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## CLAUDIAN AND THE ROMAN EPIC TRADITION

The historical importance of Claudian as writer of panegyric and propaganda for the court of Honorius is well established but his poetry has been comparatively neglected: only recently has his work been the subject of modern literary criticism. Taking as its starting point Claudian's claim to be the heir to Virgil, this book examines his poetry as part of the Roman epic tradition. Discussing first what we understand by epic and its relevance for late antiquity, Catherine Ware argues that, like Virgil and later Roman epic poets, Claudian analyses his contemporary world in terms of classical epic. Engaging intertextually with his literary predecessors, Claudian updates concepts such as *furor* and *concordia*, redefining *Romanitas* to exclude the increasingly hostile East, depicting enemies of the West as new Giants and showing how the government of Honorius and his chief minister, Stilicho, has brought about a true golden age for the West.

CATHERINE WARE is currently undertaking research at the University of Liverpool, having been awarded a mobility postdoctoral fellowship by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Specialising in the epic tradition and the literature of late antiquity, she is now working on the Panegyrici Latini project, preparing commentaries on two of the speeches in honour of the emperor Constantine.

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## *Abbreviations*

Abbreviations of titles of ancient works correspond to those used in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (third revised edition) with the addition of the following for works of Claudian:

<i>c.m.</i>	<i>carmina minora</i>
<i>III Cons./De tertio consulatu</i>	<i>Panegyricus de tertio consulatu Honorii Augusti</i>
<i>IV Cons./De quarto consulatu</i>	<i>Panegyricus de quarto consulatu Honorii Augusti</i>
<i>VI Cons./De sexto consulatu</i>	<i>Panegyricus de sexto consulatu Honorii Augusti</i>
<i>Epith.</i>	<i>Epithalamium de nuptiis Honorii Augusti</i>
<i>Eut.</i> 1, 2	<i>In Eutropium</i> 1, 2
<i>Fesc.</i>	<i>Fescennina de nuptiis Honorii Augusti</i>
<i>Get.</i>	<i>De bello Getico</i>
<i>Gild.</i>	<i>De bello Gildonico</i>
<i>Laus Ser.</i>	<i>Laus Serenae</i>
<i>P&amp;O/Probinus et Olybrius</i>	<i>Panegyricus dictus Probino et Olybrio consulibus</i>
<i>Rapt./De raptu</i> 1, 2, 3	<i>De raptu Proserpinae</i> 1, 2, 3
<i>Ruf.</i> 1, 2	<i>In Rufinum</i> 1, 2
<i>Stil.</i> 1, 2, 3	<i>De consulatu Stilichonis</i> 1, 2, 3
<i>Theod./Theodorus</i>	<i>Panegyricus dictus Mallio Theodoro consuli</i>

I have used the Teubner text of J. B. Hall, *Claudianus Carmina* (1985) throughout. All translations are my own.