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978-1-107-06567-3 - Livy's Political Philosophy: Power and Personality in Early Rome

Ann Vasaly

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Livy's Political Philosophy

This volume explores the political implications of the first five books of Livy's celebrated history of Rome, challenging the common perception of the author as an apolitical moralist. Ann Vasaly argues that Livy intended to convey through the narration of particular events crucial lessons about the interaction of power and personality, including the personality of the Roman people as a whole. These lessons demonstrate the means by which the Roman republic flourished in the distant past and by which it might be revived in Livy's own corrupt time. Written at the precise moment when Augustus' imperial autocracy was about to replace the republican system that had existed in Rome for almost 500 years, the stories of the first pentad offer invaluable insight into how republics and monarchies work. Vasaly's innovative study furthers the integration in recent scholarship of the literary brilliance of Livy's text and the seriousness of its purpose.

ANN VASALY is Associate Professor of Classical Studies at Boston University. She is the author of *Representations: Images of the World in Ciceronian Oratory*.

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107065673

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Vasaly, Ann.

Livy's political philosophy : power and personality in early Rome / Ann Vasaly.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-06567-3 (hardback)

1. Livy. Ab urbe condita. Liber 1–5. 2. Rome – Politics and government – 510–30 B.C.
3. Rome – Politics and government – 30 B.C.–284 A.D. 4. Republicanism – Rome.
5. Monarchy – Rome. I. Title.

PA6459.V37 2015

937–dc23 2014043703

ISBN 978-1-107-06567-3 Hardback

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Tom and Carol Vasaly, parentibus optimis carissimis

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Preface

This work on Livy's first pentad began a very long time ago, with an article on the Appii Claudii of Books Two through Five (*TAPhA* 117 [1987] 203–26). Over the succeeding years, during a scholarly career devoted for the most part to Cicero's rhetorical works, several other pieces on Livy were added – always focused on the first pentad and written with the conviction that these books revealed a historian who was deeply concerned with the political problems of his own age. Thanks in large part to a semester's leave taken at the American Academy in Rome under the aegis of the Lucy Shoe Meritt Residency in the Humanities, I was able to integrate old and new material to produce the present monograph. I have profited from the thoughtful and skilled assistance of my editor, Laura Morris, from our first discussions about the possibility of publishing the book with Cambridge University Press to its final stages. The following were kind enough to read and respond to drafts of part or all of the work, and I am very grateful for their helpful comments: Wolfgang Haase, Jay Samons, and Christopher Smith. The three anonymous reviewers for the Press were extraordinarily careful, learned, and astute readers, and their suggestions, insights, and observations led to many changes that I hope have improved the original text. My husband Rich Young has been a source of unending encouragement, support, and affection throughout my career, and he made many generous contributions at all stages in the creation of this book, including offering excellent advice on matters of style and content, as well as helping with numerous aspects of preparation of the work for publication. The Boston University Center for the Humanities provided a grant covering final production costs, allowing me to avail myself of the excellent services of Rachel Fisher, a doctoral student in Classics at Boston University, who helped with proofreading and indexing. This book is dedicated to my parents, Tom and Carol Vasaly, whose love and support at every stage in my life have meant more to me than I can ever put into words. I only wish that my father, who passed away in August 2013, were here to read this.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations of journal titles may be found in *L'Année Philologique*.
Abbreviations of ancient authors and works follow the forms in *OCD* 4th ed.
The most recent Oxford Classical Text editions have been used for the Latin texts of Livy and Cicero, unless otherwise noted. All Latin translations are my own; translations of Greek are from Loeb Classical Library editions, unless otherwise noted.

ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> , eds. H. Temporini and W. Haase. (Berlin and New York 1972–).
BMC Rom. Emp.	<i>British Museum Catalogue of Coins of the Roman Empire</i> , eds. H. Mattingly et al. (London 1923–).
FGrH	<i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> , eds. F. Jacoby et al. (Berlin and Leiden 1923–).
FRHist	<i>The Fragments of the Roman Historians</i> , ed. T.J. Cornell. 3 vols. (Oxford 2013).
HRR	<i>Historicorum Romanorum Reliquiae</i> , ed. H. Peter. (Vol. I [2nd edn.]: Leipzig 1914; Vol. II: Leipzig 1906).
MRR	T.R.S. Broughton, <i>Magistrates of the Roman Republic</i> , Vol. I, 2nd edn. (New York 1960).
OCD	<i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> , eds. S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth, 4th edn. (Oxford 2012).
RE	<i>Real-encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> , eds. A. Pauly, G. Wissowa, and W. Kroll. (Stuttgart 1893–).
SB Att	D.R. Shackleton Bailey, <i>Cicero: Epistulae ad Atticum</i> . 2 vols. (Cambridge 1998).
SB Fam	D.R. Shackleton Bailey, <i>Cicero: Epistulae ad Familiares</i> . 2 vols. (Cambridge 1977).