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978-0-521-86211-0 - Poverty in the Roman World
Edited by Margaret Atkins and Robin Osborne
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POVERTY IN THE ROMAN WORLD

If poor individuals have always been with us, societies have not always seen the poor as a distinct social group. But within the Roman world, from at least the late Republic onwards, the poor were an important force in social and political life and how to treat the poor was a topic of philosophical as well as political discussion. This book explains what poverty meant in antiquity, and why the poor came to be an important group in the Roman world, and it explores the issues which poverty and the poor raised for Roman society and for Roman writers. In essays which range widely in space and time across the whole Roman empire, the contributors address both the reality and the representation of poverty, and examine the impact which Christianity had upon attitudes towards and treatment of the poor.

MARGARET ATKINS is a Senior Research Fellow at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford. She was previously Senior Lecturer in Theology at Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds. She has published with Cambridge University Press translations of Cicero's *De Officiis*, Augustine's political writings and Aquinas' *Disputed Questions on the Virtues*.

ROBIN OSBORNE is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of King's College. His numerous publications include *Greece in the Making* (1996), *Archaic and Classical Greek Art* (1998), *Performance Culture and Athenian Democracy* (1999, edited with Simon Goldhill) and *Greek Historical Inscriptions from the End of the Peloponnesian War to the Death of Alexander* (2003, edited with P. J. Rhodes).

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

for Peter Garnsey

Contents

	<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
	<i>Preface</i>	xi
	<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
1	Introduction: Roman poverty in context <i>Robin Osborne</i>	1
2	The poor in the city of Rome <i>Neville Morley</i>	21
3	Stratification, deprivation and quality of life <i>Walter Scheidel</i>	40
4	'You do him no service': an exploration of pagan almsgiving <i>Anneliese Parkin</i>	60
5	Writing poverty in Rome <i>Greg Woolf</i>	83
6	Poverty and population in Roman Egypt <i>Dominic Rathbone</i>	100
7	A pragmatic approach to poverty and riches: Ambrosiaster's <i>quaestio</i> 124 <i>Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe</i>	115
8	Portraying the poor: descriptions of poverty in Christian texts from the late Roman empire. <i>Richard Finn, O.P.</i>	130
9	Throwing parties for the poor: poverty and splendour in the late antique church <i>Lucy Grig</i>	145

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-86211-0 - Poverty in the Roman World
Edited by Margaret Atkins and Robin Osborne
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
10	Salvian, the ideal Christian community and the fate of the poor in fifth-century Gaul <i>Cam Grey</i>	162
11	Poverty and Roman law <i>Caroline Humfress</i>	183
	<i>Bibliography</i>	204
	<i>Index</i>	220

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

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GREG WOOLF is Professor of Ancient History at the University of St Andrews. Peter Garnsey was one of the supervisors of his PhD thesis, and despite that experience has continued to offer advice and criticism whenever asked. Greg Woolf's first publication was a collaborative piece with Peter, appropriately enough dealing with the patronage of the poor. Greg Woolf's other publications include *Becoming Roman: The Origins of Provincial Civilization in Gaul* (1998).

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface

The papers collected here were given at a conference in Cambridge in 2003 in honour of Professor Peter Garnsey. All those contributing are in one sense or another pupils of Peter, and most of them had their doctoral studies supervised by him, at least in part.

The conference was held not to mark any particular anniversary or event, but to signal the enormous contribution that Peter Garnsey has made to our understanding of the social and economic history of the Graeco-Roman world, and to the way in which we do ancient history. All Peter's publications have been directed at explaining the social dynamics of the Greek and Roman worlds, and in particular explaining how social status is established and marked, how it interacts with political power, and how the structures of society impact back upon the life of the individual. Peter has repeatedly insisted on the importance of understanding the basic questions of how individuals and communities survive, what they eat and where they live. He has directed attention at social groups neglected by our main literary sources, and has shown how judicious reading of texts of all sorts against the knowledge that we have of the constants of human physiological and ecological realities can enable bright light to be thrown on even the most intractable of problems. In this volume his pupils try to emulate his example as they explore a facet of the Roman world peculiarly liable to neglect and distortion.

The conference was crucially shaped by Gillian Clark, Dominic Rathbone and Greg Woolf. It was enabled by the generosity of the Faculty of Classics, the Faculty of History, and Jesus College, Cambridge. For the lively and productive conference discussions we are particularly indebted to the skills of Gillian Clark, Christopher Kelly and Richard Saller as chairmen. In turning the papers from the conference into a book we have been much assisted by Gillian Clark, Emily Gowers, Jill Harries, John Henderson, Brent Shaw and an anonymous reader for Cambridge University Press. We

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii

Preface

regret that Pasquale Rosafio was unable to contribute to the volume the paper he delivered at the conference.

MARGARET ATKINS AND ROBIN OSBORNE

September 2005

Abbreviations

- CAH* *Cambridge Ancient History*, 2nd edn. Cambridge.
- CCL* 149 *Corpus Christianorum* series Latina, vol. 149, ed. Charles Munier.
- CJ* *Codex Justinianus*, ed. Paul Krüger, *Corpus Iuris Civilis* II (Berlin, 1877).
- CTh* *Codex Theodosianus*, ed. Theodor Mommsen, 3 vols. (Berlin, 1905). Translated by Clyde Pharr and others, *The Theodosian Code and Novels, and the Sirmondian Constitutions* (Princeton, 1952).
- D.* *Digest of Justinian*, trans. Alan Watson and others (Pennsylvania, 1985).
- En. in Ps.* Augustine, *Enarrationes in Psalmos*, vols. I–L, ed. D. Dekkers and J. Fraipont, CCSL 38; vols. LI–C, ed. D. Dekkers and J. Fraipont, CCSL 39; vols. CI–CL, ed. D. Dekkers and J. Fraipont, CCSL 40. Turnhout, Brepols, 1956.
- Frag. Vat.* *Fragmenta Quae Dicuntur Vaticana* in *Fontes Iuris Romani Anteiustiniani*, 2nd edn. S. Riccobono and others, vol. II (Florence, 1940): 464–540.
- Inst. Iust.* *Justinian's Institutes*, trans. Peter Birks and Grant McLeod (London, 1987).
- Nov. Iust.* *Novellae (Justiniani)*, ed. Rudolf Schöll and Wilhelm Kroll, *Corpus Iuris Civilis* III (Berlin, 1895).
- Sent. Paul.* *Sententiae Receptae Paulo Tributae* in *Fontes Iuris Romani Anteiustiniani*, 2nd edn. S. Riccobono and others, vol. II (Florence, 1940): 329–417.

Other ancient authors and works are abbreviated as in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd edn).