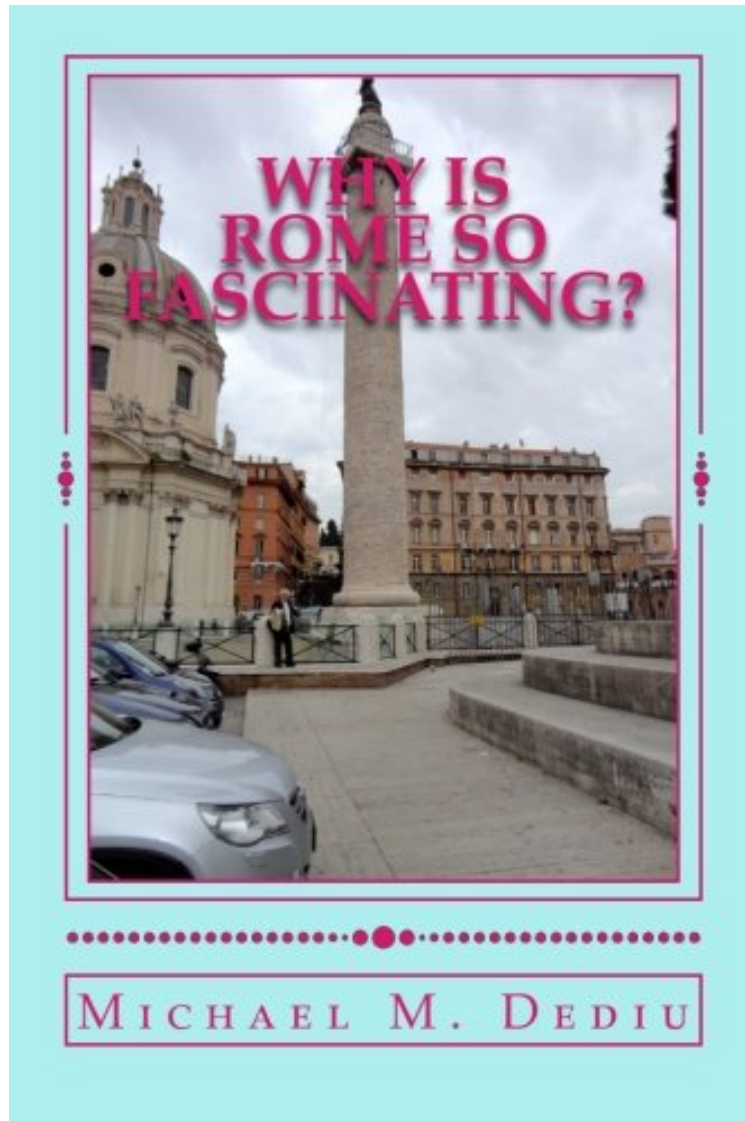


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Michael M. Dediu

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Why is Rome so fascinating and great? Because it has over 2,500 glorious years of history and beauty, it has a sovereign state located entirely in its city limits, the Vatican City, it has the first-ever shopping mall built by the Emperor Trajan in 113 AD, with several levels and more than 150 outlets that sold everything ranging from food and spices to clothes, etc. The over 170 photos, taken in October 2011, show a delightful variety of images of the Pantheon, Trajan's Forum, Vatican City and of many other splendid places from Rome. Reading this book will give the opportunity to discover that the Romans were the first civilization to use concrete and the arch, Rome's first university, La Sapienza (1303), is the largest in Europe and the second largest in the world, the Julian calendar, created by Julius Caesar, opened on 1 January 45 BC, and is almost identical to the current calendar, the month of July was named in his honor, and many other historic facts, showing that Rome played an a fundamental role in our civilization and is a fascinating city.