QUESTIONS ON AUGUSTAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Instructions: Go to VRoma (vroma.rhodes.edu); search the image archive starting with Augustus. Answer the following questions according to your group’s topic.

Group 1: the Ara Pacis

1. What is depicted on the long walls? Why are these scenes here?
   a. Can you find Augustus in any of these scenes?

2. What scenes occupy the panels on the short walls? Why do you think these were chosen?
   a. Pay particular attention to the depiction of Rome.

3. What similarities do you notice between the decorations in the Ara Pacis and those in the villa of Livia on the Palatine?

Group 2: Temples and other buildings

1. What temple dominated the Forum of Augustus and why?
2. Compare the different reconstructions of this temple in the modern recreations. Which is closer to Ovid’s description?
3. What buildings are mentioned in the portion of the Res Gestae that we read? Can you find any evidence of them?

Group 3: Portraits and coins

1. What images regularly appear on Octavian’s or Augustus’ coins? Do you notice any difference between those made before and after the battle of Actium in 31 B.C. (or B.C.E.)?
2. What image was Augustus seeking to create of himself in his statues and portrait busts?
3. What view of Roman womanhood comes through in portraits of Livia?