

Contents

<i>Illustrations</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
1 The Politics of the Arena	1
Origin and Growth of Games	1
Games and the Roman state	2
Origins of gladiatorial combat	4
Origins of wild animal shows	7
Roman spectacle overseas	8
Spectacle and Roman Politics	11
Politics and shows	11
Costs	14
Control	18
Violence	22
Shows as political assembly	24
Imperial Spectacle	29
Ordinary spectacle	30
The emperor and the arena	33
The emperor and political spectacle	36
Gladiators outside Rome	43
2 The Venue	52
Republican Arenas	53
Temporary structures in Rome	57

Amphitheaters	59
Disaster and control	61
The Colosseum	62
Military amphitheaters	66
Special features	67
Circuses	67
Features of the Circus Maximus	73
Circus as cosmos	76
<i>Naumachiae</i>	77
Stratification and Seating	80
3 A Day at the Games	84
Preparation and <i>Pompa</i>	84
<i>Venationes</i>	89
<i>Meridiani</i>	89
<i>Munera</i>	94
The armatures	95
The combats	99
Good Spectacles vs. Bad Spectacles	103
The Other Show: Audiences at the Games	104
Dangerous games	107
Special treats	110
Food, spectacular food	111
<i>Sparsiones</i>	111
Inaugural Games at the Flavian Amphitheater	113
Commodus' Games	115
Tainted by the Crowd	117
4 The Life of the Gladiator	120
Where Did Gladiators Come From?	120
Prisoners of war	121
Condemned criminals	122
Slave gladiators and the Spartacan war	125
Gladiators and status	130
Free gladiators	132
Choosing gladiatorial status	134
Glory	135
Life in the <i>Ludi</i>	138

Death or Survival	143
Sexy Gladiators	146
Death and Choice	147
Gladiator <i>Familiae</i>	148
Female Performers: <i>Gladiatrices</i> and <i>Ludia</i>	153
Crimes of Status: Elites in the Arena	156
Imperial Gladiators	158
5 Christians and the Arena	160
Rome and the Christians: The Official Relationship	160
The Neronian persecution	161
Trajan's policy	163
Christian Denunciation of the Arena	165
The Arena and Christian Identity	169
Martyr Acts	172
Christian Rome and the Arena	186
6 Chariot Races and Water Shows	189
Chariot Races	189
The events	191
Charioteers	198
The horses	205
The colors	207
Circus fans	210
Emperors as fans	213
Fan clubs and unrest	213
The Nika revolt	215
Water Shows	218
<i>Timeline of Roman History</i>	222
<i>Glossary of Terms and Names</i>	229
<i>Notes</i>	232
<i>Suggestions for Further Reading</i>	245
<i>Index</i>	248