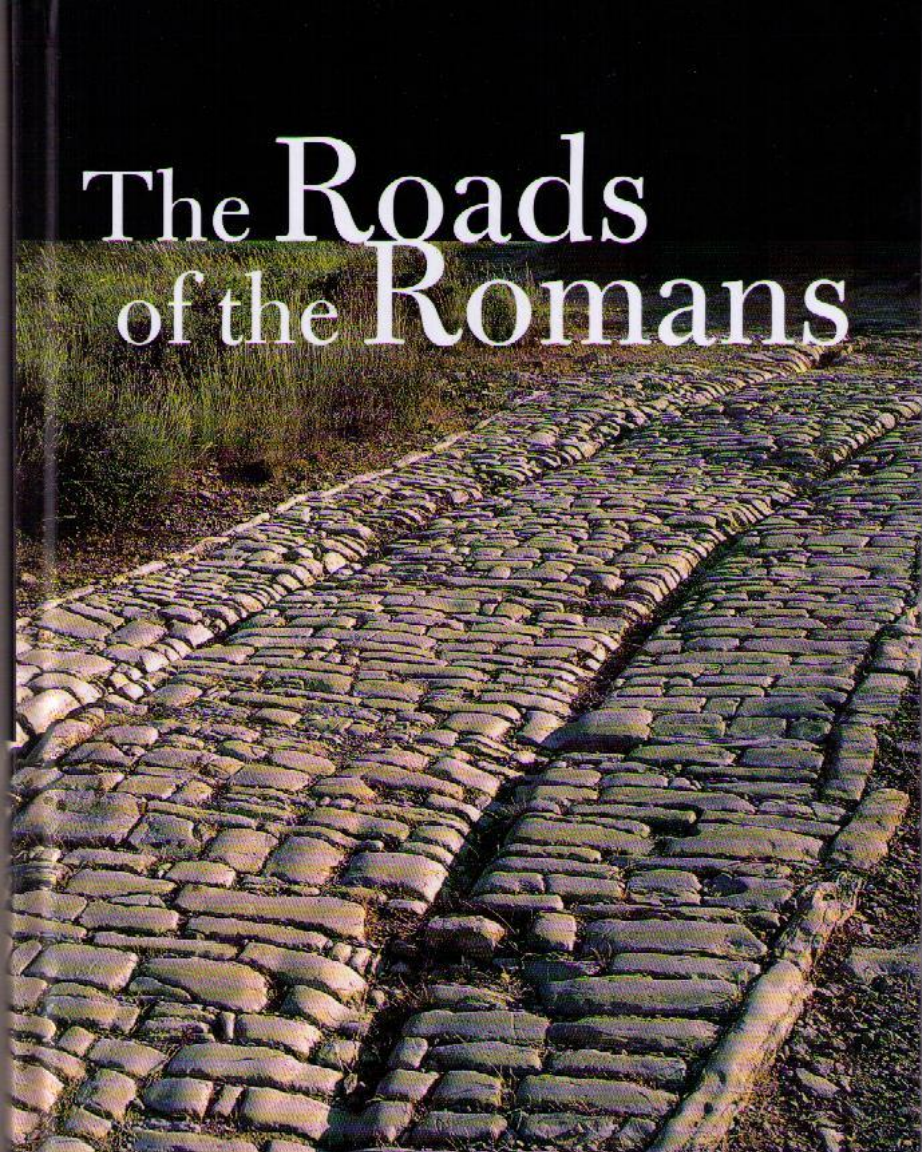
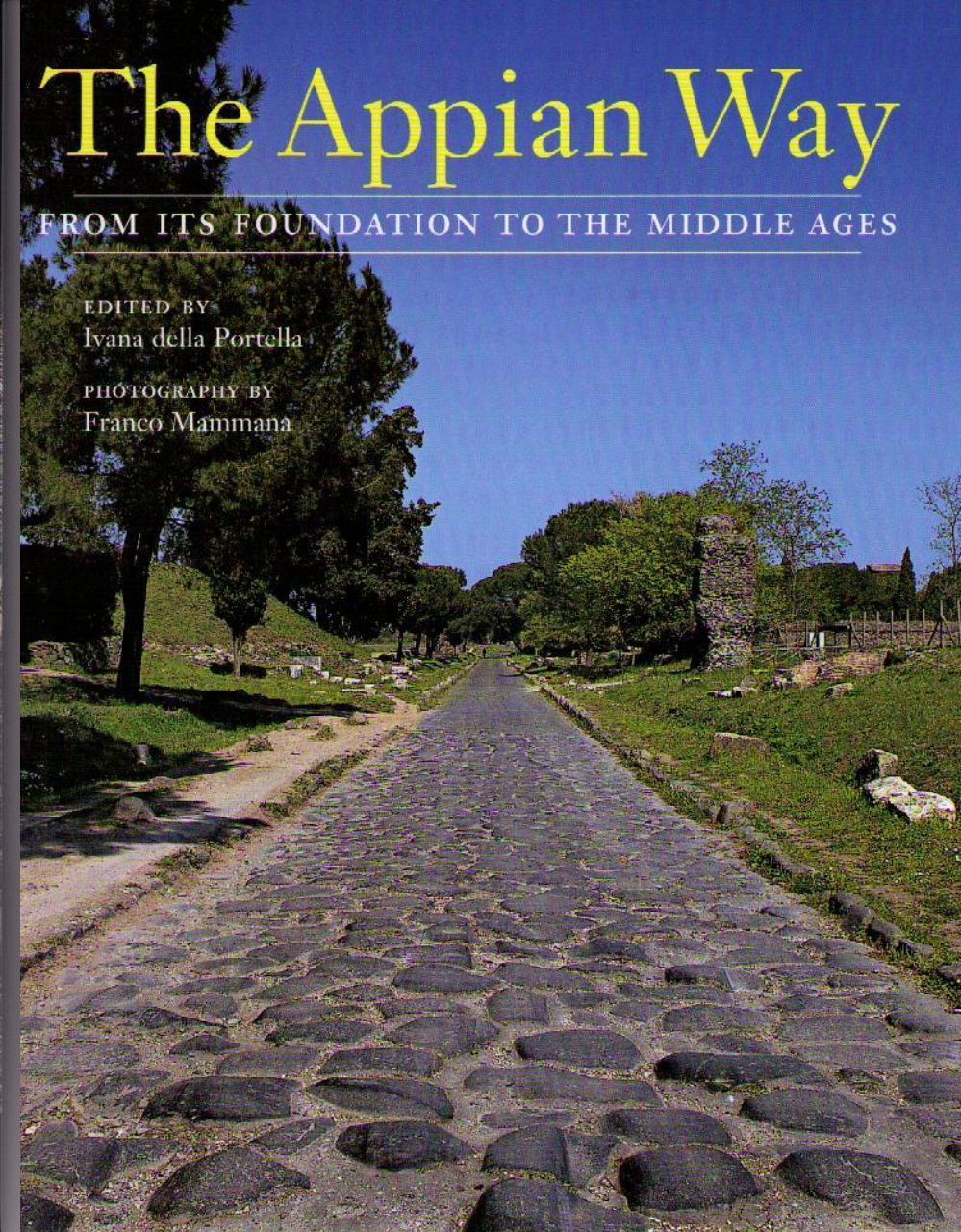


The Roads of the Romans

A close-up, low-angle photograph of a Roman road. The road is constructed from large, rectangular, reddish-brown stone blocks laid in a regular pattern. The blocks are slightly uneven and show signs of age. The road curves gently to the right, leading the eye into the distance. The background shows a grassy hillside under a clear sky.

Romolo Augusto Staccioli

The Appian Way

A wide-angle photograph of a long, straight Roman road made of large, rounded, dark grey stone blocks. The road stretches far into the distance, flanked by lush green trees and grass. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and well-maintained, showcasing the enduring legacy of Roman engineering.

FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO THE MIDDLE AGES

EDITED BY
Ivana della Portella

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
Franco Mammana



il mio paese



Roman statesman
Gaius Gracchus, 153-121 B.C.

The road builder

His most special exertions were given to constructing the roads, which he was careful to make beautiful and pleasant, as well as convenient. They were drawn by his directions through the fields, exactly in a straight line, partly paved with hewn stone, and partly laid with solid masses of gravel. When he met with any deep valleys or water-courses crossing the line, he either caused them to be filled up with rubbish, or bridges to be built over them, so well leveled that ... the work presented one uniform and beautiful prospect. Besides this, he caused the roads to be all divided into miles ... and erected pillars of stone [miliaria] to signify the distance from one place to another. He likewise placed other stones at small distances from one another, on both sides of the way, by the help of which travelers might get easily on horseback without wanting a groom.

From Plutarch's biography of Gracchus

Roman Roads

Most Roman roads constructed during the Republican times (509 to 30 BC) – the oldest, Via Appia, dates back to 312 B.C.

At its height, the Roman road network was over 100,000 km long (approximately equal to U.S. interstate system)

By law, all of the public was entitled to use the roads.

Censores (censors) initiated the projects (commissioners of public works)

Maintenance was responsibility of the *aediles*, magistrates of the provinces through which the road ran (similar to the U.S. system).

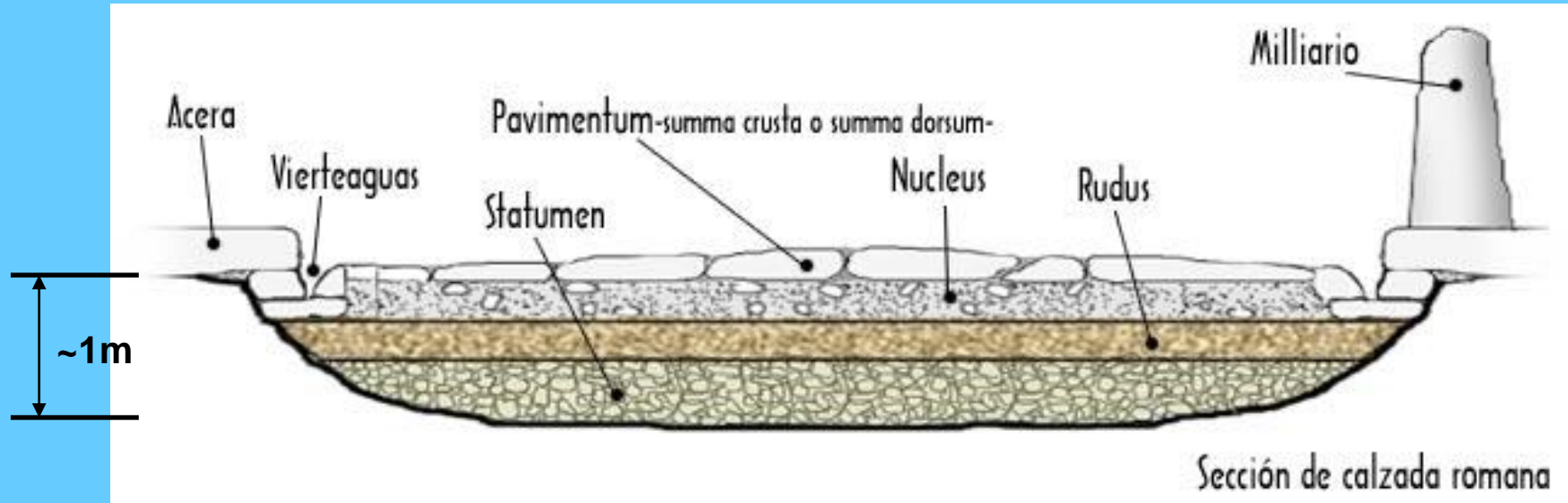
Classification according to surface type

Via terrenae- simple dirt road

Via glarea stratae- more durable surface of gravel

Via silice stratae- paved with blocks of stone

***Via silice stratae* ~\$2M per kilometer!!**



Summa Crusta - Smooth, polygonal blocks embedded in the underlying layer using small pebbles.

Nucleus - A kind of base layer composed of gravel and sand with lime cement.

Rudus – Rubble masonry and rubbish set in lime mortar

Statumen – Foundation to fit local conditions (rubbish and