

THE AESTHETICS OF HOPE IN LATE GREEK IMPERIAL LITERATURE

This book sheds light on a relatively dark period of literary history, the late third century CE, a period that falls between the Second Sophistic and Late Antiquity. It argues that more was being written during this time than past scholars have realized and takes as its prime example the understudied Christian writer Methodius of Olympus. Among his many works, this book focuses on his dialogic *Symposium*, a text which exposes an era's new concern to reorient the gaze of a generation from the past onto the future. Dr LaValle Norman makes the further argument that scholarship on the Imperial period that does not include Christian writers within its purview misses the richness of this period, which was one of deepening interaction between Christian and non-Christian writers. Only through recovering this conversation can we understand the transitional period that led to the rise of Constantine.

DAWN LAVALLE NORMAN is a Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University's Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

GREEK CULTURE IN THE ROMAN WORLD

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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.

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HOPE IN LATE GREEK
IMPERIAL LITERATURE

*Methodius of Olympus' Symposium and the
Crisis of the Third Century*

DAWN LAVALLE NORMAN

Australian Catholic University, Melbourne



Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-108-71399-3 — The Aesthetics of Hope in Late Greek Imperial Literature
Dawn LaValle Norman
Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108713993

DOI: 10.1017/9781108657389

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First published 2019

First paperback edition 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-108-49417-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-71399-3 Paperback

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page vii</i>
Introduction: Christians among Imperial Greek Writers in the Third Century	i
1. Mapping Third-Century Literature from the Severans to Constantine	22
2. The End of Dialogue? The Christianization of a Tradition	69
3. Compilation and Unity in Imperial Sympotic Traditions	119
4. Rhetoric and the Problem of Rivalry	163
5. The Lyric Tradition and Changing Hymnic Forms	201
Conclusion	241
<i>Bibliography</i>	247
<i>Index</i>	275

Acknowledgments

Writing a first book requires help from a host of people, not to mention an entire guild. Thanks must go above all to my wonderful set of dissertation advisors: Constanze Güthenke for giving priceless time and advice all over the globe (Geneva, England and New Orleans); Janet Downie for razor-sharp editing suggestions, emotional support and moral/academic modeling; and Brian Daley SJ for introducing me to Methodius in the first place. Also, for Jaś Elsner, who most generously took in a suddenly advisorless student and made her feel at home in Oxford. I couldn't have asked for a more supportive and clear-sighted group.

Beyond my doctoral committee, I am continuously racking up a longer and longer list of the most pleasant kind of debt to fellow academics who have shared work, read chapters and asked penetrating questions. Averil Cameron, Scott Johnson and Jason König graciously read entire chapters of this book at important points along the way. Others provided me with articles and pointed me in the right direction when I was feeling lost, among whom are Katerina Bracht, Federica Candido, Caillan Davenport, Emma Greensmith, Jane Heath, Anna Jouravel, Callum Maciver, Mirosław Mejzner, Laura Miguélez Cavero, Alberto Rigolio and Jeffrey Rusten (whose Lampe I still use with great pleasure!). I am especially grateful to an invitation from Katherina Bracht to participate in her conference on Methodius in Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, Germany, in February 2015, which proved a watershed moment in the creation of this book and allowed me to meet many of the other people working on Methodius globally for the first time. Multiple conference and workshop audiences around the world over the past five years have offered countless suggestions and clarifying questions, and I would especially like to thank the audiences at Cornell, Princeton, Oxford, Australian Catholic University, Durham and the Society for Classical Studies. Special thanks go to Simon Goldhill for being a model to me of intellectual openness and graciousness despite disagreement.

Without all the forms of economic support over the years, this book could not have been completed. I owe thanks to Fondation Hardt, Middlebury College, the Hyde Fellowship, the Classics Department and the Center for Hellenic Studies at Princeton. The wonderful community at Magdalen College, Oxford, nourished this book through countless dinners and conversations in the SCR over coffee or dessert during my tenure as a Fellow by Examination (Junior Research Fellow). And finally, my colleagues at the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at Australian Catholic University have generously read both Methodius' *Symposium* itself and various versions of this project with great insight and humanity.

Primary place among the friendships which enriched my life so much during the gestation of this book goes without doubt to the Germany family, every one of them: Robert, Dianna, Grace, Ada, Elias, Jack and Elizabeth. I still cannot comprehend what I lost with Robert's death during the final stages of this book, but will be eternally grateful to what I found through our friendship. Next in order come the wonderful members of my cohort at Princeton, Richard, Ginny, Madeleine and Simon, for their endless support, sympathy and invigorating conversation from the old Greek room, to parks in London, to mountains in Macedonia. At Oxford I gained new friends, chief among them Fr. Nicholas Crowe and his "Friends" at Blackfriars and the helpful Coffeesophists of Corpus: William Guast, Stuart Thomson and Dan Jolowicz. My family has also been endlessly supportive, in particular my mom has generously and meticulously provided copyediting at key stages. And at the end, I want to thank Mr. Rayl and Dr. Beane, who taught me Latin and Greek in the beginning, having no idea about the repercussions.

Finally, to my husband, Jack Norman, who came into my life after Methodius, but never begrudged my preoccupying first love. For the countless meals, good advice and cheerful love, I am continuously grateful. Thank you for fulfilling my aesthetics of hope, while we continue to journey into the future together.