

## GYMNASIUM NERONIS

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spoken of as 'in area Volcani' (Liv. ix. 46)—a statement that may mean that the Graecostasis had been moved or had ceased to exist at all in Pliny's day. About 30 B.C. sacrifices were offered to Luna 'in Graecostasi' (Fast. Pinc., CIL i<sup>2</sup>. p. 219), and for the years 137, 130, 124 B.C., it is recorded that it rained blood or milk on the Graecostasis (Obseq. de prod. 24, 28, 31). The Graecostasis was therefore an open platform between the comitium and the forum, on the site afterwards occupied by the arch of Severus, and eastwards. Cf. JRS 1922, II, 25, where Van Deman places it under and north of the rostra of Augustus. Hülsen (HC. pl. v.) places it conjecturally to the west of the Lapis Niger (TF 64), but the pavement here is probably the pavement of the Sullan rostra vetera (JRS cit. 22). Nothing is known of its history after the Augustan age, nor is its exact purpose certain. Other explanations have been given, but it was probably the place where foreign ambassadors awaited their summons into the senate (cf. Justin. xliii. 5. 10; Mommsen, Hist. i. 534; Bull. Univ. Wisc. No. 99 (1904), 166-170; BC 1900, 128-130; Théd. 137). For a theory that its place was taken by the Graecostadium see DR 383-385.

GYMNASIUM NERONIS: a building for gymnastic purposes, dedicated by Nero in 62 A.D. (Suet. Nero 12: *dedicatisque thermis atque gymnasio senatui quoque et equiti oleum praebuit*; Tac. Ann. xiv. 47: *gymnasium eo anno dedicatum a Nerone praebitumque oleum equiti ac senatui Graeca facilitate*), or in 60 after the establishment of the Neronia (Cass. Dio lxi. 21. 1: *καὶ ἐπ' αὐτῷ καὶ τὸ γυμνάσιον ἠκοδόμησεν ἐλαιὸν τε ἐν τῇ καθιερώσει αὐτοῦ καὶ τοῖς βουλευταῖς καὶ τοῖς ἱππεῦσι προῖκα ἔνειμε*). Later in 62 the gymnasium was burned and a bronze statue of Nero melted (Tac. Ann. xv. 22). Philostratus (vit. Apoll. iv. 42) says that it was one of the most wonderful buildings in the city.

There are no other references to this gymnasium, but it would be natural to suppose that it was near or connected with the THERMAE (q.v.), which Nero is said to have dedicated at the same time (Suet. loc. cit.). The language of Philostratus seems to make no distinction between *γυμνάσιον* and *βαλανεῖον*, so that no inference can be drawn from it as to the existence or non-existence of the gymnasium in his time. Hülsen therefore assumes (HJ 590) that the gymnasium was an integral part of the baths, and that gymnasium and thermae were names of the same structure. In view of what is said of the burning of the gymnasium (Tac. Ann. xv. 22), it is more probable that they were separate buildings.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It is more correct to say that what Vitruvius (v. 10) describes are baths pure and simple, to which Nero added the Greek gymnasium. It is to be noted that Cass. Dio calls the thermae of Nero, Trajan, and Licinius Sura *γυμνάσιον*, and those of Agrippa *βαλανεῖον* or *λακωνικόν* (PT 26; RA 38, 82; Journ. Brit. Amer. Arch. Soc. Rome iv. 353; Mitt. 1920, 154-168).