

Hadrian The Restless Emperor Roman Imperial Biographies

AugustusVespasianClaudiusTiberius the PoliticianRoman Imperial BiographiesTheodosiusYear of the Four EmperorsGalerius and the Will of DiocletianMarcus AureliusDiocletian and the Roman RecoveryTrajanTrajanTrajan, Optimus PrincepsCaligulaHonorusSeptimius SeverusJulius CaesarThe Representation and Perception of Roman Imperial PowerThe Roman EmperorsCaligula Pat Southern Barbara Levick Barbara Levick Barbara Levick Gerard Friell Kenneth Wellesley William Lewis Leadbetter Anthony R Birley Stephen Williams Julian Bennett Julian Bennett Julian Bennett Anthony A. Barrett Chris Doyle Anthony R Birley Richard A. Billows Paul Erdkamp Michael Grant Anthony A. Barrett

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augustus the heir to julius caesar was the guiding light in the transformation of the roman republic into the roman empire in this biography pat southern traces the life and works of the emperor chronologically presenting ideology and events as they occurred from augustus point of view including his transition from heir and successor of julius caesar to head of the new principate and his development of the roman empire augustus did not have a master plan of politics and legislation but instead he had to wait and occasionally change course before he settled on a version of government that the senate and people found acceptable while there have been many books covering the political social and aesthetic culture of the augustan age this is the first book to present the life of augustus the man

from a pre eminent biographer in the field this volume examines the life and times of the emperor vespasian and challenges the validity of his perennial good reputation and universally acknowledged achievements levick examines how this plebeian and uncharismatic emperor restored peace and confidence to rome and ensured a smooth succession how he coped with the military political and economic problems of his reign and his evaluation of the solutions to these problems before she finally examines his posthumous reputation now updated to take account of the past 15 years of scholarship and with a new chapter on

literature under the flavians vespasian is a fascinating study for students of roman history and the general classical enthusiast alike

claudius became emperor after the assassination of caligula and was deified by his successor nero in ad 54 opinions of him have varied greatly over succeeding centuries but he has mostly been caricatured as a reluctant emperor hampered by a speech impediment who preferred reading to ruling barbara levick s authoritative study reassesses the reign of claudius examining his political objectives and activities within the constitutional political social and economic development of rome out of levick s critical scrutiny of the literary archaeological and epigraphic sources emerges a different claudius an intelligent politician ruthlessly determined to secure his position as ruler a history of political and domestic intrigue as well as an investigation into the development and limits of imperial power this study is essential reading for historians of the roman empire

tiberius has always been one of the most enigmatic of the roman emperors at the same time his career is uniquely important for the understanding of the empire s development on the foundations laid by augustus barbara levick offers a comprehensive and engaging portrait of the life and times of tiberius including an exploration of his ancestry and his education an analysis of his provincial and foreign policy and an examination of his debauched final years and his posthumous reputation this new edition of tiberius the politician contains a new preface and a revised bibliography

emperor theodosius 379 95 was the last roman emperor to rule a unified empire of east and west and his reign represents a turning point in the policies and fortunes of the late roman empire in this imperial biography stephen williams and gerry friell bring together literary archaeological and numismatic evidence concerning this roman emperor studying his military and political struggles which he fought heroically but ultimately in vain summoned from retirement to the throne after the disastrous roman defeat by the goths at adrianople theodosius was called on to rebuild the armies and put the shattered state back together he instituted a new policy towards the barbarians in which diplomacy played a larger role than military might at a time of increasing frontier dangers and acute manpower shortage he was also the founder of the established apostolic catholic church unlike other christian emperors he suppressed both heresy and paganism and enforced orthodoxy by law the path was a difficult one but theodosius and his successor stilicho had little choice this new study convincingly demonstrates how a series of political misfortunes led to the separation of the eastern and western empires which meant that the overlordship of rome in europe dwindled into mere ceremonial the authors examine the emperor and his character and the state of the roman empire putting his reign in the context of the troubled times

after nero s notorious reign the romans surely deserved a period of peace and tranquility instead during ad69 three emperors were murdered galba just days into the post otho and vitellius the same year also saw civil war in italy two desperate battles at cremona and the capture of rome for vespasian which action saw the fourth emperor of the year but also brought peace this classic work now updated and reissued under a new title is a gripping account of this tumultuous year

wellesley also focuses on the year s historical importance which also marked the watershed between the first and second imperial dynasties

drawing from a variety of sources literary visual archaeological papyri inscriptions and coins the author studies the nature of diocletian s imperial strategy his wars his religious views and his abdication the author also examines galerius endeavour to take control of diocletian s empire his failures and successes against the backdrop of constantine s remorseless drive to power the first comprehensive study of the emperor galerius this book offers an innovative analysis of his reign as both caesar and augustus using his changing relationship with diocletian as the principal key to unlock the complex imperial politics of the period

marcus aurelius the philosopher emperor who ruled the roman empire between ad 161 and 180 is one of the best recorded individuals from antiquity even his face became more than usually familiar the imperial coinage displayed his portrait for over 40 years from the clean shaven young heir of antonius to the war weary heavily bearded ruler who died at his post in his late fifties his correspondence with his tutor fronto and even more the private notebook he kept for his last ten years the meditations provides a unique series of vivid and revealing glimpses into the character and peoccupations of this emporer who spent many years in terrible wars against northern tribes in this accessible and scholarly study professor birley paints a portrait of an emporer who was human and just an embodiment of the pagan virtues of rome

