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Edited by Alice König, Rebecca Langlands, James Uden
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LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE, 96–235

This book explores new ways of analysing interactions between different linguistic, cultural and religious communities across the Roman Empire from the reign of Nerva to the Severans (96–235 CE). Bringing together leading scholars in Classics with experts in the history of Judaism, Christianity and the Near East, it looks beyond the Greco-Roman binary that has dominated many studies of the period, and moves beyond traditional approaches to intertextuality in its study of the circulation of knowledge across languages and cultures. Its sixteen chapters explore shared ideas about aspects of Imperial experience – law, patronage, architecture, the army – as well as the movement of ideas about history, *exempla*, documents and marvels. As the second volume in the Literary Interactions series, it offers a new and expansive vision of cross-cultural interaction in the Roman world, shedding light on connections that have previously gone unnoticed among the subcultures of a vast and evolving Empire.

ALICE KÖNIG is a Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of St Andrews. She works on ancient technical literature and the history of science, and the relationship between politics, society and literature in the early principate. These two interests come together in a monograph she is preparing on the author and statesman, Sextus Julius Frontinus, and in a series of articles she has published on Vitruvius, Frontinus, Pliny the Younger and Tacitus. Alice established the Literary Interactions research project in 2011, and is co-editor of the project's first volume (*Roman Literature under Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian: Literary Interactions, AD 96–138*), to which she contributed a chapter on Frontinus and Martial. She also co-directs a collaborative research project on Visualising War, looking at interplay between battle narratives in different genres and media from antiquity to the present day.

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96–235

Cross-Cultural Interactions

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Preface

This volume, which traces interaction between texts and cultures across the Roman Empire, was itself born from a desire to interact. The Literary Interactions project, founded by Alice König in St Andrews in 2011, grew over the course of four international conferences to include several dozen scholars, with our first multi-authored book published in 2018. In developing this second volume we have been particularly keen to increase dialogue across scholarly disciplines, and we are grateful for the openness and intellectual generosity of everyone who has joined us in this project.

Our conversations were made possible through the support of a number of institutions and funding bodies. We would like to thank the British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grants Scheme, the Institute of Classical Studies, the School of Classics at the University of St Andrews, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and the University of Exeter; the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, the Heinrich Schliemann-Institut für Altertumswissenschaften (University of Rostock) and the Rostocker Freunde der Altertumswissenschaften; and the Peter Paul Career Development Professorship (Boston University).

For his valuable contribution to the group in developing and assessing new theories of interaction, we would especially like to thank Paul Robertson. For logistical support at the Boston and Exeter conferences in which this volume finds its origins, we thank Sam Hayes. Sincere thanks too to Vittorio Bottini for his careful editorial work on the volume, to the anonymous readers for their helpful comments, and to Michael Sharp and his team at Cambridge University Press. Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the scholars who took an interest in this work and joined us along the way. Thank you to our authors and to everyone else who has been part of the wider conversation for contributing their expertise and

energy, and for building a dialogue that has been enjoyable, illuminating and is still ongoing. The process of writing and editing the book has instilled in us a new enthusiasm for connecting different traditions of scholarly thought about the Roman Empire. We hope that, having read the volume, our readers will feel the same way.

AK, RL AND JU

Timeline

Emperors	Imperial context	Texts ¹
69–79 Vespasian	70 Fall of Jerusalem	After 68–115 Plutarch , <i>Moralia</i> 77–9 Pliny the Elder , <i>Natural History</i>
79–81 Titus 81–96 Domitian	85–9 Domitian's Dacian wars	80–100 Epistle to the Ephesians 84–8 (?) Frontinus , <i>Strategemata</i> late first century (?) Chariton , <i>Callirhoe</i> late first/early second century 4 Maccabees
96–8 Nerva 98–117 Trajan	102–6, 114–16 Expansion of Empire under Trajan 110 Pliny consults Trajan about charges against Christians in Bithynia	99–110 Pliny the Younger , <i>Letters</i> 106–113 Aelianus Tacticus [Aelian], <i>Tactical Theory</i>
117–38 Hadrian	117 Abandonment of new Trajanic provinces 132–5 Bar Kokhbah revolt	119–22 Suetonius , <i>Lives of the Caesars</i> 130s (?) Florus , <i>Epitome</i> 130s (?) Phlegon , <i>On Marvels</i> 130s (?) Favorinus , <i>Corinthian Oration</i>

¹ This timeline only includes works that are the focus of discussion in this book. Dates (in CE) are conjectural, and are offered only as a guide. They follow the *OCD*⁴ wherever possible.

Emperors	Imperial context	Texts
138–61 Antoninus Pius		136–7 Arrian , <i>Tactics</i> 139–66 Fronto
161–80 Marcus Aurelius		140s–60s Appian 155–62 Justin Martyr , <i>Apologies</i> 160 (or after 176) Tatian , <i>Oration to the Greeks</i>
161–9 Lucius Verus	162–6 Roman wars against Parthia 172 Marcus Aurelius’ ‘rain miracle’	170s (?) Chaldean Oracles
180–92 Commodus		180–200 Clement , <i>Protrepticus</i> late second century Acts of Peter and Acts of Paul
193 Pertinax 193 Didius Julianus 193–211 Septimius Severus 198–217 Caracalla	195 Roman re-annexation of Mesopotamia	200 (?) Compilation of the Mishnah 200–25 student of Bardaisan , <i>Book of the Laws of the Countries</i> 215 (?) Claudius Aelianus [Aelian], <i>On the Character of Animals</i>
210–11 Geta	212 <i>Constitutio Antoniniana</i>	
217–18 Macrinus 218–22 Elagabalus 222–35 Severus Alexander		

Abbreviations

Abbreviations for ancient authors and titles follow *LSJ*, *OLD* or other standard conventions; those for journals are adapted from *L'Année philologique*.

<i>AE</i>	<i>L'Année épigraphique</i> , Paris 1888–.
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> , Berlin 1972–.
<i>BAGRW</i>	R. J. A. Talbert, ed., <i>Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World</i> , Princeton 2000.
<i>BNJ</i>	I. Worthington, ed., <i>Brill's New Jacoby</i> , Leiden 2006–.
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum</i> , Berlin 1863–.
<i>EDR</i>	<i>Epigraphic Database Roma</i> , Rome 2003–.
<i>Frag. Vat.</i>	<i>Fragmenta quae dicuntur Vaticana</i> , in T. Mommsen, ed., <i>Collectio librorum iuris anteiustiniani</i> , III, Berlin 1890.
<i>FGrHist</i>	<i>Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker</i> , Berlin 1923–.
<i>GCS</i>	<i>Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten Jahrhunderte</i> , Leipzig and Berlin 1897–.
<i>IAPH2007</i>	J. Reynolds, C. Roueché and G. Bodard, eds., <i>Inscriptions of Aphrodisias</i> , 2007, http://insaph.kcl.ac.uk/iaph2007/ .
<i>IG II²</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae II et III: Inscriptiones Atticae Euclidis anno posteriores</i> , Berlin 1913–40.
<i>IGRR</i>	R. Cagnat, ed., <i>Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes</i> , 4 vols., Paris 1901–27.
<i>IGUR</i>	L. Moretti, ed., <i>Inscriptiones Graecae Urbis Romae</i> , Rome 1968–.

xvi	<i>List of Abbreviations</i>
<i>IHatra</i>	R. Bertolino, <i>Manuel d'épigraphie hatréenne</i> , Paris 2008.
<i>IK Estremo oriente</i>	F. Canali de Rossi, <i>Iscrizioni dello estremo oriente greco: un repertorio</i> , Bonn 2004.
<i>LCL</i>	J. Henderson, ed., <i>Loeb Classical Library</i> , Cambridge, MA 1911–.
<i>LSJ</i>	H. G. Liddell, R. Scott and H. S. Jones, <i>Greek–English Lexicon</i> (with revised supplement), 9th edn., Oxford 1996.
<i>OLD</i>	P. W. Glare, ed., <i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i> , Oxford 1982 (2nd edn. 2012).
<i>P. Fay.</i>	B. P. Grenfell, A. S. Hunt and D. G. Hogarth, eds., <i>Fayum Towns and their Papyri</i> , London 1900.
<i>P. Oxy.</i>	<i>The Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i> , London 1898–.
<i>PAT</i>	D. Hillers and E. Cussini, <i>Palmyrene Aramaic Texts</i> , Baltimore 1996.
<i>RIB</i>	<i>Roman Inscriptions of Britain</i> , Oxford 1965–.
<i>RIU</i>	<i>Die römischen Inschriften Ungarns</i> , Amsterdam 1972–.
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum</i> , Amsterdam and Leiden 1923–.
<i>SIG³</i>	W. Dittenberger and F. Hiller, eds., <i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> , Leipzig 1915–24.
<i>TLL</i>	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Latinae</i> , Leipzig 1900–.

Map



Map 1 The Roman Empire in 117 CE



Map 1 (Cont.)