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The High Tide of Empire  
Second Edition

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# The High Tide of Empire

## Emperors and Empire AD 14-117

Second Edition

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Translated with commentary by  
**BARBARA LEVICK**  
*University of Oxford*



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\*

In the course of this book I have included various passages which I also used in *The Government of the Roman Empire. A Sourcebook*, 2nd edn, published by Routledge, London and New York, 2000.

The following translations appear unchanged (*GRE* passage number followed by LACTOR equivalent in bold type):

17: **34**; 22: **176**; 27: **148**; 35: **35**; 38: **12**; 58: **109**; 64: **114** (partial overlap); 84: **99**; 89: **98**; 95: **125**; 101: **27**; 111: **156**; 112: **164**; 126: **175**; 131: **182**; 150: **211**; 151: **102**; 160: **107** (partial overlap); 161: **150**; 165: **192**; 173: **119**; 177: **121**; 183: **158**; 184: **155**; 193: **161**; 206: **142**; 220: **190**.

The following passages are in fresh translation:

4: **84**; 77: **229**; 81: **86**; 99: **43**; 103: **91**; 119: **180**; 122: **174** (partial overlap); 149: **77**; 159: **108**; 171: **124** (partial overlap); 181: **201** (partial overlap); 188: **157** (partial overlap); 191: **154**.

I am grateful to Messrs. Routledge for their permission to use this material, and for permission to draw on maps 1–5 in the same volume.

## Weights and Measures, Property Qualifications and Salaries

### Roman coins and measures

<i>aureus</i> ('gold piece')	gold coin (7 g) = 25 <i>denarii</i>
<i>denarius</i> ('10 <i>as</i> piece')	silver coin (3.5 g) = 4 sesterces
<i>sestertius</i> , sesterce ( <i>HS</i> )	bronze coin = 2½ asses, used as unit for counting money
<i>as</i>	copper coin
<i>quadrans</i> ('quarter')	copper coin = ¼ <i>as</i>
<i>modius</i>	measure of capacity/weight (8.62 l = 6.65 kg wheat)
<i>sextarius</i> ('sixth')	measure of capacity (c. 500 ml)
<i>pedalis</i> ('measuring one foot')	29.6 cm
<i>bissales</i> ('measuring two thirds of a foot')	19.7 cm
<i>cubitum</i> ('forearm', cubit)	c. 46 cm
<i>milia passuum</i> (mile, Roman, of 'one thousand paces')	c. 1479 m
<i>iugerum</i>	square measure (0.25 ha)
<i>centuria</i>	division of land (200 <i>iugera</i> )

### Greek (Attic) coins and measures, commonly used in Greek-speaking provinces

talent (Attic)	= 6,000 <i>drachmae</i>
drachma (Attic)	silver coin (4.36 g) = 6 obols, notionally equivalent to 1 <i>denarius</i> . (The Alexandrian drachma used in Egypt was notionally equivalent to one <i>sestertius</i> .)
stade	178.6 m
<i>schoenus</i>	measure of distance coverable in one hour, 30–40 stades
<i>plethron</i>	square measure (929 sq. m)

### Property Qualifications and Salaries

	<i>HS</i>
To be a Roman senator, a man had to possess property worth at least	1,000,000
The property of the Younger Pliny has been estimated at	20,000,000
He bought one estate ( <i>Ep.</i> 3.19.7) for	3,000,000
A Roman eques had to possess property worth at least	400,000
A local councillor might have to possess (amounts varied)	100,000
The highest value of the estates of a landowner who borrowed money on the Veleia maintenance schemes (see below, <b>250</b> ) was	1,200,700
Senators who governed provinces received annual salaries of	400,000
Equites in imperial service would receive salaries of	60,000–200,000
Before Domitian's pay rise, basic legionary annual pay was	900
After the pay rise, it was	1,200
At Rome, men received 60 <i>modii</i> of wheat annually, worth	c. 300–360

