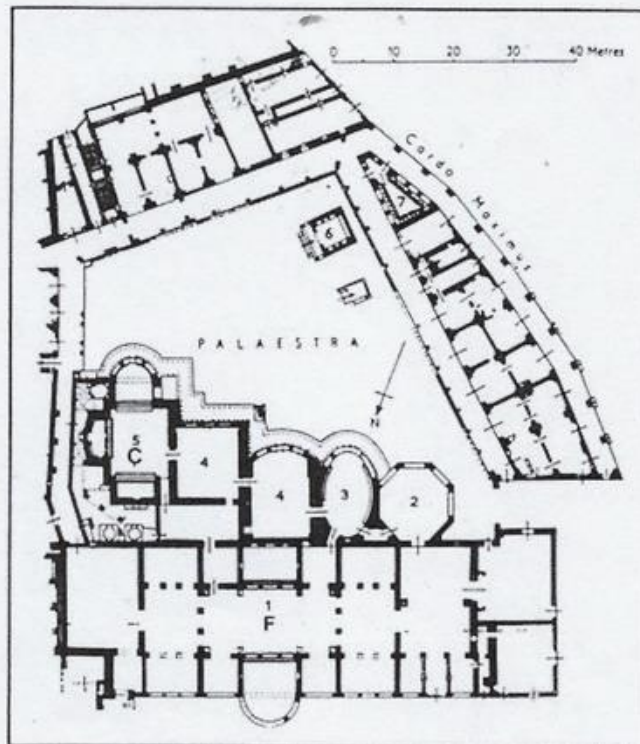
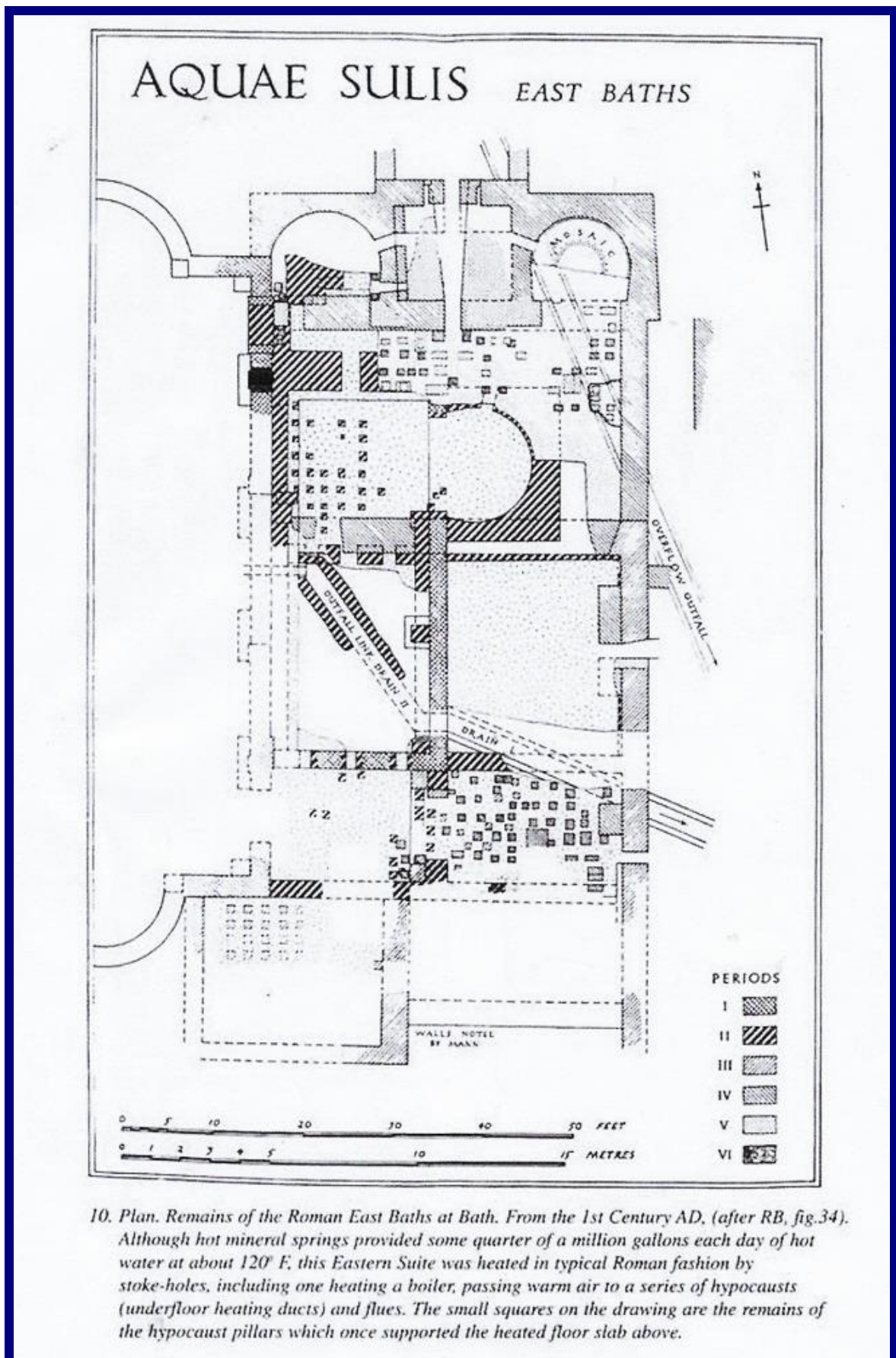


Figure 2-14 The forum baths, Ostia (from Meiggs).

# AQUAE SULIS { BATH } EAST BATHS



10. Plan. Remains of the Roman East Baths at Bath. From the 1st Century AD, (after RB, fig.34). Although hot mineral springs provided some quarter of a million gallons each day of hot water at about 120° F, this Eastern Suite was heated in typical Roman fashion by stoke-holes, including one heating a boiler, passing warm air to a series of hypocausts (underfloor heating ducts) and flues. The small squares on the drawing are the remains of the hypocaust pillars which once supported the heated floor slab above.

# ROMAN BATHS AT BATH

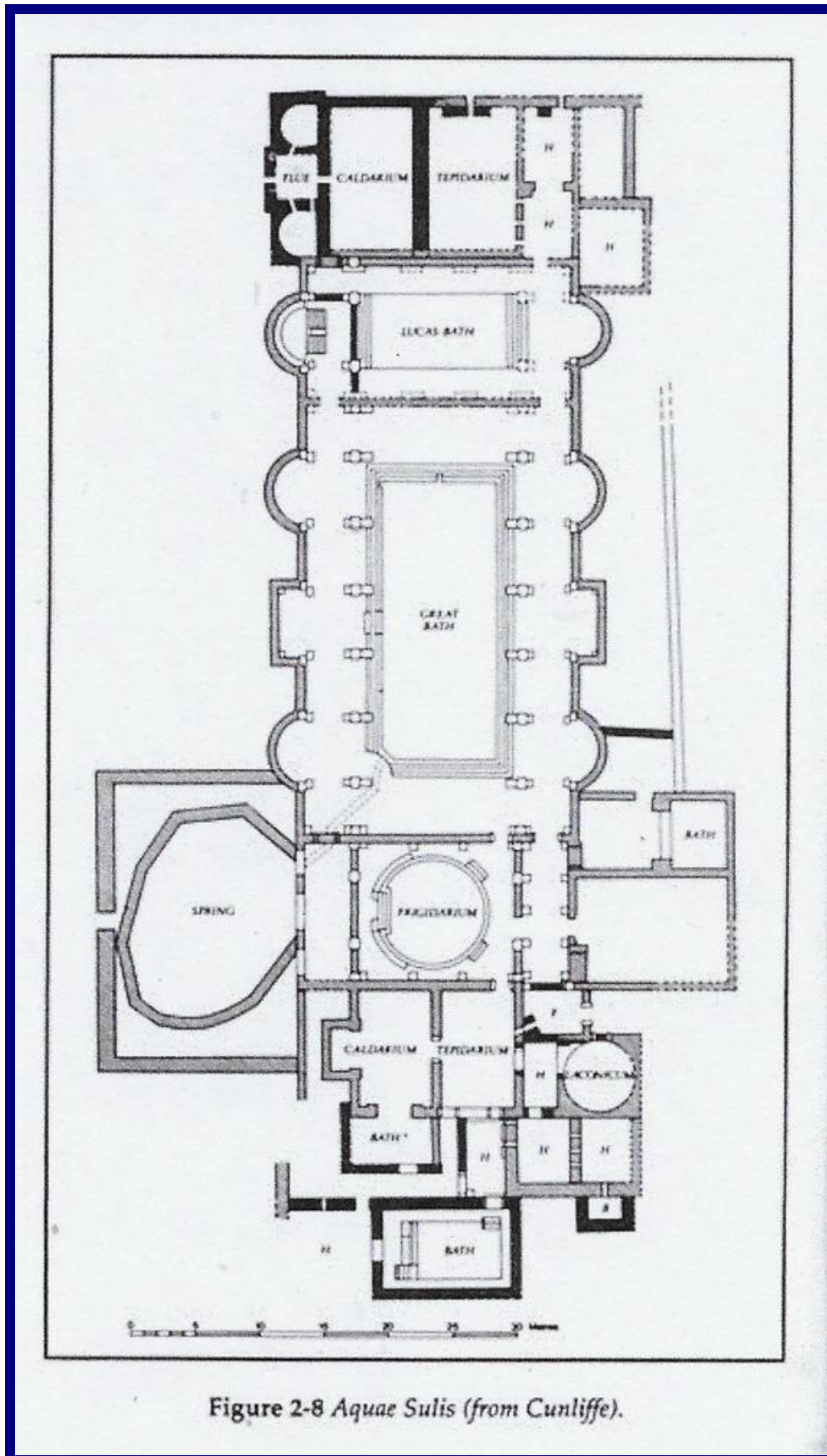
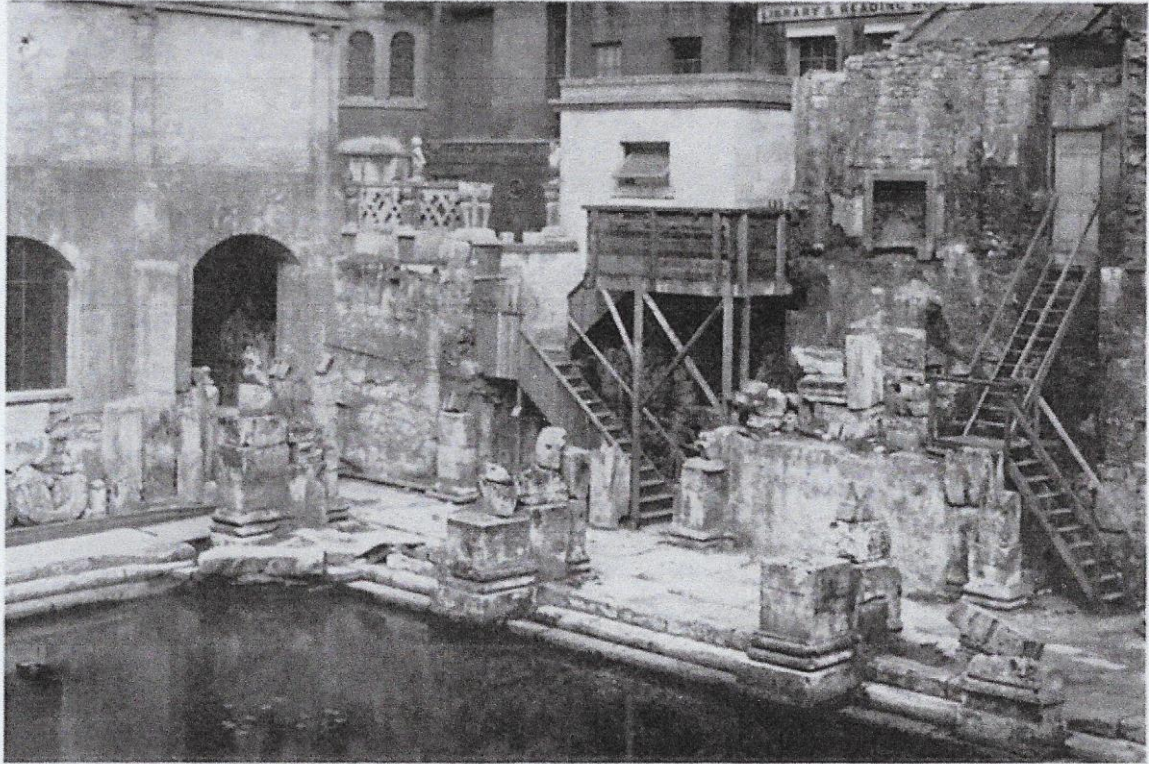


Figure 2-8 *Aquae Sulis* (from Cunliffe).



## ROMAN BATHS AT BATH



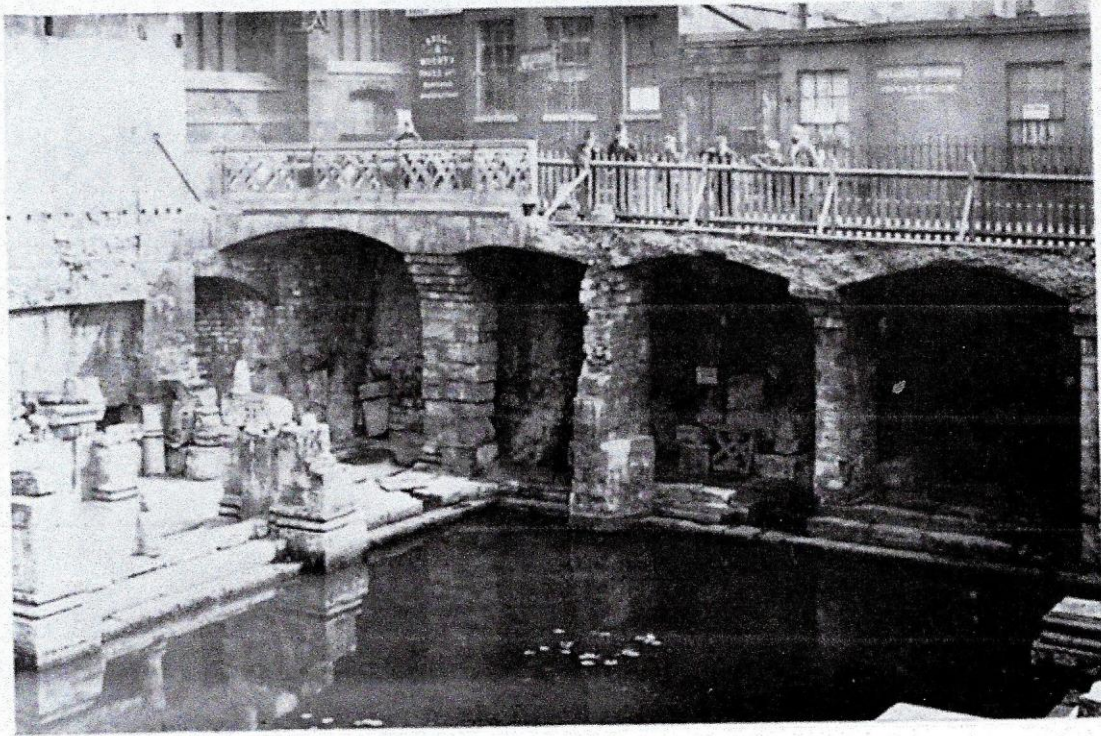
*a.* The north-west corner of the Great Bath, about 1890 (p. 91)



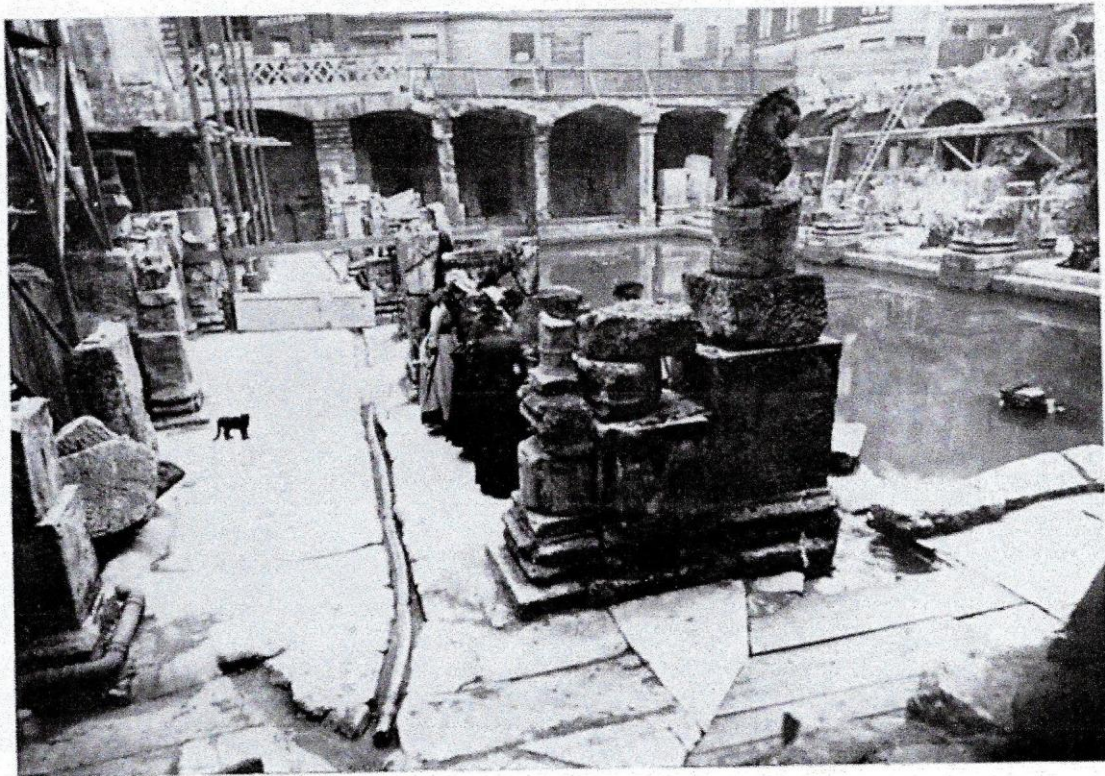
*b.* The Great Bath, looking east, about 1890 (p. 91)

# ROMAN BATHS AT BATH

PLATE XV



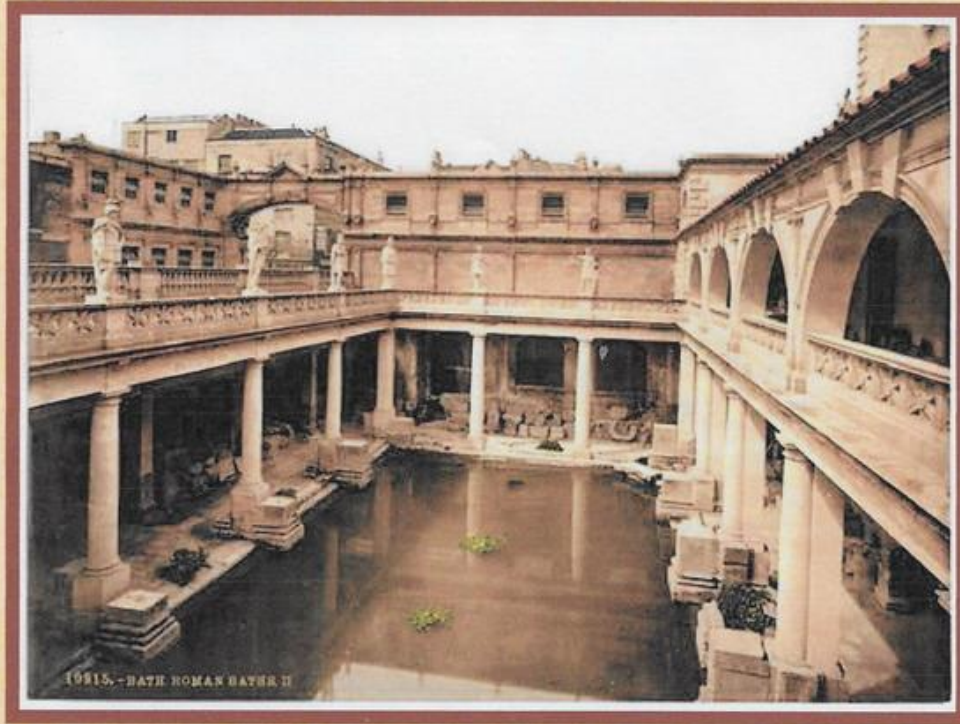
*a.* The east end of the Great Bath, about 1890 (p. 91)



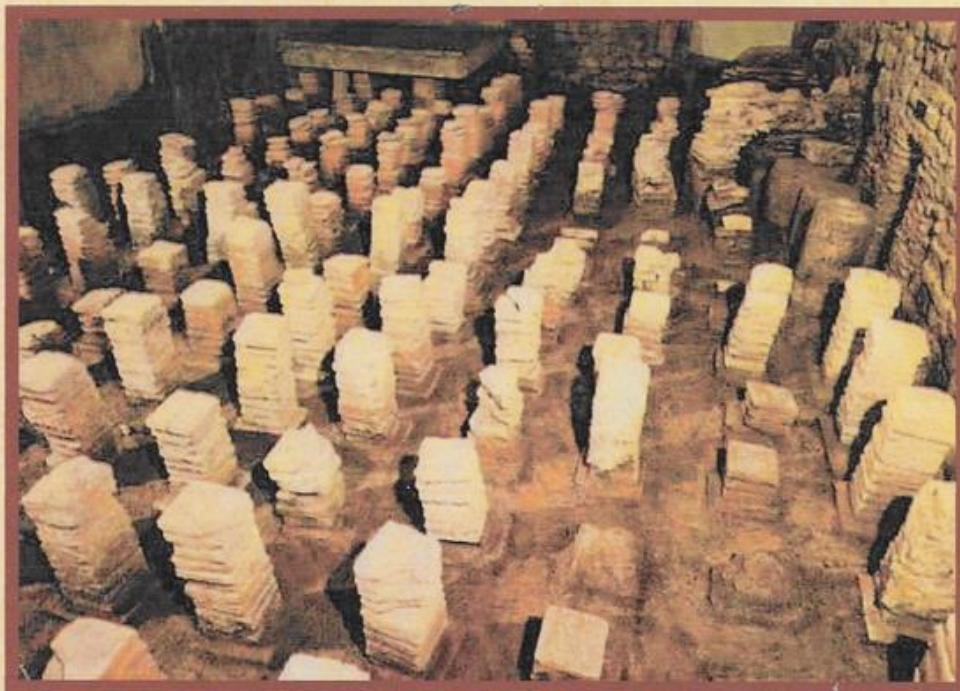
*b.* The north ambulatory of the Great Bath, about 1890 (p. 91)

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## ROMAN BATHS AT BATH



Aquae Sulis, Roman baths at Bath



Hypocaust pillars at Bath

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## THE GREAT BATH





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# THE GREAT BATH



# THE GREAT BATH EMPTIED FOR CLEANING



# THE KINGS BATH EMPTIED FOR CLEANING

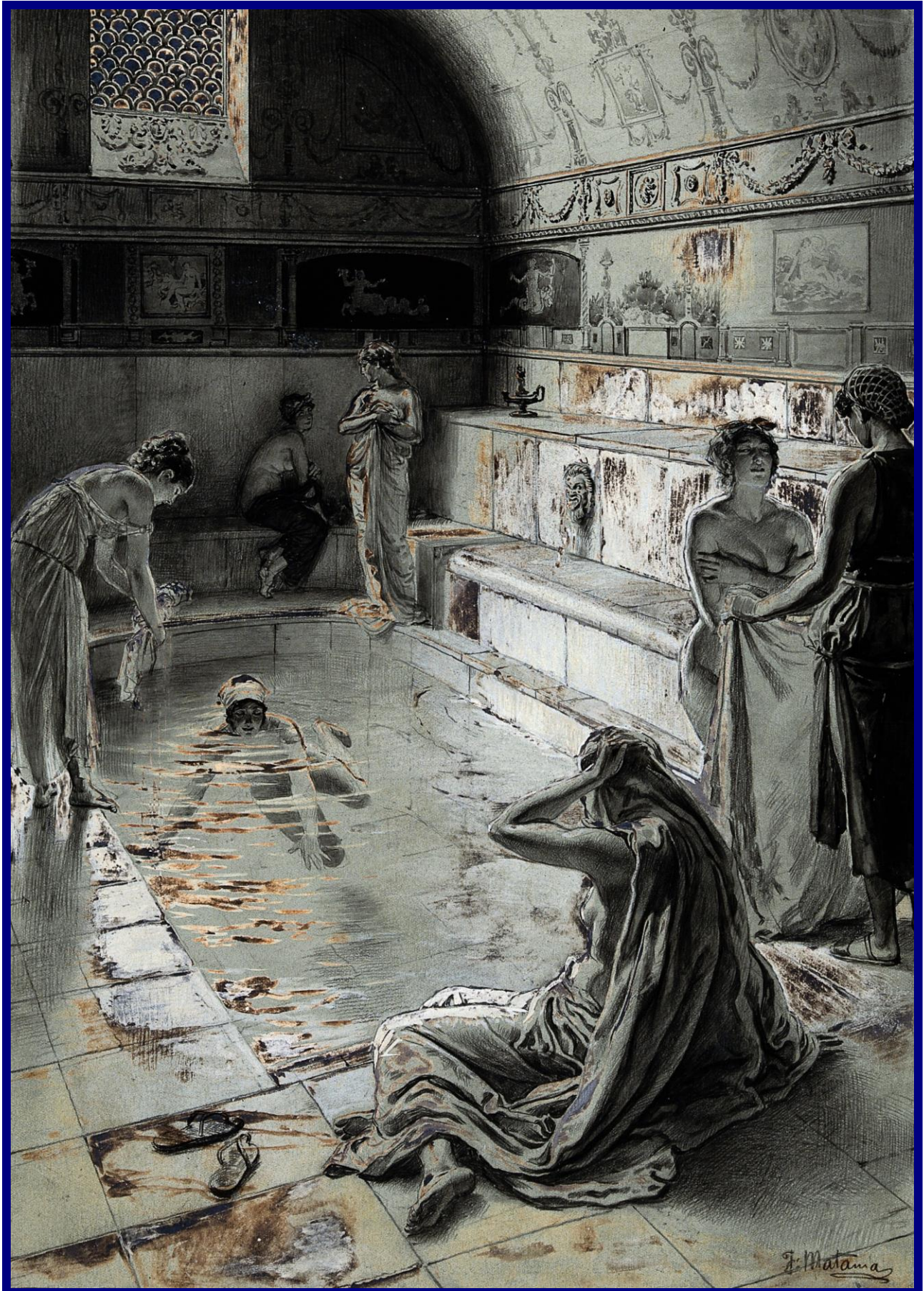


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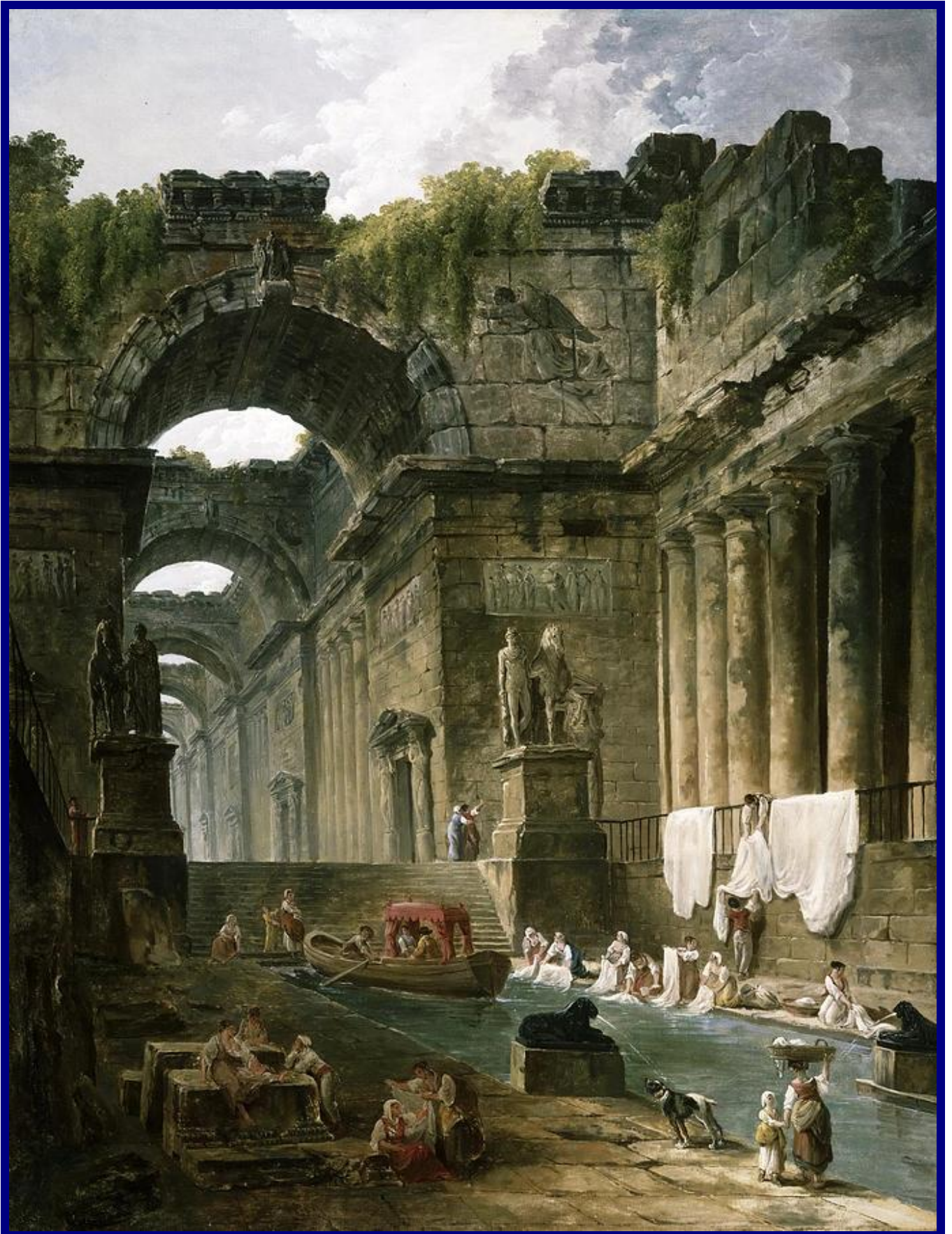
## ROMAN BATHS HYPOCAUST IN BATH



# A SMALL ROMAN BATH



# RUINS OF A ROMAN BATH



# THE ROMAN BATH AT LEICESTER



## ROMAN BATHS

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