

ancient walls of Romulus are said to have been built, and also those of Servius Tullius (about 563 B.C.). The catacombs were hewn in this tuff, of which the famous Tarpeian Rock is believed by some to have been the ancient quarry. Next the Lapis Albanus or 'Peperino' must be mentioned, a volcanic tuff of a greyish colour, speckled with black; and later the Lapis Tiburtinus, the 'Travertino' of the modern Roman stonecutter, a calcareous deposit found at Tivoli, porous, of a light creamy hue, and very durable, hardening under exposure, which was employed in the construction of the Cloaca Maxima, as was also the Lapis Albanus. Both these stones were used in the building of the temple of Fortuna Virilis during the reign of Servius Tullius.¹ Types they might seem of Republican simplicity and fortitude.

In an epistle Seneca writes: 'I write this, Lucilius, from the famous villa of Scipio Africanus. I found this, his villa, built of square stone.² . . . a bath narrow and somewhat dark after the ancient custom. Under this low and sordid roof stood Scipio. He disdained not to tread so vile and mean a pavement. But who is there in our time that would condescend to bathe in like manner? A man thinks himself poor and mean unless the walls are decorated with large and precious embossments; unless Alexandrian marble is pointed and inlaid with Numidian rough-cast; unless a rich and curiously variegated plaistering be spread upon them in picturesque;³ unless the roof is covered with glass-work, and unless the Thasian stone, once reckoned a scarce and rare ornament even in some temples, now compass about our ponds.'⁴

¹ Probably of this reign.

² According to Corsi square stone of Alban or 'peperino'.

³ Mosaic work.

⁴ *Epistles of Seneca*, no. 86 (trans. Thomas Morrell).