

Ida Gilda Mastrorosa

(Professor of *Roman history, Roman Antiquities and Modern Culture*
at the University of Florence)

... totius Europae gentes Romani ... cultas reddidere.

Features and merits of ancient Rome in Blondus Flavius

Monday, 30th October 2017, 6pm
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“)
Langer Weg 11, SR 5

Nota bene! The talk will be held in Italian.



Making a comparative analysis of different sections of the *Roma Triumphans* and the *Decades* composed by Blondus Flavius in the mid-15th Century, we can understand that, with the overall project implied in his works, addressing the rise and fall of ancient Rome, although in different ways, the author set out, in a single process, to stress that the eternal city had been able to create an empire conceived not as a simple, militarily achieved unification, of territories under its control, but as the sharing of values, examples of behaviours, and institutional procedures.

Carefully selecting evidence collected from a wide variety of classical sources, the humanist was able to grasp specific, fundamental aspects of the compound cultural identity that since its foundation and over the centuries of pagan and Christian antiquity, Rome had been able to build, export and therefore share with the peoples under its dominion.

Thus, making a personal use of the ‘art of reception’, Blondus outlined a modern picture of *Romanness* which, overcoming the antiquarian perspective and the schema of diachronic historiographic accounts, aimed to provide a practical model to face the challenges looming over Early Modern Europe in the mid-15th century.