

# The Eerdmans Encyclopedia of Early Christian Art and Archaeology

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Slipcase illustration: Ivory panel (416 × 143 mm) with an archangel (probably Michael); right panel of a diptych (left panel lost). In his right hand the figure holds a globe surmounted by a Greek cross; in his left, a long staff, perhaps a scepter. The architectural setting consists in an arch supported by fluted columns, capped with Corinthian capitals; there are steps beneath the plinths below left and right. Beneath the arch is a wreath enclosing a Greek cross; a scalloped shell frames the wreath. Above the arch, within a long narrow rectangular tabula, is written: +ΔΕΧΟΥ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΘΩΝ ΤΗΝ ΑΙΤΙΑΝ (“Receive the suppliant, although you know his guilt”); London.BM, OA.9999. (Photo courtesy Trustees of the British Museum)

## Barcelona

(Lat. *Barcino*[na], *Barcilo*[na]). Roman coastal *colonia* in north-east Spain, founded 15 B.C. to 9/8 B.C. by Augustus during his second journey to Tarraco (→ Tarragona; see map 7, M3 and map 8, A3). B. received the name *Colonia Iulia Augusta Faventia Paterna Barcino* and probably formed part of the area of the ethnicon “Laietani” (Pliny, *NH* 3.3.21, 22; Ptol., *G.* 2.6.18). Coins (drachmas marked with “Barkenos,” the Iberian series with “Laiescen”) have been scrutinized to clarify the pre-Roman origins of the city. The 1st-c. A.D. walled enclosure was completely rebuilt in late antiquity (see fig. 1). The city had a close relationship with Trajan’s entourage through the family of the *Lucii Minicii*. Inscriptions were dedicated to emperors until the time of Carus (282-83). Under Diocletian’s reorganization of the Empire, B. belonged to *Tarraconensis* in Prefecture XV: Hispania.

### Bishops and Kings

Prudentius (*Peris.* 4.30) refers to the martyr Cucufate in connection with the city. There was probably an episcopal see from the 4th c., although the first known bishop was Praetextatus, who attended the Council of Serdica (→ Sofia) in 343. Bishop Pacianus (ca. 310-91) played an important role; St. Jerome’s *Vir. illus.* (chaps. 106, 132) refers to his works, entitled *Ceruus* and *Contra Nouatianos*, and to his death (“sub Theodosio principe iam in ultima senectute mortuus est”). Pacianus also wrote *De baptismo*, *Letters to Sempronianus*, and *De paenitentibus* and read works by Horace, Ovid, Cicero, Tertullian, Cyprian, and other authors. His son Dexter, *comes rei priuatae* (financial officer charged with the oversight of private estates) of Emperor Theodosius and praetorian prefect under Honorius (395-423), inspired St. Jerome to write his *De viris illustribus* (published in 393). An inscription from B. (*CIL* 2:4512) contains Dexter’s *cursus honorum*. Pacianus’s successor, Lampius, ordained Paulinus of Nola in B. on Christmas 393, according to his letters to Sulpicius Severus and Alypius of Tagaste (*Ep.* 1.10, 3.4). In 415 the Visigothic King Ataulf and his hostage wife, Galla Placidia, settled for several months in B., where he was assassinated. After the fall of the Visigothic Kingdom of Toulouse (Battle of Vouillé in 507), the city was a place of refuge for the usurper Gesalic and for Amalaric, son of Alaric II and grandson of Theoderic of Ravenna. B. was probably the court, perhaps until the reign of Theudis. Two provincial councils were held there: in 540 and in 599, under Reccared (after the Third Council of Toledo in 589).

### Architecture

Excavations carried out inside the circuit wall have revealed a large ecclesiastical complex in the northeastern corner, which can be identified with the *Sanctae Crucis* cited in the Second Council of Barcelona in 599. The 4th-c. basilica, probably beneath the Gothic cathedral, has not been excavated but must be connected with the existing monumental baptistery. The large baptistery (Ristow.1998, nos. 564-66) was built in several phases; extant is an → octagonal font and a → dome inscribed within a square superstructure (→ *Ciborium*), probably dating to 550-600. In connection with the primitive episcopal complex is a reception room: a three-aisled *aula*, and a residence, identified with the episcopal palace (→ House: Bishop’s). In the late 20th c., investigations suggest that, south of the episcopal complex alongside the defensive *intervallum* (trench) south of the baptistery, a 6th-c. cruciform church was built and continued in use into the 7th c. This church was associated with a small cemetery under the modern Plaza del Rey. Inside the city other churches held the function of *parrochia*/parishes. In the time of Lampius, a member of the clergy, Vigilantius (who is said to have relocated from

Gaul to Barcelona in the early 5th c. [Gennadius of Marseilles, *Vir. illus.* 35]) made a possible reference to another church within the urban complex. Two churches, archaeologically not well-known, can be identified: Sant Miquel and Sants Just i Pastor.

Several architectural and decorative paintings and mosaics show the importance of the elites in the late antique city. Two *domus* are well known: the Palau Reial Menor, featuring a mosaic of chariot racing in the hippodrome, dated mid-4th c., and the *domus* called Bisbe Caçador, with a mural painting depicting a man on horseback and an opus sectile floor in the reception room, also dated at the end of 4th c.

There were cemeteries on the periphery of the late antique city, with important remains in the northeast. The most important group, consisting of more than 100 tombs, is beneath the Gothic apse of the church of Santa Maria del Mar, though without an associated funerary basilica. A funerary hall, probably a → Martyrium, with a late 5th-c. tomb mosaic is recorded for the site of an extramural → villa in Plaza Antoni Maura. Several sarcophagi of Constantinian date are known (see Koch.2000, Geographical Index, s.v.). For example, there is a fluted early Christian sarcophagus with apostles, a central orans figure (→ Orant), the arrest of St. Peter, and the → healing of the man born blind. There is also a child’s sarcophagus with a continuous frieze illustrating NT subjects. Two Constantinian fragments exhibit an Epiphany scene on the lid and an orans flanked by apostles. There is also a fluted sarcophagus without figural iconography at Santa Maria del Mar. A 6th-7th-c. intramural cemetery, near the episcopal complex, has → amphora burials, one with grave goods that include a 6th-c. brooch, a 6th-c. glass cabochon (imitating a garnet, ruby, or amethyst; → Gemstone: Engraved [3 entries]), and a cruciform bronze seal-ring with the inscription *ELPIDI VIVAS* (Helpidius, may you live! → Acclamation).

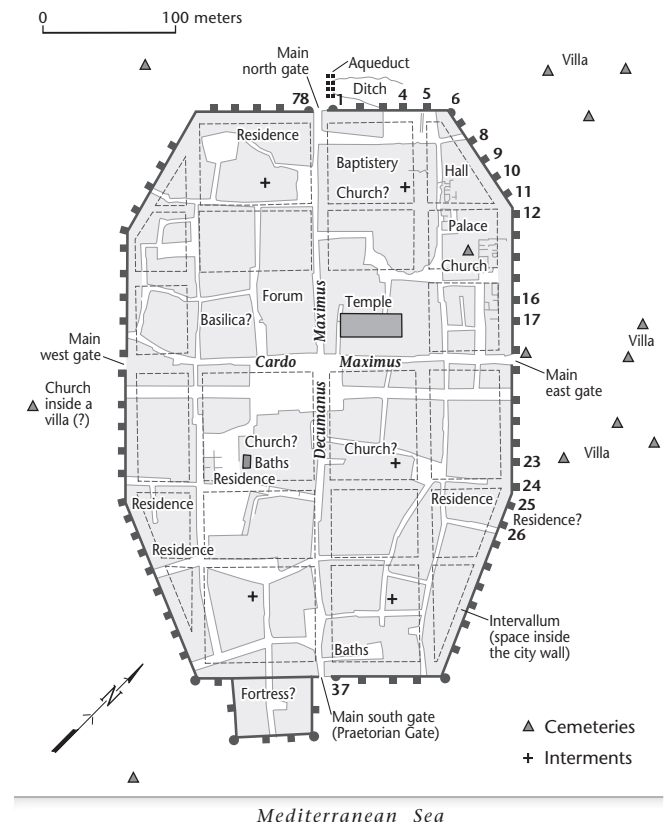


Fig. 1. Barcelona in late antiquity. (Plan by International Mapping, after Gisela Ripoll)

Visigothic coins were minted in the city under Leovigild, Recared, Liuva, and Witteric (571-610). This series was interrupted and then resumed under Egica and Egica-Wittiza (687-701). It appears that coins were not struck under Achila (710-13).

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