RELIGION, DYNASTY, AND PATRONAGE IN
EARLY CHRISTIAN ROME, 300–900

This collection of essays traces the central role played by aristocratic patronage in the transformation of the city of Rome at the end of antiquity. Rather than privileging the administrative and institutional developments related to the rise of papal authority as the paramount theme in the post-classical history of the city, as previous studies have tended to do, here the focus shifts to the networks of reciprocity between patrons and their dependants. Using material culture and social theory to challenge traditional readings of the textual sources, the volume undermines the teleological picture of ecclesiastical sources such as the Liber Pontificalis, and presents the lay, clerical and ascetic populations of the city of Rome at the end of antiquity as interacting in a fluid environment of alliance-building and status negotiation. Drawing on work by members of the Centre for Late Antiquity at the University of Manchester over the last decade, the collection focuses on a wide range of topics, from imperial policy, to the inheritance strategies of aristocratic households, to the rise of monastic foundations. By bringing the city whose aristocracy is the best documented of any ancient population squarely into the centre of discussion, the volume makes an important contribution to our understanding of the role played by elites across the end of antiquity.

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This volume results from a series of collaborations in the Centre for Late Antiquity of the University of Manchester, going back to the spring of 1996. Over this period innumerable debts have been accumulated. A number of colleagues in addition to the volume contributors supported its development by contributing papers and discussion to our research colloquia on related themes, and by reading and responding to draft versions of the contributing essays. Thanks are due to Sam Barnish, Robert Coates-Stephens, Tim Cornell, Andy Fear, Paul Fouracre, Gavin Kelly, Stephen Todd, and Ian Wood, and especially to Lucy Grig and Clare Pilsworth for their generosity as readers. Michael Sharp and the anonymous readers of Cambridge University Press offered outstandingly careful and valuable help. Warm thanks indeed are due to the revered friends and mentors, Peter Brown, Gillian Clark, Robert Markus, Philip Rousseau, and Chris Wickham, who offered advice and encouragement during the very early stages of our thinking about how to think about Roman patronage. Readers will recognize our debt to their work on every page of the present volume, even if none lives up to the precipitous standard of their own.

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We are also grateful to the British Academy and the AHRC respectively for sponsoring two short conferences, in March 1999 and January 2003 respectively, to discuss and develop the work of the two projects. The first of these resulted in Early Medieval Europe 9.3 (2000), ‘The Roman martyrs and the politics of memory’, a special issue edited by Kate Cooper. The second has resulted in the present volume, which in many ways represents a further iteration of the thinking in the first. Contributors to the original colloquium and other collaborators have joined and left the volume as its theme came into focus. We are grateful to Franz-Alto Bauer, Adam Cohen, Jonathan Conant, Sumaiya Hamdani, Bill Klingshirn, Fred Paxton, Philip Rousseau, Antonio Sennis, Sarah Tatum, and Hannah Williams for invaluable contributions to the 2003 colloquium, and to Joanne Moran Cruz and the Medieval Studies Program at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, for hosting the colloquium in high style. Warm thanks are also due to Jim O’Donnell of Georgetown University and Alice-Mary Talbot of Dumbarton Oaks for generosity and inspiration during the work in Washington. The Departments of Classics and Ancient History, of History, and of Religions and Theology at the University of Manchester have throughout offered collegiality and invaluable support.

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informal mentor to more than one contributor. Warm thanks are due to Jamie Wood, who compiled the Index. Michael Sharp and his staff at Cambridge University Press shepherded the volume through the production process with wonderful intelligence and good humour.

Lastly, we record our thanks to a group of people who have done their best to slow the volume’s progress, even as they struggled to impart wisdom to their parents. Every contributor to the present volume has, whether a parent or not, had the experience during the last decade of discussing late Roman patronage while juggling a baby on his or her knee, and though the babies got larger and had to hand on the job of wiggling on laps to younger siblings, they did their best to keep the grown-ups distracted but somehow also inspired. It is to Hester Leyser, Hildelith Leyser, Julian Peres, Karl Rausch, Madeleine Connor, Nicholas Otter, and Antonia Rausch, born in that order from 1997 to 2007, that we dedicate this book.
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### Abbreviations

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<td>AASS</td>
<td><em>Acta Sanctorum quotquot toto urbe coluntur</em> (ed. J. Bollandius et al., Antwerp and Brussels, 1634–)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td><em>Analecta Bollandiana</em></td>
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<td>ACO</td>
<td><em>Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACW</td>
<td><em>Ancient Christian Writers</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>AJA</td>
<td><em>American Journal of Archaeology</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAC</td>
<td><em>Bulletino di Archeologia Cristiana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHL</td>
<td><em>Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina</em> (Brussels, 1898–1901); Supplementum (1911); Novum Supplementum (1986)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td><em>Collectio Avellana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>CBCR</td>
<td><em>Corpus Basilicarum Christianarum Romae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSL</td>
<td><em>Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina</em> (Turnhout, 1952–)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIL</td>
<td><em>Corpus Scriptionum Latinarum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>CJ</td>
<td><em>Classical Journal</em></td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td><em>Classical Philology</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>CPL</td>
<td><em>Clavis Patrum Latinorum</em> (ed. E. Dekkers and A. Gaar, 3rd edn, Turnhout, 1955)</td>
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<td>CSEL</td>
<td><em>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</em> (Vienna, 1866–)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTb</td>
<td><em>Codex Theodosianus</em></td>
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<td>DACL</td>
<td><em>Dictionnaire d’archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie</em> (ed. F. Cabrol and H. Leclercq, Paris, 1924–)</td>
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<td>DOP</td>
<td><em>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</em></td>
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<td>EHR</td>
<td><em>English Historical Review</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>EME</td>
<td><em>Early Medieval Europe</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>HEL</td>
<td><em>Histoire, Epistémologie, Langage</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>HN</td>
<td><em>Zosimus, Historia Nova</em></td>
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Abbreviations

ICUR  Inscriptiones Christianae Urbis Romae (ed. J. B. De Rossi, A. Silvagni and A. Ferrua, Rome, 1922–)
ILCV  Inscriptiones Latinae Christianae Veteres (ed. E. Diehl, 1925–)
ILS   Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae (ed. H. Dessau, Berlin, 1892–)
JAChr Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum
JECS  Journal of Early Christian Studies
JRA   Journal of Roman Archaeology
JRS   Journal of Roman Studies
JTS   Journal of Theological Studies
LCL   Loeb Classical Library
LP    Liber Pontificalis
LTUR  Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae (ed. E. M. Steinby, Rome, 1993–)

Meded Mededelingen van het Nederlandse Instituut te Rome
MEFRA Mélanges de l’Ecole Française de Rome, Antiquité
MEFRM Mélanges de l’Ecole Française de Rome, Moyen Age
MGH   Monumenta Germaniae Historica

AA    Auctores Antiquissimi
Epp.  Epistolae
SRL   Scriptores Rerum Langobardicarum et Italicarum
SRM   Scriptores Rerum Merovingicarum

NCMH  New Cambridge Medieval History
NPNF  Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers
PBSR  Papers of the British School at Rome
PCBE  Prosopographie chrétienne du Bas-Empire (ed. C. Pietri and L. Pietri, Rome, 1982–)


PLRE  Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire (ed. A. H. M. Jones and J. R. Martindale, Cambridge 1971–)

PLS   Patrologia Latina, Supplementum
RivAC Rivista di Archeologia Cristiana
RE    Pauhs Realencyclopädie der classischen Alterthumswissenschaften
RM    Regula Magistri
SC    Sources Chrétiennes
SCH   Studies in Church History
ZKG   Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte