SLAVERY IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Rome was a slave society. Beyond the thousands of slaves who worked and lived in the heartland of the Roman empire, slavery fundamentally shaped Roman society and culture. In this book, Sandra R. Joshel offers a comprehensive overview of Roman slavery. Using a variety of sources, including literature, law, and material culture, she examines the legal condition of Roman slaves, traces the stages of the sale of slaves, analyzes the relations between slaves and slaveholders, and details the social and family lives of slaves. Richly illustrated with images of slaves, captives, and the material conditions of slaves, this book also considers food, clothing, and housing of slaves, thereby locating slaves in their physical surroundings – the cook in the kitchen, the maid in her owner’s bedroom, the smith in a workshop, and the farm laborer in a vineyard. Based on rigorous scholarship, *Slavery in the Roman World* serves as a lively, accessible account to introductory-level students of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Sandra R. Joshel is professor of history at the University of Washington in Seattle. A scholar of Roman slavery, women, and gender, she is the author of *Work, Identity and Legal Status at Rome: A Study of the Occupational Inscriptions* and editor (with Sheila Murnaghan) of *Women and Slaves in Greco-Roman Culture: Differential Equations* and (with Margaret Malamud and Donald T. McGuire) *Imperial Projections: Ancient Rome in Modern Popular Culture.*
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To Robert H. Joshel and Laura J. Joshel
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This book relies on the fine work of many scholars and historians of slavery and the Roman world. As an introduction to slavery at Rome, it attempts to bring this scholarship to students and nonacademic readers without diving deeply into its technicalities or detailing its complex debates. However, all readers should be aware that where slaves and their owners are the topic, debates and arguments follow. My own focus on both sides of the relationship that lies at the heart of slavery, slave and slaveholder, will be evident in the pages that follow; so, too, my interest in how we understand and represent the position occupied by slaves, whose voices in our sources do not speak as loudly as their owners’. This emphasis means that my greatest debt in the field is to Keith Bradley, whose many articles and books have shaped our understanding of Roman slavery and debates about it.

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