The Court and Court Society in Ancient Monarchies

Monarchy was widespread as a political system in the ancient world. This volume offers the first substantial discussion of ancient monarchies from the viewpoint of the ruler’s court. The monarchies treated are Achaemenid and Sasanian Persia, the empire of Alexander, Rome under both the early and later Caesars, the Han rulers of China and Egypt’s Eighteenth Dynasty. A comparative approach is adopted to major aspects of ancient courts, including their organisation and physical setting, their role as a vehicle for display, and their place in monarchical structures of power and control. This approach is broadly inspired by work on courts in later periods of history, especially early modern France. The case studies confirm that ancient monarchies created the conditions for the emergence of a court and court society. The culturally specific conditions in which these monarchies functioned meant variety in the character of the ruler’s court from one society to another.

The Court and Court Society in Ancient Monarchies

Edited by

A. J. S. Spaforth
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Acknowledgements

The editor and contributors warmly acknowledge their major debt to the British Academy which funded the bulk of the costs of a workshop in 2004, which brought all the contributors together in Newcastle. The idea for an interdisciplinary project of this kind was stimulated by the collaborative atmosphere of the School of Historical Studies at Newcastle; Jeremy Boulton, Head of School, also gave welcome additional funds for the costs of the workshop. For helpful advice in the course of the project Tony Spawforth would like to thank Yuri Pines, Naomi Standen, Roel Sterckx, Rosalind Thomas and Philip van der Eijk. For practical support the project is grateful to Sarah Francis and the staff in the School Office. All contributors owe a debt of gratitude to Michael Sharp at Cambridge University Press for his constructive interest in the project from its inception, and to the Press’s two anonymous assessors, whose comments improved an earlier draft of the text. Tony Spawforth, finally, would like to thank his fellow-contributors for their magnificent engagement with the courts project, and for their good-natured responsiveness to editorial nagging.

Tony Spawforth
Abbreviations

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<td>AchHist</td>
<td>Achaemenid History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AJA</td>
<td>American Journal of Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>AJP</td>
<td>American Journal of Philology</td>
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<td>Akk.</td>
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<td>AnSt</td>
<td>Anatolian Studies</td>
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<td>Bab.</td>
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<td>BEFAR</td>
<td>Bulletin de l'Ecole française à Rome: Antiquité</td>
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<td>CahDAFI</td>
<td>Cahiers de la Délégation Archéologique Française en Iran</td>
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<td>CIL</td>
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<td>DB</td>
<td>Darius (Inscriptions of) Bisitun</td>
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<td>DF</td>
<td>E. Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, ed. O. Smeaton, vols. I–VI, London (1910)</td>
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<td>DHA</td>
<td>Dialogues d'Histoire Ancienne</td>
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<td>DN</td>
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<td>DOP</td>
<td>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</td>
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<td>FGH</td>
<td>C. and T. Müller, Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum (1841–72)</td>
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<td>GRBS</td>
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<tr>
<td>grI</td>
<td>Greek version of the royal inscription(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Hou Han-shu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>Han-shu</td>
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### List of abbreviations

**ILS**  

**IrAnt**  
*Iranica Antiqua*

**JOB**  
*Jahrbuch des österreichischen Byzantinistik*

**JRA**  
*Journal of Roman Archaeology*

**JWCI**  
*Journal of the Courtauld and Warburg Institutes*

**LÄ**  
*Lexikon der Ägyptologie*

**MAAR**  
*Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*

**MCAAS**  
*Memoirs of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*

**MDAI(R)**  
*Mitteilungen des deutschen archäologischen Instituts: Römische Abteilung*

**mpI**  
Middle Persian version of the royal inscription(s)

**Neh.**  
Book of Nehemiah

**NPi**  
(Inscription of) N(arseh from) P(aikul)i (ed. H. Humbach and P. O. Skjærvø, 1978–83)

**OCD³**  

**paI**  
Parthian version of the royal inscription(s)

**PdP**  
*Parola di Passato*

**PF**  

**PFs**  

**PFS**  
*Persepolis Fortification Seals*

**RE**  

**SAA**  
State Archives of Assyria

**SC**  
Ssu-ma T’an and Ssu-ma Ch’ien (eds.), *Shih-chi (Records of the Scribe)*. Peking (1959)

**ŠH**  
(Inscription of) Sh(abuhr I from) H(ajjiab)ad

**SHA**  
*Scriptores Historiae Augustae*

**SIG³**  

**ŠKZ**  
(Inscription of) Sh(abuhr I on the) K(a’ba-i) Z(ardusht at Naqsh-i Rustam), ed. P. Huyse (1999)

**SO**  
*Symbolae Osloenses*

**SSC**  
*Shi-san ching chu-shü (The Thirteen Classics)*

**StIr**  
*Studia Iranica*

**XP**  
Xerxes (Inscriptions of) Persepolis

**YCLS**  
*Yale Classical Studies*

**ZAW**  
Zeitschrift für alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

**ZPE**  
Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik