



retain his role as a discrete personal advisor. He also continued to spearhead a movement to turn Rome not only into a political and military power, but also a cultural one. The death of this faithful and loyal companion in 8 BCE was experienced by Augustus, his friend, as an irreparable loss.

## General Overviews

The political and cultural context explains to a large extent, despite Maecenas's oddities, the modalities of his political action and cultural work. Rome changed profoundly at the time of Augustus's Principate and, even though a political culture endured, institutions and society underwent transformations that distinguished it in part from Republican Rome. In this framework, the personality of the prince, Augustus, friend of Maecenas and man of literature, was pivotal ([Le Doze 2020](#)). Because of his authority and the accumulation of powers, all eyes were on him. His reformist policies, including their traditionalist dimension that should not be overlooked, shaped a new Rome after the civil wars ([Hurlet and Mineo 2009](#), [Rivière 2012](#)). However, others than the prince contributed to the transformation of the empire's capital ([Morrell, et al. 2019](#)) and to the profound developments of this period, which are not limited to institutional changes ([Galinsky 1996](#), [Galinsky 2005](#), and [Wallace-Hadrill 2008](#)). The triumviral period ([Osgood 2006](#), [Pina Polo 2020](#)), which preceded the establishment of the Principate, generated a lot of anxiety, and created a context that influenced poetic production. [Zanker 1988](#) is an excellent introduction to the debates that surround Maecenas, for the author studies how the values advocated by the Augustan regime permeated Roman society through images: similarly, historians have often suggested that Maecenas exploited poets to serve Augustus's interests.

### [Maecenas](#)

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