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Deborah Mauskopf Deliyannis  
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## RAVENNA IN LATE ANTIQUITY

Ravenna was one of the most important cities of late antique Europe. Between AD 400 and 751, it was the residence of western Roman emperors, Ostrogothic kings, and Byzantine governors of Italy, while its bishops and archbishops ranked second only to the popes. During this 350-year period, the city was progressively enlarged and enriched by remarkable works of art and architecture, many of which still survive today. Thus, Ravenna and its monuments are of critical importance to historians and art historians of the late ancient world. This book provides a comprehensive survey of Ravenna's history and monuments in late antiquity, including discussions of scholarly controversies, archaeological discoveries, and new interpretations of art works. As a synthesis of the voluminous literature on this topic, this volume provides an English-language entry point for the study of this fascinating city.

Deborah Mauskopf Deliyannis is assistant professor of history at Indiana University. She is the editor and translator of Agnellus of Ravenna's *Liber pontificalis ecclesiae Ravennatis*, and she is the executive editor of *The Medieval Review*.

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## PREFACE

I was first introduced to the study of Ravenna in Cecil L. Striker's graduate seminar at the University of Pennsylvania. Lee oversaw my dissertation on Agnellus of Ravenna, and was the motivating force behind this book. I am enormously grateful to him for his encouragement, for his comments on the various parts of the text, and for generously providing me with photographs. My colleagues Ann Carmichael and Diane Reilly have been constant sounding boards for my ideas, and I am indebted to them for their advice and support, especially to Ann for her insistence that I find a way to work plague into the book, and to Diane for her reassurance that I could write for art historians. Others who have helped on specific questions include Jonathan J. Arnold, Thomas Brown, Paul Dutton, Andrew Gillett, Nicole Lopez-Jantzen, Lawrence Nees, James J. O'Donnell, Glenn Peers, Leah Shopkow, Eugene Vance, Dorothy Verkerk, and Edward Watts. I am also very grateful to Kate Copenhaver, Seymour Mauskopf, Scott McDonough, Urs Peschlow, Mary Ann Sullivan, and Eugene Vance for their magnificent photographs; the Internet truly is a marvelous way of connecting people with similar interests. Invaluable help was provided by Rhonda Long of Document Delivery Services at the Herman B. Wells Library and Mary Buechley of the Fine Arts Library at Indiana University, and Paola Pilandri of the Soprintendenza per i Beni Architettonici e Paesaggistici di Ravenna. Financial support, especially through a pretenure leave, has been provided by Indiana University. I would especially like to thank Beatrice Rehl of Cambridge University Press for her kind advice and encouragement as this book took shape, and especially for her patience with my delays as the manuscript was completed.

When I signed the contract for this book, I had two children; when the manuscript was completed, I had three – it has been a very busy three years! Spending time with my sons, Alex, Harry, and Simon, has meant that I have not traveled, especially to Italy, as much as I might have. The boys may not

quite understand their mother's interest in the late antique world, but one day we will all go to Ravenna and they will understand my enthusiasm. My husband, Constantine, has seen and understood; he has supported my career from its beginning with love, patience, and practicality, and I dedicate this book to him.



## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>CARB</i>	<i>Corso di cultura sull'arte Ravennate e Bizantine</i>
<i>HL</i>	<i>Paul the Deacon, Historia Langobardorum</i>
<i>LP</i>	<i>Liber pontificalis</i>
<i>LPR</i>	<i>Agnellus, Liber pontificalis ecclesiae Ravennatis</i>
<i>MGH</i>	<i>Monumenta germaniae historica</i>
<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologia Latina</i>
<i>RIS</i>	<i>Rerum Italicarum Scriptores</i>