

1980 *Rome: Profile of  
a City, 312–1308*

(Click here to view our web site description.)

Richard Krautheimer

This magisterial survey of the art and architecture of medieval Rome capped the career of German-born art historian Richard Krautheimer. A renowned scholar of medieval and Renaissance art and architecture, he had previously written vol-

umes of specialized art historical research, such as a five-volume study of Rome's basilica churches with the forbidding title *Basilicarum Christianarum Romae*. But at the age of eighty-three, Krautheimer took the opportunity to distill his great learning for a wider audience. Based on a series of lectures at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, *Rome: Profile of a City* featured his erudition but in plainspoken, conversational prose accessible to a general public.

With 260 illustrations that include photos, maps, and drawings, many of which were made by the author himself, the book is what Krautheimer called "a thousand-year history of Rome through her monuments." It comprises two parts: the first traces the urban development of Rome from 312 to 1308, exploring not only the often scant physical remains of the city but also the religious, political, social, and economic forces that shaped them. The second section focuses on reconstituting the evolving map of the city during the late Middle Ages, from the tenth through the thirteenth century.

No one can write on the subject of medieval European art and architecture without acknowledging a debt to Richard Krautheimer.

