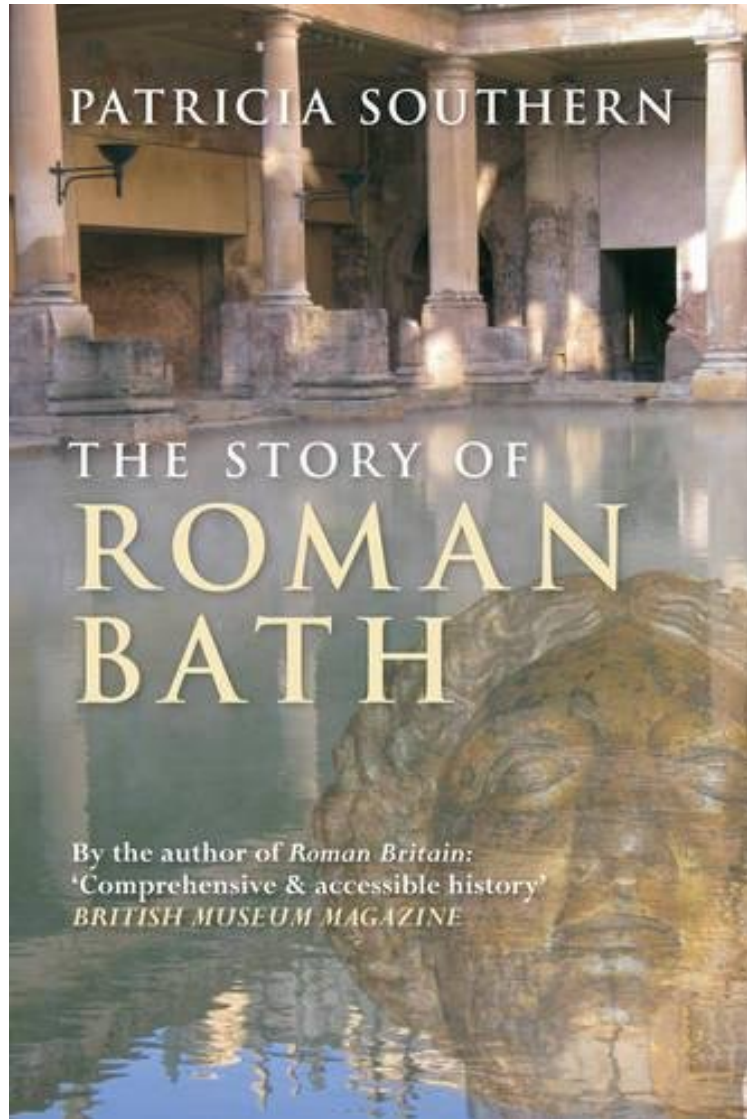


## The Story of Roman Bath

*Patricia Southern*

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**Patricia Southern : The Story of Roman Bath** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of Roman Bath:

- The only book on life in Bath during Roman times.
  - The perfect introduction to the history of Bath during Roman Times.
  - Very well illustrated with over 100 color photographs, drawings and plans.
- When the Romans built the bath

and temple complex of Bath in the late first century AD, they called the place *Aquae Sulis*, the waters of Sulis, a British deity who was equated with the Roman goddess Minerva. It was unlike any other town in Roman Britain, it had no specific town status, compared to nearby Cirencester, which was a chartered town set up as a tribal administrative center. All classes of people came to *Aquae Sulis*, to visit the temple of Sulis-Minerva, the hot springs, and the Great Bath. Soldiers on sick leave came to convalesce; Romans, Britons, women, and slaves recorded their visits on various inscriptions since discovered during archaeological excavations. His widow Calpurnia Trifosa commemorated Gaius Calpurnius Receptus, a priest; Priscus, a stonemason from Chartres in Gaul, may have repaired some of the buildings; Vettius Romulus and his wife, mourning the loss of their three year old daughter, had perhaps brought her to pray for a cure. Following the Romans departure, from the fifth and sixth centuries the rise of Christianity ultimately caused the decline of pagan worship, and as the old gods were neglected, so were the buildings of *Aquae Sulis*, which disappeared under an accumulation of silt and mud. The Baths and the temple of Sulis-Minerva were rediscovered in the eighteenth century and the Victorians rebuilt the Roman Baths that we see today. Patricia Southern's new history charts the rise and fall of Roman Bath and examines the baths as they are today part of a major World Heritage Site.

This color-illustrated work for general readers, students, and scholars explores the history of Roman Bath, a bath and temple complex built by the Romans in Bath, Britain, in the first century AD. *Aquae Sulis* contained a temple of the goddess Sulis Minerva, hot springs, and the Great Bath, and is notable because people from all levels of society were allowed. The book details the history of building the complex, its usage in classical times, its abandonment during Christian era, and its rediscovery and excavation in the 1960s, leading to its current status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The book includes color photos and bw illustrations. It was first published in 2012. (Protonview) About the Author Patricia Southern is an acknowledged expert the history of ancient Rome. Her interest began very early, fostered by books and the wonderful epic films that they don't make any more. This obsession with the Romans has never waned, so whilst working full time as a librarian she studied for a BA degree in Ancient History with the external department of the University of London, and for an MPhil in Roman Frontier Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where she was Librarian of the Archaeology Department for many years. She has written many books on Roman history and contributed numerous articles on Roman history to the BBC History website and the academic Roman studies journal *Britannia*.