

The history of the GLANUM FORUM

The site of Glanum has a deep cultural heritage spanning from its first settlement c. 6th-century BC to its abandonment due to Almenic Invasions in 260 AD (Roth, 2001). One of the best examples of this rich history lies beneath the forum at Glanum, established in the heart of the settlement, where human activity has been centralised for centuries. However, dating and identifying the function of the space has been a difficulty when deconstructing the layers of Glanum's past, particularly in discerning the cultural role and developments of this space.

UNDERSTANDING GLANUM

First recognised in ancient sources as a Salluvid Village (Ptolemy, Tetrabiblos), Glanum was located 2 days walking distance from Massilia (Figure 1). Thus Greek and Roman influences had a direct effect upon the Celtic- Ligurian settlement due to the strong Greek then Roman presence in Massilia. This lead to an increased 'Hellenisation' of local populations as evident in the architecture at Glanum, such as the Tuscan Temple built in the 2nd-century BC (Heyn, 2006). It is important to stress that this shift in material practices does not reflect a change in other aspects of cultural identity such as belief systems. The presence of a spring meant that Glanum had strong religious significance to the indigenous culture that arguably prolonged its eventual 'Romanisation' (Anderson, 2012).

In Gaul	In the Roman Empire
125BC Salluvi defeat by Rome	219-202 BC Second Punic War
122BC second Salluvid defeat	102BC invading Germanic tribe
90BC final revolt of the Salluvi and the razing of Glanum	100-40 BC Julius Caesar reigned
45BC granted Latin Rights by Ceasar (oppidum latinum)	
c.20 BC Rebuilding phase I in Glanum	27-14 BC Augustus Caesar reigns
c. 50 AD Rebuilding II in Glanum	41-54 AD Emperor Claudius Reigned
260AD Almenic invasions force site to be abandoned	

FIGURE 4: TIMELINE OF GLANUM NEXT TO RELEVANT ROMAN DATES

LIMITATIONS TO UNDERSTANDING GLANUM

The excavation of the ruins of Glanum has been met with many problems, predominantly when dating and identifying the monuments. Above is a timeline (Figure 4) of events in Glanum in comparison to events in the Roman Empire that I considered to have had a notable effect on the settlement, whether direct or indirect. For example the Second Punic War that increased Roman presence in southern Gaul due to the alliance with Massilia in (Heyn, 2006).

Dating: Political tensions and conflict meant that Glanum, as a Salluvic settlement, saw periods of mass construction and destruction that correlated with its relationship with the Roman Empire. In the 2-century BC there was a noticeable increase in monumental construction at the site, potentially as a demonstration of local identity and rebellion against increased Roman presence in the area (Anderson, 2012), however this was mostly destroyed in 90BC. Nonetheless this is a good example of reactionary activity to social changes at the time. Glanum was then rebuilt in the mid 1st-century BC, around the time it gained the title *Oppidum Latinum*, this has caused challenges as the new buildings were built from remnants of the destroyed monuments and took over a decade to build, making dating difficult (Anderson, 2012). This and lack of administrative records means that dating the exact construction of Glanum mostly speculative (Heyn, 2006). Furthermore material evidence for Glanum is confined to mostly the ruins due to the limited availability of other artefacts, including amphorae shards which were mostly discarded when excavated in antiquity (Heyn, 2006), even then these are mostly foundations as much of the stone was stripped away in the 4-5th-centuries AD when Glanum was used as a quarry (Roth, 2001). Unfortunately this loss of information means much of Glanum's history is uncertainly placed often relying on what was known of surrounding areas.

