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Caracalla Bathes

By Alma Tadema

The use of the famous artificial Roman baths were first imported into Italy from Greece about the time of Pompey. They were elaborate affairs and resembled what we know now as Turkish baths. To cultivate the good will of the people the Caesars built a great number of free baths for the populace. By careful study from every available source, the artist enables us to visualize this Roman tyrant on a visit to his bath. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, known as Caracalla, Emperor of Rome, 211-217 A. D., built most beautiful baths near Porta Capena. Their ruins are still magnificent.