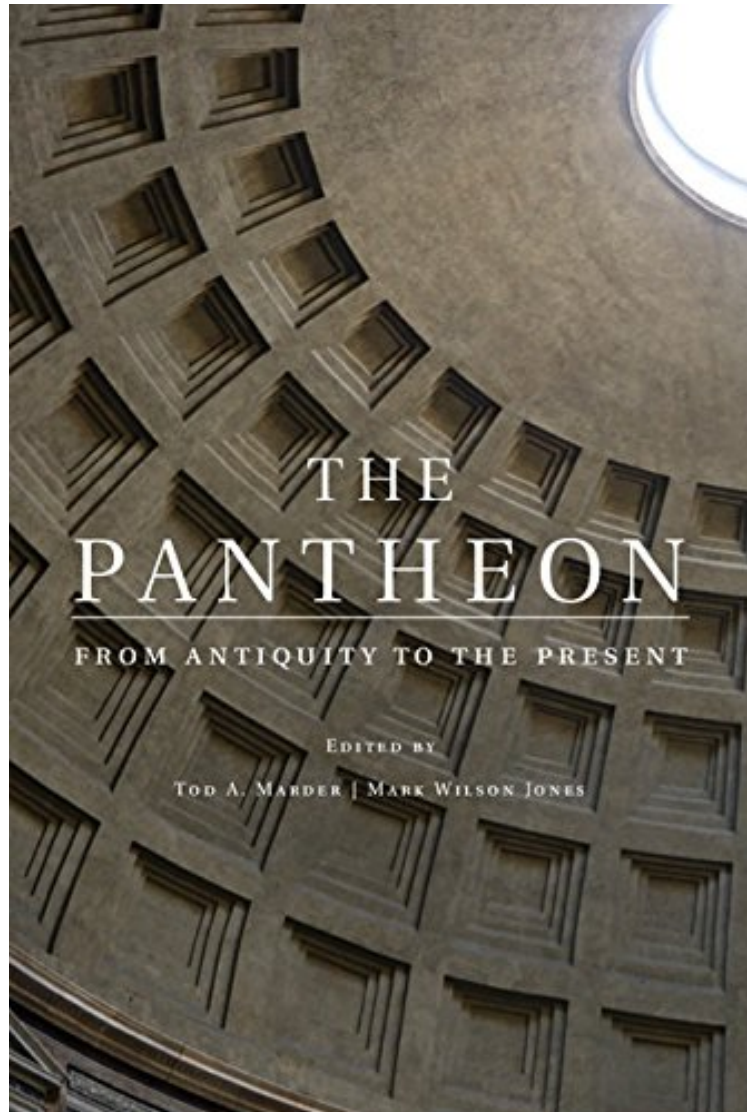


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## The Pantheon: From Antiquity to the Present

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**From Cambridge University Press : The Pantheon: From Antiquity to the Present** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pantheon: From Antiquity to the Present:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding presentation of the Pantheon through the ages By Jeff W. Written by 14 different scholars, with each authoring a specific chapter in their relevant field of expertise, this book gives a detailed and comprehensive chronological history of the Pantheon from its earliest incarnation up to the present day. The book begins with an engaging introduction to the history of the iconic building, then transitions to the archeological evidence for the original Agrippa's Pantheon which pre-dates the current Pantheon. The popular conception that Hadrian commissioned and designed the current Pantheon is convincingly challenged in favor of a

commissioning during the reign of Trajan and the design by Apollodorus of Damascus. Much of the first half of the book is dedicated to presenting the construction of the current Pantheon and its probable methods, materials, labor requirements, and architectural aspects. Subsequent chapters present the Pantheon as it existed during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries, and finally the Modern Age. While each chapter is authored by a leading Pantheon scholar, the writing remains quite accessible to the lay person with an interest in ancient Roman architecture. However, the book at times feels slightly disjointed and with an imbalance of details and focus from chapter to chapter. Where this reviewer believes this book fell just short on telling a truly comprehensive history of the Pantheon was with neglecting to elaborate on the extant "Grotton", such as its interior plan, original decoration, and its use over the ages. There was little attention given to the history of the magnificent coffering of the Pantheon's interior dome such as presenting evidence as to how it may have originally appeared — whether it was painted and how the coffers probably were originally decorated. Interior passageways and window openings within the Pantheon's cylinder are also not addressed, although the staircases inside of the transition block are addressed in detail. Also neglected was a more detailed description and history of the Pantheon's original exterior surface as well as its probable original bronze decorations. Given the tremendous scope of presenting the entire history of such an ancient iconic building, it is understandable that some aspects may have needed to be left out. The hardcover edition comes in a glossy dust jacket that lends the book a distinguished profile when placed in a bookcase. The binding and paper quality are top-notch and they give the book an air of scholarly heft. This excellent book is well worth the expense if you have more than a passing interest in the history of the Pantheon.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating book on an important building. By Elizabeth All the best research on this amazing building, with gorgeous plates and diagrams. The Pantheon is one of the most important buildings in Rome, a survivor of Ancient Rome that survived by being made into a church. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Remarkably High Quality Book By Jonathan Carter Excellent book in all aspects with detailed scholarship and images throughout.

The Pantheon is one of the most important architectural monuments of all time. Thought to have been built by Emperor Hadrian in approximately AD 125 on the site of an earlier, Agrippan-era monument, it brilliantly displays the spatial pyrotechnics emblematic of Roman architecture and engineering. The Pantheon gives an up-to-date account of recent research on the best preserved building in the corpus of ancient Roman architecture from the time of its construction to the twenty-first century. Each chapter addresses a specific fundamental issue or period pertaining to the building; together, the essays in this volume shed light on all aspects of the Pantheon's creation, and establish the importance of the history of the building to an understanding of its ancient fabric and heritage, its present state, and its special role in the survival and evolution of ancient architecture in modern Rome.

"The contributors provide a valuable synthesis of recent research on the Pantheon, the paradigm of Roman architectural and engineering prowess. They also identify new and productive directions for subsequent research on the ancient edifice and on its extended legacy." John Pinto, Princeton University, New Jersey "For two thousand years, the Pantheon has stood watch in the center of Rome, a marvel of engineering and an unfailingly mysterious symbol. Both the marvel and the mystery shine forth from this definitive book, with its impeccable scholarship, new ideas, and long international perspective." Ingrid Rowland, University of Notre Dame, Indiana "Focused on the Pantheon, arguably the most iconic building of western architecture, this magisterial volume brings together a distinguished group of international scholars who tell a gripping story. New answers to unsolved questions of who built it and why, how, and when succeed each other and connect to lively accounts of the fascination it held for countless generations from the early Middle Ages to modern times." Alina Payne, Harvard University, Massachusetts

About the Author  
Tod A. Marder is Professor of Art History at Rutgers, State University of New Jersey. He has lectured and published widely on the Pantheon, the art and architecture of Bernini, and many related topics. His work has earned fellowship support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies and the American Philosophical Society, among others. He is the author of *Bernini and the Art of Architecture*, which received the thirty-fifth Daria Borghese Prize for best book on a Roman topic by a non-Italian author. Mark Wilson Jones is Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Bath. His research concentrates on ancient architecture and its design, along with the ramifications for developments since the Renaissance. He is the author of *Principles of Roman Architecture*, the first book to be awarded both the Banister Fletcher Prize and the Alice Davis Hitchcock Prize.