Identifying: With Glanum being destroyed or dismantled many times (as evident in the repurposing of stone in the architecture) it is hard to discern with any certainty the exact function and identity of buildings as much of this is reliant on cultural context. Take the proposed prytaneum and the bouleuterion as key examples of this, the lack of evidence means the function of these buildings can only be speculated. When looking at what is proposed to be the prytaneum, it's highly ornate decoration, large courtyard and central location (34 in Figure 3) suggest public use, however historians are divided over its use. It has been suggested that it was a prytenean and would have been used for hosting, feasting as well as in connection with religious festivals (Roth Congès 1997), however Gros (1995) counter argues that the building may have had a commercial role, acting as a market place. This theory relies on the idea of Glanum being a de facto gathering place and acting as a 'toll booth' to pastures (Heyn, 2006), although it provides an economic explanation for the extensive building work, it ignores the religious significance of Glanum. This conflict of ideas is a key example of one of the main difficulties in Glanum as both have sufficient evidence to be credible, but neither can be proven (Anderson, 2012). Finally it should always be taken into consideration that Glanum was primarily an indigenous settlement, therefore regardless of how many Hellenistic and Roman elements there are, they should be seen as a tool for cultural expression rather than a reflection of cultural identity, the local culture still prevailed as evident by stylistic choices such as the figures used in the capitals of columns as well as in practical elements such as the use of the local units of measurement in construction as opposed to Greek or Roman ones (Anderson, 2012).

The layout of the town is also a cause for difficulty in both dating and identifying ruins, the asymmetry of many of the buildings suggest irregular building whether it was incomplete or changed direction construction. However it should also be considered the geography of Glanum in a crevice as opposed to most oppidi that were usually constructed on hilltops, therefore there was limited space to work with due to the landscape, for example there is evidence of part of the hill being cut away to make space for the forum (Anderson, 2012).

Finally the difficulty in modern scholarship in the labelling of 'Hellenism' causes problems as it does not equate to Greek or Latin culture, instead it describes a style of architecture that draws influence from Mediterranean cultures, this does not accurately reflect changes in the identity or beliefs of a culture practicing these styles beyond the adoption of new methods (Heyn, 2006).

THE LAYERS OF THE FORUM

What we now understand to be the forum is located in the centre of the crevice in which Glanum was built, dividing the residential from the sacral areas. It is therefore reasonable to assume that this central space has always held significance to the surrounding population.

Iron Age: Due to the presence of the spring, there is evidence of early activity in Glanum from the 6th-century BC. The site was not settled or urbanised but instead it is proposed that it was used as a centre for religious practices by local communities (Anderson, 2012).

Second Century BC: Excavations of under and around the forum reveal what is theorised to be a Tuscan Temple (A in Figure 2) from c. 2nd-century BC and a central trapezoid courtyard (G in Figure 2) measuring 10 x 13m. The courtyard was too large for domestic use and thus probably had a public function (Roth Congès 1992).

Bouleuterion and Prytaneum: one of the main examples of uncertainty in identifying the structures of the past in relation to cultural identity (see below) are the buildings G and E of Figure 2. The public building with columns and porticos is the indisputable result of hellenistic influence, but this does not translate into the culture being 'hellenistic' itself.

Forum I: Built in the Augustan period at the end of the 1st century BC and in use until the mid 1st century AD (20s BC) the first forum in Glanum is evident from the remains of vestiges of the basilica, a simple hall with 2 naves (Roth Congès, 2001). Foundations of the columns plus ruins of an earlier house remain (the house of Sulla). The first forum may have been constructed after Glanum gained the title *oppidum latinum* (Roth Congès, 2001). It is illustrated by the lighter grey in Figure 3.

The House of Sulla is one of the main elements in identifying early roman presence and influence in Glanum with the inscription '*Co(rnelii) Sullae*' thus placing the powerful Roman family of the Corneli within Glanum (Heyn, 2006)

Forum II: In use from the mid 1st until the abandonment of the site in 260 AD it was built in the Julio-Claudian era (Roth Congès, 2001). It follows the classical plan of a forum for a small *city* potentially marking the rise of Glanum into a more prominent site in the Roman Empire (Roth Congès, 2001). The square with 2 porticoes, basilica and 2 attachments of the courthouse and imperial cult and a curia is depicted below in dark grey in Figure 3. This large central space was definitely a cultural centre as opposed to economic with strong emphasis on the state religion.



FIGURE 2: 2ND CENTURY BC GLANUM (HEYN, 2006)

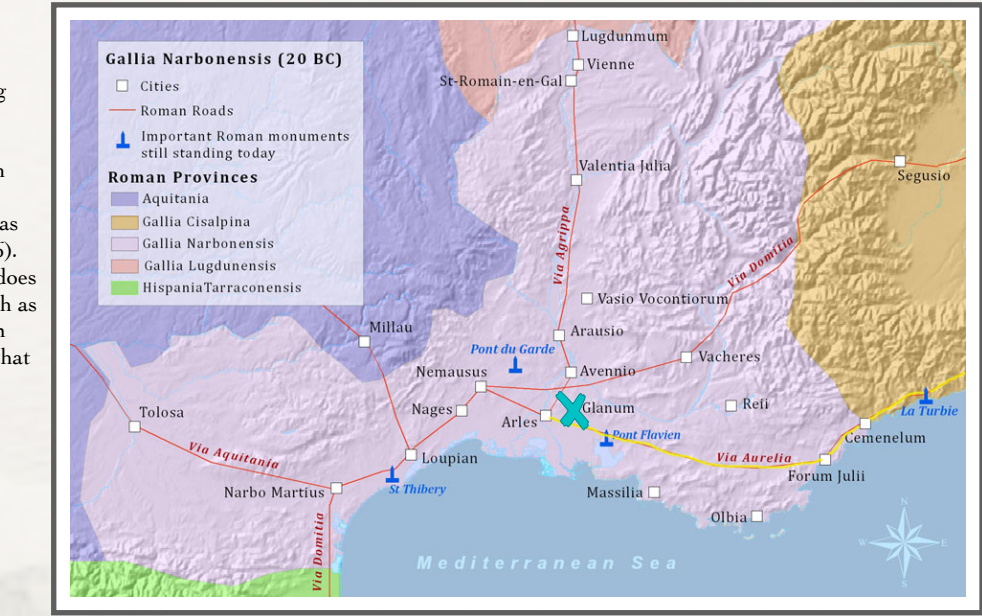


FIGURE 1: MAP OF SOUTHERN GAUL IN 20 BC (ROME 2016)

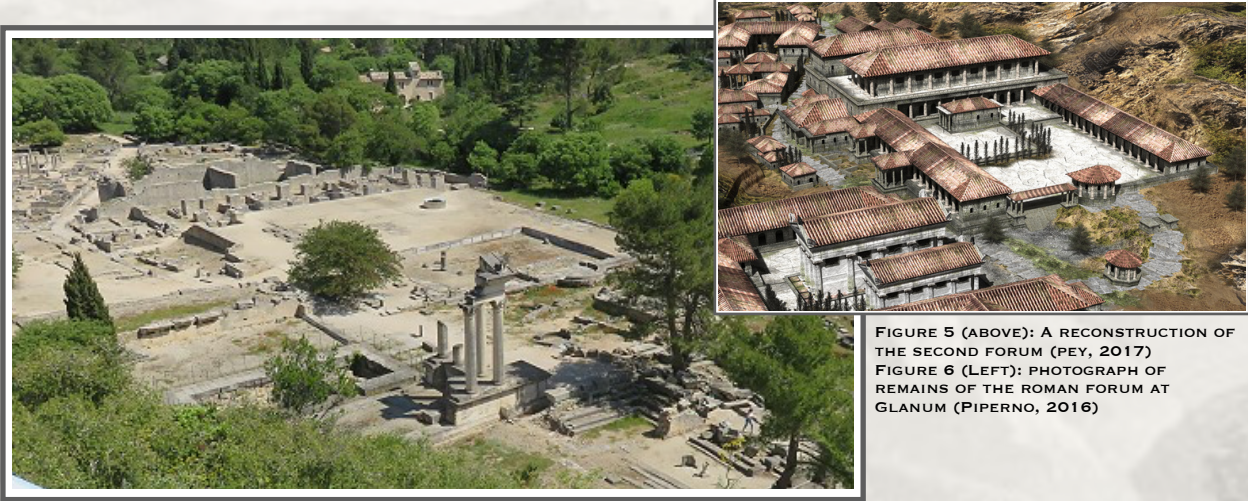


FIGURE 5 (ABOVE): A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SECOND FORUM (PEY, 2017)
FIGURE 6 (LEFT): PHOTOGRAPH OF REMAINS OF THE ROMAN FORUM AT GLANUM (PIPERNO, 2016)

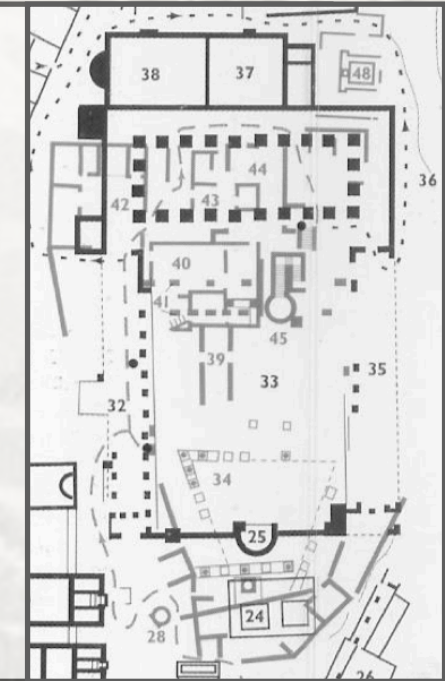
Plan of the Central Area (Centre des monuments nationaux)

- 24 Tiled Platform
- 25 "closing of" the forum (*check translation*)
- 28 Hellenistic Fountain
- 32 West Portico of the Forum
- 33 Forum
- 34 Town Hall/ Prytaneum
- 35 East Portico of the Forum
- 36 Basilica of Forum II
- 37 Court and chapel to the Imperial Cult
- 38 Curia
- 39 Doorway
- 40 House with 2 alcove
- 41 Basilica of Forum I
- 42 House of Sulla
- 43 House with painted coatings
- 44 Tuscan Temple
- 45 Roofed wells
- 48 House with Doric- Tuscan peristyles

Key:

- Glanum from the 2nd -century AD
- Glanum prior to the 2nd -century AD

FIGURE 3: EXTRACT OF A SITE PLAN OF GLANUM (ROTH 2001)



Bibliography
Anderson jr, J. C. 2012. *Roman Architecture in Provence*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge
Gros, P. 1995. *Hercule à Glanum*. Sanctuaires de transhumance et développement "urbain". Gallia Vol. 52. Pages 311-331
Heyn, M. K. 2006. *Monumental Development in Glanum: Evidence for the Early Impact of Rome in Gallia Narbonensis*. Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology 19.2. Pages 177-198
Ptolemy, C. c. 2nd-century AD. Ashmand, J. M. (translator). *Tetrabiblos*. Astrology Classics. Bel-Air.
Roth Congès, A. 1992. *Le centre monumental de Glanum, ou les derniers feux de la civilisation salienne*. In Bats, M. Bertucchi, G. Congès, G. Tréziny, H. (editors). *Marseille grecque et la Gaule. Etudes Massaliètes* vol. 3, pages 351-367. ADAM and Université de Provence. Lattes and Aix-en Provence.
1997. *La fortune éphémère de Glanum: du religieux à l'économique*. Gallia, vol. 55, pages 157-202.
2001. *Glanum: From Salluvian oppidum to Roman city*. Centre des Monuments Nationaux. Paris.
Images
Background: Unknown. 1816-1836. "*Alexandre de Laborde - The Monuments of France Chronologically Classified*". [Plate] Available at: <http://www.romeartlover.it/Glanum.html> (Last Accessed: 28/3/19)
Pey, F. 2017. *The ancient city of Glanum, circa 50 A.D. / 3D Illustration*. [3D reconstruction].<https://www.akg-images.com/archive/The-ancient-city-of-Glanum--circa-50-A.D.--3D-Illustration-2UMEBMYMZ9PVY.html#/>
SearchResult&ITEMID=2UMEBMYMZ9PVY&POPUPPN=1&POPUPIID=2UMEBMYMZ9PVY Available at: (Last Accessed: 28/3/19)
Piperno, R. 2016. *Overall view of the archaeological site*. [Photograph] Available at: <http://www.romeartlover.it/Glanum2.html> (Last Accessed: 28/3/19)
Rome, J. 2016. *Map of Galia Narbonensis (20BC)*. [Digital Map]. Available at: <https://romeonrome.com/2016/10/provence-the-roman-province-along-the-via-julia/> (Last Accessed: 20/3/19)