### Bibliography and Abbreviations

AE	<i>L'Année épigraphique</i> (items referred to by year of volume and number of item)
Aphrodisias	J. M. Reynolds, <i>Aphrodisias and Rome. Documents from the Excavations of the Theatre at Aphrodisias</i> (1982)
Bar Kokhba Documents	N. Lewis, ed., <i>The documents from the Bar Kokhba Period in the Cave of Letters. Greek Papyri</i> (1989)
BMC	<i>British Museum Catalogue</i>
CAH	<i>Cambridge Ancient History</i>
CPJ	V. Tcherikover, A. Fuks, and M. Stern, <i>Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum</i> (3 vols., 1957–64)
CPL	R. Cavenaile, <i>Corpus Papyrorum Latinarum</i> (1958)
CREBM	H. Mattingly <i>et al.</i> , <i>Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum</i> 1 (1923); 2 <sup>2</sup> (1978)
EJ <sup>2</sup>	V. Ehrenberg and A. H. M. Jones, <i>Documents Illustrating the Reigns of Augustus and Tiberius</i> <sup>2</sup> , ed. D. L. Stockton (1976)
Graffites	R. Marichal, <i>Les Graffites de la Graufesenque. 47<sup>e</sup> Suppl. à Gallia</i> (1988)
ILS	H. Dessau, ed., <i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i> (3 vols., 1892–1916, repr. 1954–5)
LACTOR 8	B. H. Warmington and S. J. Miller, <i>Inscriptions of the Roman Empire AD 14–117</i> (LACTOR 8, 1971, repr. 1996)
LACTOR 15	J. Edmondson, <i>Dio: the Julio-Claudians: Selections from Books 58–63 of the Roman History of Cassius Dio</i> (LACTOR 15, 1992)
Land-Surveyors	J. B. Campbell, <i>The Writings of the Roman Land-Surveyors: Text, Translation, and Commentary</i> (2000)
Ostia	R. Meiggs, <i>Roman Ostia</i> (1960, ed. 2 1973)
Military Records	R. O. Fink, <i>Roman Military Records on Papyrus</i> (1971)
MW	M. McCrum and A. G. Woodhead, <i>Select Documents of the Principates of the Flavian Emperors</i> (1961)
OCD <sup>3</sup>	S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth, ed., <i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> (ed. 3, 1996)
PMich	<i>Michigan Papyri</i> (1931–)
POxy	<i>Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i> (1898–)
RIB	R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright, ed., <i>The Roman Inscriptions of Britain</i> . 1 (1965); S. S. Frere and R. S. Tomlin, 2 (1991)
RIC	H. Mattingly and E. A. Sydenham, <i>et al.</i> , ed., <i>The Roman Imperial Coinage: 1. Augustus to Vitellius</i> (rev. C. H. V. Sutherland, 1984); 2. <i>Vespasian to Hadrian</i> (1926)



<i>Editorial conventions</i>		7
<i>Sel. Pap.</i>	<i>Select Papyri: 2. Non-literary Papyri; Public Documents</i> (Loeb Classical Library, 1935)	
<i>SC de Cn. Pisone patre</i>	W. Eck <i>et al.</i> , edd., <i>Das senatus consultum de Cn. Pisone patre</i> (1996)	
<i>Sm. G–N</i>	E. M. Smallwood, <i>Documents illustrating the Principates of Gaius, Claudius and Nero</i> (1967)	
<i>Sm. N–H</i>	E. M. Smallwood, <i>Documents illustrating the Principates of Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian</i> (1966)	
<i>Tabula Iritana</i>	J. González, ‘The Lex Iritana: a new copy of the Flavian Municipal Law’, <i>Journal of Roman Studies</i> 76 (1986) 147–239	
<i>Tabula Siarensis</i>	J. González, <i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i> 55 (1984) 55–100; A. Sánchez-Ostiz, <i>Tabula Siarensis: edición, traducción y comentario</i> (1999)	
<i>Tabulae Pompeianae Sulp.</i>	G. Camodeca, <i>Tabulae Pompeianae Sulpiciorum (TPSulp): edizione critica dell’archivio puteolano dei Sulpicii</i> (2 vols., 1999)	
<i>Tabulae Vindolandenses II</i>	A. K. Bowman and J. D. Thomas, <i>The Vindolanda Writing Tablets</i> (1994)	

### Editorial Conventions

[ ]	square brackets enclose words or letters which are missing in the original text and have been restored by the editor or translator.
[...]	dots in square brackets represent letters missing in the original text.
[---]	dashes in square brackets represent an uncertain amount of missing text.
( )	round brackets enclose additions to the original text made by the editor or translator, such as the expansion of abbreviated words, or explanatory notes.
< >	angle brackets enclose letters or words omitted by error in the original text.
...	dots outside brackets mark where the translator has omitted part of the text.

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