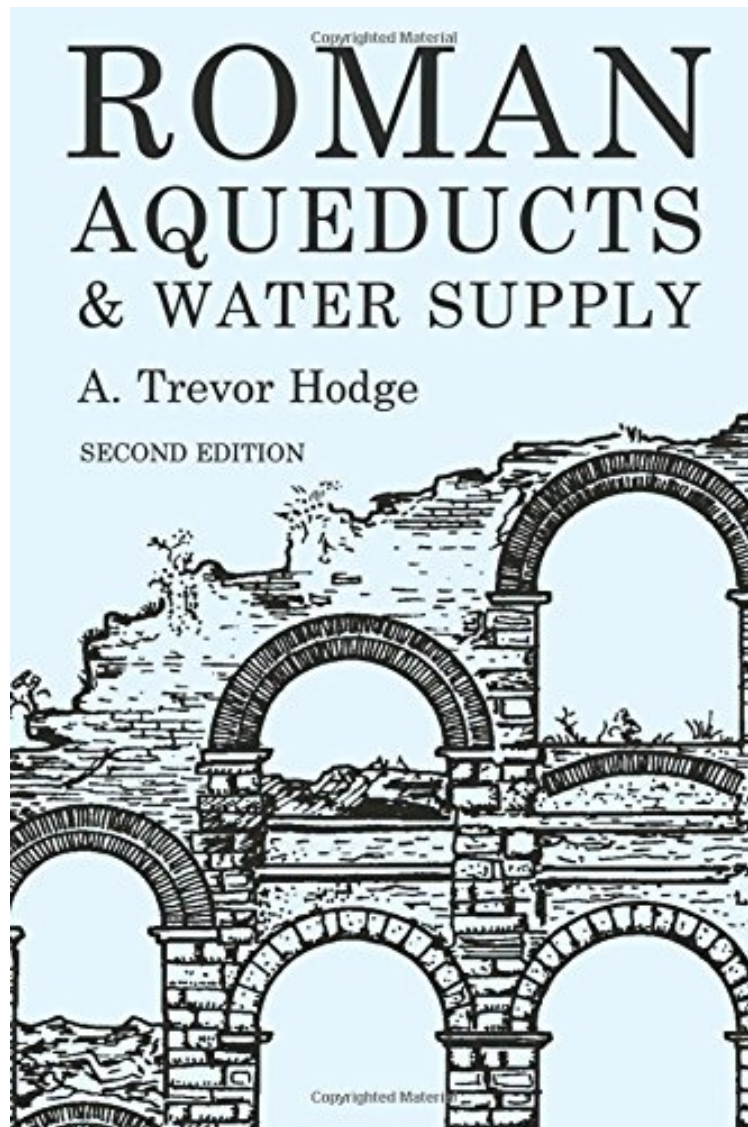


(Mobile ebook) Roman Aqueducts and Water Supply (Duckworth Archaeology)

Roman Aqueducts and Water Supply (Duckworth Archaeology)

A. Trevor Hodge

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A. Trevor Hodge : Roman Aqueducts and Water Supply (Duckworth Archaeology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roman Aqueducts and Water Supply (Duckworth Archaeology):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerAn amazingly thorough and detailed work.26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Why, when in Rome, you could drink the water.By George RileyThis book will appeal to two kinds of people: those who have engineering or technical backgrounds, and those who don't. My wife is in the second category. She found the history and details of the water supply gave a fascinating window

into ordinary life in Roman times. The problem that every civilization must solve, obtaining and distributing potable water, solved in a characteristically Roman manner by efficient public construction. As an engineer, I became fascinated with the technical knowledge and skills demonstrated. Both civil engineering and hydraulic engineering expertise, achieving fine results with crude instruments. We marvel at Roman stonework, but keeping a constant slope over several kilometers is more technically difficult. I found that much of what one knows about aqueducts isn't true. Siphons to cross valleys, instead of more costly and difficult bridges. Manholes at frequent intervals, for manually cleaning out limestone deposits, the bane of the system. Concrete and polished hydraulic cement. Who knew? While the topics are technical, the writing is clear and self-explanatory, and the text is profusely illustrated. As long as you remember that water runs downhill, you'll be technically comfortable. The text follows the downhill flow of the water through the system, from the lakes or springs, to the cities, to the baths and fountains, to the sewers. My major complaint is poor availability. Despite its current (August '05) "normally 3 to 5 weeks" to ship, I've now waited over 30 days for my second copy, and have been advised of at least another 30 day delay. My emailed enquiry to the publisher went unanswered. I want to share this book with friends, but not my copy. "There are two kinds of fools: those who lend books, and those who return them." So, order yours now. Maybe you'll get it by Christmas. Enjoy!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A delightful book for the armchair civil engineer

By David Manthey

After seeing a small portion of an aqueduct in Rome, I wanted to know more. I knew they couldn't all run on arcades above ground, nor just end in a fancy fountain. This book answers what we know about Roman aqueducts in a very readable form. There are plenty of figures, reminders of some principles of hydraulics (for those of us who only dimly remember our fluid mechanics), and good details throughout. I found the notes at the end to be quite interesting, and half wish that they had been footnotes instead of end notes for ease of reference. I recognize that this wouldn't suit most readers, though. From a historical perspective, I am delighted that the author says what isn't known or has been assumed just as much as he tells what is known and why. Too often, someone's pet theory becomes a "fact" through repetition, and (without having done any research in the field myself), I feel the author has tried to avoid all such gaffs. I heartily recommend this book to anyone with an interest in civil engineering or Roman history.

How did a Roman waterworks work? How were the aqueducts planned and built? What happened to the water before it arrived in the aqueduct and after it left, in catchment, urban distribution and drainage? What were the hydraulics and drainage involved? In a comprehensive, generously illustrated study ranging through the Roman aqueducts of France, Germany, Spain, North Africa, Turkey and Israel as well as the Roman heartland of Italy, A. Trevor Hodge introduces us to these often neglected aspects of what the Romans themselves regarded as one of the greatest glories of their civilisation. *Roman Aqueducts* is now available for the first time in paperback, brought completely up-to-date with a new Preface and additional Bibliography.

'...brings together a vast quantity of information in a lively and highly readable form, with extensive notes and illustrations and a comprehensive bibliography. The index is particularly well done. Anyone seriously interested in the working of Roman aqueducts (and even the casually curious) will be using this valuable survey again and again.'-- Harry B. Evans, *American Journal of Archaeology*

About the Author

A. Trevor Hodge is Distinguished Research Professor of Classics at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.