In the first two centuries AD, the eastern Roman provinces experienced a proliferation of elite public generosity unmatched in their previous or later history. In this study, Arjan Zuiderhoek attempts to answer the question why this should have been so. Focusing on Roman Asia Minor, he argues that the surge in elite public giving was not caused by the weak economic and financial position of the provincial cities, as has often been maintained, but by social and political developments and tensions within the Greek cities created by their integration into the Roman imperial system. As disparities of wealth and power within imperial polis society continued to widen, the exchange of gifts for honours between elite and non-elite citizens proved an excellent political mechanism for deflecting social tensions away from open conflicts towards communal celebrations of shared citizenship and the legitimation of power in the cities.

Arjan Zuiderhoek is a lecturer in Ancient History at Ghent University.
The Greek culture of the Roman Empire offers a rich field of study. Extraordinary insights can be gained into processes of multicultural contact and exchange, political and ideological conflict, and the creativity of a changing, polyglot empire. During this period, many fundamental elements of Western society were being set in place: from the rise of Christianity, to an influential system of education, to long-lived artistic canons. This series is the first to focus on the response of Greek culture to its Roman imperial setting as a significant phenomenon in its own right. To this end, it will publish original and innovative research in the art, archaeology, epigraphy, history, philosophy, religion, and literature of the empire, with an emphasis on Greek material.
THE POLITICS OF MUNIFICENCE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Citizens, Elites and Benefactors in Asia Minor

ARJAN ZUIDERHOEK
For Irene
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I could not have written this book without the generosity of others. Onno van Nijf, who supervised the thesis on which the book is originally based, was and continues to be a source of inspiration and encouragement. Always ready to discuss and challenge my ideas, he frequently caused me to rethink large parts of the argument. It was he who introduced me to the fascinating world of the eastern Roman Empire, and who first taught me some Greek epigraphy, ten years ago on a sunny afternoon in Cambridge. I have not looked back since.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations of names and works of Greek and Roman authors are according to the *Oxford Classical Dictionary.*

*AM*  
*Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts. Athenische Abteilung*

*Aphrodisias & Rome*  

*BCH*  
*Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*

*BE*  
*Bulletin Épigraphique* (*in: Revue des Études Grecques*)

*CIG*  
*Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum*

*CIL*  
*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*

*de Hoz*  
M. P. de Hoz, *Die lydischen Kulte im Lichte der griechischen Inschriften* (*Bonn: Habelt, 1999*)

*FE*  
*Forschungen in Ephesos*

*I.Arykanda (IK 48)*  
S. Şahin, *Die Inschriften von Arykanda* (*IK* 48; Bonn: Habelt, 1994)

*I.Assos (IK 4)*  

*IBM*  
*Greek inscriptions in the British Museum*

*I.Éphesos (IK 11–17)*  

*IG*  
*Inscriptiones Graecae*

*IGR*  
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<td><strong>IK</strong></td>
<td><em>Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I.Kibyra (IK 60)</strong></td>
<td>Th. Corsten, <em>Die Inschriften von Kibyra</em> (IK 60; Bonn: Habelt, 2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I.Perge (IK 54)</strong></td>
<td>S. Şahin, <em>Die Inschriften von Perge</em> (IK 54; Bonn: Habelt, 1999)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jahresh. (JÖAI)</strong></td>
<td><em>Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archäologischen Instituts</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KP</strong></td>
<td>J. Keil and A. von Premerstein, <em>Bericht über eine (zweite, dritte) Reise in Lydien</em>, in: <em>Denkschriften der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien (Phil. Hist. Klasse)</em> lIII.2, 1908 (i); lIV.2, 1911 (ii); lVII.1, 1914 (iii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lanck.</strong></td>
<td>K. Lanckoronski, G. Niemann and E. Petersen, <em>Städte Pamphyliens und Pisidiens</em> (Vienna, 1890–2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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LW Ph. Le Bas and W. H. Waddington, Voyage archéologique en Grèce et en Asie Mineure (Paris: Didot, 1870)

Malay, Researches H. Malay, Researches in Lydia, Mysia and Aiolis (Ergänzungsbände zu den Tituli Asiae Minoris nr. 23; Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1999)

MAMA Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua

Mus. Iznik (Nikaia) S. Şahin, Katalog der antiken Inschriften des Museums von Iznik (Nikaia) (IK 9; Bonn: Habelt, 1979)

OGIS W. Dittenberger, Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae (Leipzig: Hirzel, 1903–5)

PAS Papers of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens

P. Oxy. The Oxyrhynchus Papyri


REG Revue des Études Grecques


R. Ph. Revue de Philologie

SEG Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum

Syll.³ W. Dittenberger, Sylloge inscriptionum Graecarum (3rd edn; Leipzig: Hirzel, 1924)

TAM Tituli Asiae Minoris
### List of abbreviations

**ADDITIONAL ABBREVIATIONS USED IN APPENDIX I**

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<td><strong>I. Adramytteion (IK 51)</strong></td>
<td>J. Stauber, <em>Die Bucht von Adramytteion II. Inschriften, literarische Testimonia, Münzen</em> (IK 51; Bonn: Habelt, 1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Ilion (IK 3)</strong></td>
<td>P. Frisch, <em>Die Inschriften von Ilion</em> (IK 3; Bonn: Habelt, 1975)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Keramos (IK 30)</strong></td>
<td>E. Varinlioglu, <em>Die Inschriften von Keramos</em> (IK 30; Bonn: Habelt, 1986)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Magnesia</strong></td>
<td>O. Kern, <em>Die Inschriften von Magnesia am Maeander</em> (Berlin: Spemann, 1900)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Magnesia am Sipylos (IK 8)</strong></td>
<td>T. Ihnken, <em>Die Inschriften von Magnesia am Sipylos</em> (IK 8; Bonn: Habelt, 1978)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of abbreviations

I. Prusias ad Hypium (IK 27)
W. Ameling, Die Inschriften von Prusias ad Hypium (IK 27; Bonn: Habelt, 1985)

I. Rhod. Per. (IK 38)
W. Blümel, Die Inschriften der rhodischen Peraia (IK 38; Bonn: Habelt, 1991)

I. Sestos (IK 19)
J. Krauss, Die Inschriften von Sestos und der thrakischen Chersones (IK 19; Bonn: Habelt, 1980)

I. Smyrna (IK 23–4)
G. Petzl, Die Inschriften von Smyrna (IK 23–4; Bonn: Habelt, 1982–90)

Milet
A. Rehm (with H. Dessau and P. Herrmann), Inschriften von Milet (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; Berlin: De Gruyter, 1997)

Mon. Ant.
Robert, Ét. Épig.
L. Robert, Études épigraphiques et philologiques (Paris: Champion, 1938)

Term. Stud.
R. Heberdey, Termessische Studien (Vienna and Leipzig: Hölder-Pichler-Tempsky, 1929)