

What Happened to Caesar's Building Projects After 44 B.C.E?

Traditionally, Caesar's proposed monumental program at Rome should have been the prerogative of his successor, namely Octavian. However, Antony had been anxious to be identified as Caesar's successor as well. No doubt discounting the youth as a competitor for control of Caesar's partisans and building projects after the assassination, Antony began quickly to pick up where Caesar had left off in Rome's embellishment in order to garner their support. It would have been easy for Antony to seize the responsibility for Caesar's projects since Octavian would have been occupied in trying to establish and coalesce a base of support, support that Antony already had because of his age and long association with Caesar.

This paper examines the partisans (eleven men total) of Antony and Octavian and their building operations from the period between Caesar's death in 44 B.C.E. and the battle of Actium in 31 B.C.E. It reveals that the partisans of Antony undertook operations involving projects planned by Caesar. It seems that their affiliation with Caesar prior to giving their support to Antony influenced their assignment of monuments, since, with the exception of Octavian himself, no one else undertook Caesar's projects.

Octavian kept his share of Caesar's projects to himself during this same period. Since he only had two, the Forum Iulium and Basilica Iulia, there was really nothing for him to assign to his partisans if he wished to take part in completing Caesar's program and compete with Antony. Therefore, Octavian assigned his partisans building projects that included several temples though none of their projects were connected in any way to Julius Caesar.

This examination concludes from a comparison of the monuments undertaken by the partisans before 31 B.C.E. that Octavian appears to have been given only a small share of

Caesar's planned projects for Rome with little, if any, influence over how the remaining projects were assigned. It was Antony who managed to gain the upper hand and keep the majority of Caesar's projects to himself.