

THE POETICS OF POWER IN AUGUSTAN ROME

Augustus' success in implementing monarchical rule at Rome is often attributed to innovations in the symbolic language of power, from the star marking Julius Caesar's deification to buildings like the Palatine complex and the Forum Augustum to rituals including triumphs and funerals. This book illuminates Roman subjects' vital role in creating and critiquing these images, in keeping with the Augustan poets' sustained exploration of audiences' active part in constructing verbal and visual meaning. From Vergil to Ovid, these poets publicly interpret, debate, and disrupt Rome's evolving political iconography, reclaiming it as the common property of an imagined republic of readers. In showing how these poets used reading as a metaphor for the mutual constitution of Augustan authority and a means of exercising interpretive *libertas* under the principate, this book offers a holistic new vision of Roman imperial power and its representation that will stimulate scholars and students alike.

NANDINI B. PANDEY teaches Classics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her research centers on Latin literature, its historical and cultural contexts, and its postclassical reception. She has published in *Transactions of the American Philological Association*, *The International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, *Vergilius*, *Classical Philology*, *Classical World*, *The Classical Journal*, and *Eidolon*.

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Latin Poetic Responses to Early Imperial Iconography

NANDINI B. PANDEY

University of Wisconsin–Madison



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For Erich, Gil, and Gus
patribus optimis

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