



When Ceres commands her nymphs – An investigation of the relation between mills and aqueducts in the antique Mediterranean

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STRUCTURE

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1. Introduction



Map: S. Preißler.

1. Introduction



Well-preserved part of the aqueduct in the vicinity of the Porta Gemina (Castellum Aquae) and a decorated pillar of the aqueduct.

Pictures: S. Preißler (left), M. Döring (right).

1. Introduction



Remains of a building in the line of the aqueduct and a millstone on a private property.

Picture: S. Preißler.

2. State of research

„Let rest your hands, you maidens, from the millstone, sleep longer, even if the cockcrow is announcing the morning. Ceres commanded her nymphs to do your hands early work. From above the spirits of the water are jumping on the wheel, turn the axles and with it the spokes of the wheel, which is whirling around, to let dance the heavy crushing millstones.“

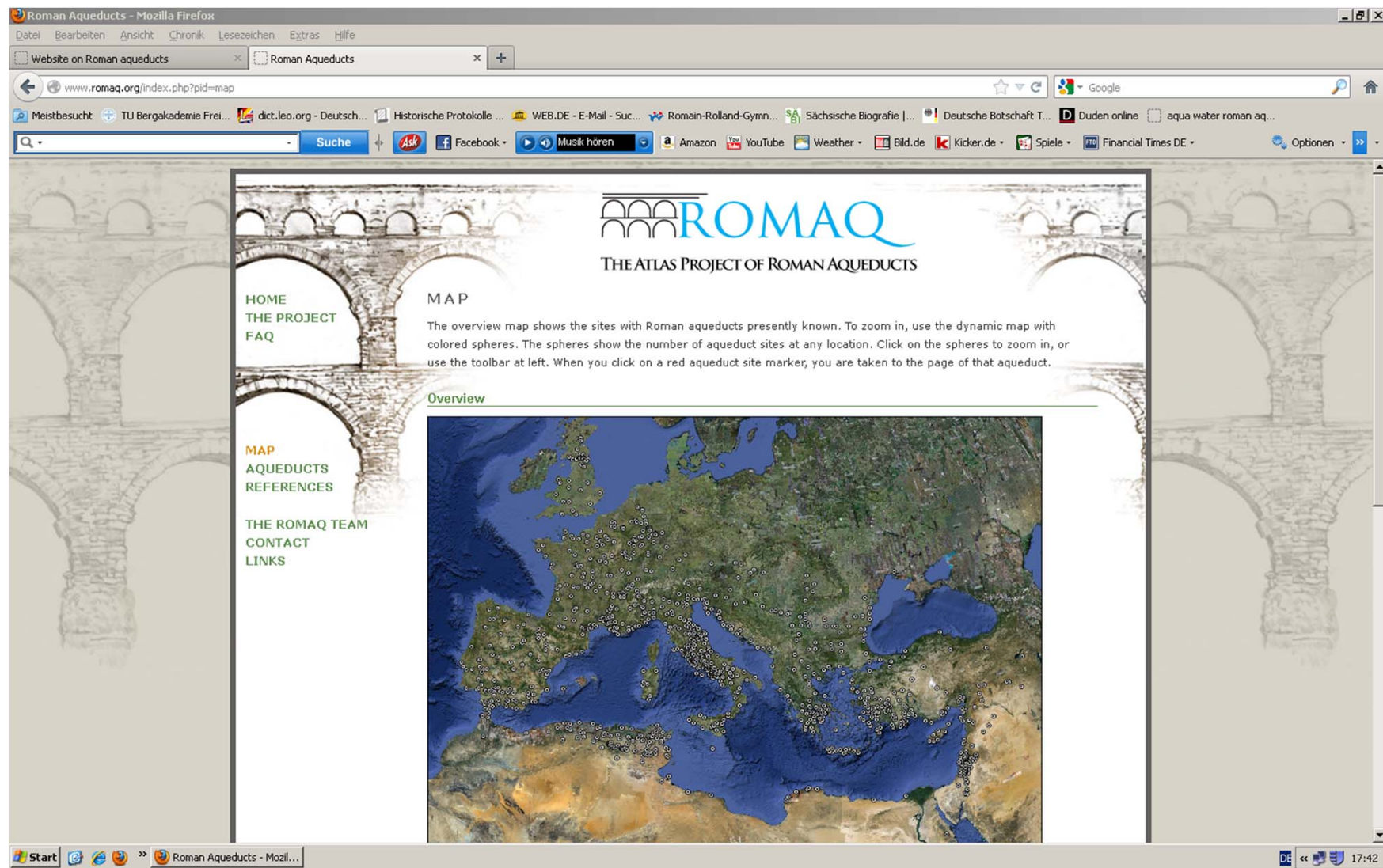
Source: Günther Garbrecht (1985) : Wasser. Vorrat, Bedarf und Nutzung in Geschichte und Gegenwart, p. 113.

2. State of research

“Also in other regions of the Mediterranean mills were located at aqueducts; this system has the advantage, that a continually admission of water was guaranteed and the mills were independent from rivers, whose water-level fluctuated seasonally very heavy.”

Source: Helmuth Schneider (1990): Einführung in die antike Technikgeschichte, p. 47.

3. Archaeological sites



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„On the opposite bank of the river Tiber, an important hill rises, where for ages all the mills of the city stand. An aqueduct leads towards to the hills' top large amounts of water, which then plunges with full force into the valley.“ (Procopius)

Source: Helmuth Schneider (1990): Einführung in die antike Technikgeschichte, p. 47.

3. Archaeological sites



The Fontana Paola is built partly on the substructures of the ancient Aqua Traiana and is using the same water source from the lake Bracciano.

Picture: S. Preißler.

4. Summary



Map: S. Preißler.

4. Summary

Open questions:

- **Exception or standard?**
- **Specific architecture of mills?**
- **Use?**
- **Typology?**
- **Transfer of technology?**

„I ask you! Just compare with the vast monuments of this vital aqueduct network those useless Pyramids, or the good-for-nothing tourist attractions of the Greeks!“

Source: A. Trevor Hodge (2002): Roman aqueducts & water supply, p. 1.

