Apollo’s importance in the religion of the Roman state was markedly heightened by the emperor Augustus, who claimed a special affiliation with the god. Contemporary poets variously responded to this appropriation of Phoebus Apollo, both participating in the construction of an imperial symbolism and resisting that ideological project. This book offers a synoptic study of “Augustan” Apollo in Augustan poetry. Topics explored include the divine self-imaging of late Republican rivals for power, poetic imaginings of Apollo’s intervention at the pivotal battle of Actium, how poets “read” Augustus’ new Palatine Temple of Apollo and the deity’s role in the reconstituted Saecular Games, and Apollo’s key position in the emerging dialectic between poetics – as traditional divine patron of music and literature – and politics – as patron of Augustus. Discussions encompass the major Latin poets (Horace, Virgil, Tibullus, Propertius, Ovid) as well as anonymous voices in poetic lampoons, encomia, and contemporary Greek verse.

JOHN F. MILLER is Professor of Classics at the University of Virginia, where he has been Chair of the Department of Classics for many years. He is the author of Ovid’s Elegiac Festivals. Studies in the Fasti and of numerous articles on various Roman poets, especially Ovid.
APOLLO, AUGUSTUS, AND THE POETS

JOHN F. MILLER

University of Virginia
In Memoriam
Agnes Kirssopp Michels
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2. Apollo and Venus on gold coin minted for the triumvirs in 42 BC. *RRC 494.34 = BMCRR* Rome 4300. British Museum. © The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved.
3. Sol (glossed as Apollo by quiver) and Luna on gold coin minted for the triumvirs in 42 BC. *RRC 494.20a = BMCRR* Rome 4285. British Museum. © The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved.
4. Antony and Sol on denarius struck by Mark Antony in 42 BC. *BMCRR* East 91; cf. *RRC 496.2*. British Museum. © The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved.
5. Apollo and a trophy on denarius struck for Brutus in 43–42 BC. *BMCRR* East 61; cf. *RRC 506.2*. British Museum. © The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved.
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