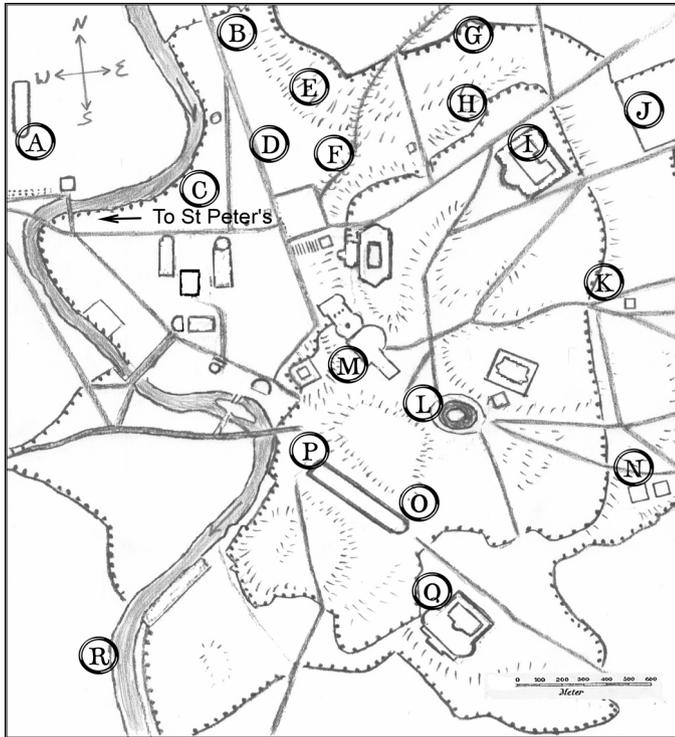


THE CITY OF ROME

from *TO ABANDON ROME*, AD 593 by Vann Turner



Never has a city been more blessed with beautiful architecture—both civic and religious—than Rome. But that is just part of the cityscape. Tenements and slums lined the innumerable alleyways. At the time of this novel the population had decreased from well over a million to a mere thirty thousand, a tenth of them monks.

- A The Circus of Hadrian. Since the Church forbade chariot racing and gambling within the city limits, the people circumvented the rules by doing such outside the city limits.
- B The Flaminian Gate, the major portal to points north.
- C Tarentum with its sulfur springs and Altar to *Pater Dis*, the god of the underworld. That altar was buried in the sand. Every hundred years the sand was removed and sacrifice was made. Horace wrote a

hymn for the occasion.

- D *Via Lata*, leading from the Flaminian Gate to the old Roman Forum.
- E The Gardens and Estate of Sallust, built during the Republic, so opulent that Emperors would come to live here. Although barbarian invaders did not seek to burn or raze the city, in Alaric's sack of Rome of AD 410 it was utterly destroyed.
- F *Aqua Virgo* survived the four sacks intact: Until it reaches the city, the aqueduct's course is underground. It is still in use today.
- G Wall of Emperor Aurelian, started AD 272 fearing barbarian attack. Using only manual labor, its twelve miles took only seven years to complete. Maxentius doubled the height to fifty feet, AD 309.
- H Wall of Servius Tullius. It was built by Rome's sixth king, about 550 BC. It incorporates the seven hills.
- I The Baths of Diocletian, the largest and most opulent of the Imperial baths. At the time of the novel it was without water and was unused except for monks who made a monastery out of part of it.
- J *Castra Praetorium*. Emperor Constantine disbanded the Praetorian Guard and destroyed the western wall of their camp.
- K Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. Pope Gregory was elected Pope during an outbreak of plague. He organized a penitential procession with the goal of averting God's wrath evidenced by the plague. The procession ended at St. Mary's the Greater.
- L Colosseum, built 500 years previous.
- M The Roman Forum, largely unused in this period of time, except for the House of Vesta which served as the office for the Imperial Legate.
- N The Lateran Basilica and Palace. The Pope's home was here, not in St. Peter's.
- O *Circus Maximus*, with seating for 150,000. Chariot racing (and betting) was still popular, though it was not done in the city.
- P The *ad Elephantos* neighborhood, a slum. After the workday—which ended about 3 pm—Titus would read the *Aeneid* aloud to the people.
- Q The Baths of Caracalla. Where Emperors constructed their baths tell us a lot about whose favor they sought. Caracalla was courting the workmen on the Aventine.
- R The Tiber River.