



HALL OF AUGUSTUS

The Hall of Augustus occupies the central part of the former Gallery of Alexander VII, which was split up into three rooms during the Napoleonic occupation of the Quirinale Palace. In order to imagine the original space of the gallery we must bear in mind that the two short walls of this room did not previously exist and were only built in 1812.

As in the two adjacent rooms, here too the restoration works have brought back to light the decoration on the lower sections of the walls and reopened the bricked-up windows looking onto the courtyard, restoring the original luminosity to the hall.

Between the windows we can see the recovered and restored Baroque paintings while, higher up, the biblical scenes from the same period alternate with ornamental panels with a gold background that were painted during the Napoleonic occupation, concealing the upper part of the columns.

The room's current name refers to the marble bust resting on one of the console tables, a partial copy of the famous sculpture known as *Augustus of Prima Porta*. Until the middle of the 1900s this space was called the Throne Room because Pope Pius IX, and later the Kings of Italy, had used it for this purpose.