stephen williams s book is the first biography of diocletian to appear in english it combines the historical narrative of his remarkable reign and those of his fellow emperors with a chapter by chapter study of each of the great problems he faced the interlocking solutions he evolved to meet them and the longer term results it is both a portrait of one of rome s greatest and most original rulers and a political study in the emergence of absolutism also includes four maps

did trajan really deserve his reputation as the embodiment of all imperial virtues why did dante writing in the middle ages place him in the sixth sphere of heaven among the just and temperate rulers in this the only biography of trajan available in english julian bennett rigorously tests the substance of this glorious reputation surprisingly for a roman emperor trajan comes through the test with his reputation relatively intact

trajan ad 98 117 is one of the very few roman emperors who has always been seen in a good light popular during his lifetime by the fourth century he had become the litmus test of imperial excellence in the middle ages he was placed by dante in the sixth sphere of heaven among the just and temperate rulers and for gibbon trajan s principate ushered in the golden age of the roman empire in this the first comprehensive biography in english julian bennett tests the substance of the emperor s glorious reputation no ancient biography of trajan survives and the period as a whole is singularly ill served by the extant literary evidence a thorough examination of the contemporary archaeological and epigraphic evidence supplements this inadequate written record and allows dr bennett to cover every major

aspect of trajan's reign dr bennett's central conclusion is that trajan's reign was indeed the apogee of the principate established by augustus and his successors it saw the birth of the imperiate the full realization of the imperial system moreover the emperor himself is seen as the pivotal character in this development trajan's contemporary reputation as optimus princeps seems to have been richly deserved

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the roman empire has always exercised a considerable fascination among its numerous colourful personalities no emperor with the possible exception of nero has attracted more popular attention than caligula who has a reputation whether deserved or not as the quintessential mad and dangerous ruler the first edition of this book established itself as the standard study of caligula it remains the only full length and detailed scholarly analysis in english of this emperor's reign and has been translated into a number of languages but the study of classical antiquity is not a static phenomenon and scholars are engaged in a persistent quest to upgrade our knowledge and thinking about the ancient past in the thirty years since publication of the original caligula there have been considerable scholarly advances in what we know about this emperor specifically and also about the general period in which he functioned while newly discovered inscriptions and major archaeological projects have necessitated a rethinking of many of our earlier conclusions about early imperial history this new edition constitutes a major revision and in places a major rewriting of the original text maintaining the reader friendly structure and organisation of its predecessor it embodies the latest discoveries and the latest thinking seeking to make more lucid and comprehensible those aspects of the reign that are particularly daunting to the non specialist like the original this revised caligula is intended to satisfy the requirements of the scholarly community while appealing to a broad and general readership

honorius explores the personal life and tumultuous times of one of the last emperors of the roman west from his accession to the throne aged ten to his death at thirty eight honorius reign was blighted by a myriad of crises military rebellions political conspiracies barbarian invasions and sectarian controversies the notorious sack of the city of rome occurred on honorius watch and much of the western empire was given over to anarchy and violence this book should interest undergraduates research students and professional scholars given the enduring appeal of the fall of rome and the collapse of western roman civilization the wider public should also find much of interest

in this the only biography of septimius severus in english anthony r birley explores how roman or otherwise this man was and examines his remarkable background and career severus was descended from phoenician settlers in tripolitania and his reign ad 193 211 represents a key point in roman history birley explores what was

african and what was roman in septimius background given that he came from an african city he asks whether septimius was a typical cosmopolitan bureaucrat a new hannibal on the throne of caesar or principle author of the decline of the roman empire

this thoroughly up to date english biography provides an account of caesar s life it is both lively and engaging offering an imaginative recounting of actions and events while giving a thorough coverage and analysis

from the days of the emperor augustus 27 b c a d 14 the emperor and his court had a quintessential position within the roman empire it is therefore clear that when the impact of the roman empire is analysed the impact of the emperor and those surrounding him is a central issue the study of the representation and perception of roman imperial power is a multifaceted area of research which greatly helps our understanding of roman society in its successive parts this volume focuses on 1 the representation and perception of roman imperial power through particular media literary texts inscriptions coins monuments ornaments and insignia but also nicknames and death bed scenes 2 the representation and perception of roman imperial power in the city of rome and the various provinces 3 the representation of power by individual emperors

magisterial in its breadth and coverage the roamn emperors is a standard work for both the student and general reader by on of the greatest classical historians of our times

of all roman emperors none with the possible exception of nero surpasses caligula s reputation for infamy but was caligula really the mad despot and depraved monster of popular legend or the victim of hostile ancient historians in this study of caligula s life reign and violent death anthony a barrett draws on the archaeological and numismatic evidence to supplement the later written record in professor barrett s view the mystery of caligula s reign is not why he descended into autocracy but how any intelligent roman could have expected a different outcome to grant total power to an inexperienced and arrogant young man was a recipe for disaster this book scholarly and accessible offers a careful reconstruction of caligula s life and times and a shrewd assessment of his historical importance

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