

EMPERORS AND POLITICAL CULTURE IN CASSIUS DIO'S *ROMAN HISTORY*

The *Roman History* of Cassius Dio provides one of the most important continuous narratives of the early Roman empire, spanning the inception of the Principate under Augustus to the turbulent years of the Severan Dynasty. It has been a major influence on how scholars have thought about Roman imperial history, from the Byzantine period down to the present day, as well as being a work of considerable literary sophistication and merit. This book, the product of an international collaborative project, brings together thirteen chapters written by scholars based in Europe, North America, and Australia. They offer new approaches to Dio's representation of Roman emperors, their courtiers, and key political constituencies such as the army and the people, as well as the literary techniques he uses to illuminate his narrative, from speeches to wonder narratives.

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Edited by Caillan Davenport , Christopher Mallan
Frontmatter
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Preface

How we make sense of our political leaders and the cultures they inhabit (and create) are questions of relevance for us in 2020 as they were for Cassius Dio in 220. The emperors of Rome remain, whether in academic circles or popular culture, common points of reference in such discussions. As such, the study of Roman emperors and the political culture of imperial Rome needs no special appeals for relevance. Nor is there need for an excuse to write a book about Cassius Dio. The consular historian from Nicaea has now entered the academic, if not (yet) popular, mainstream.

This volume had its genesis in a panel at the Classical Association conference in Edinburgh in 2016 featuring the editors of this volume, Adam Kemezis, and Verena Schulz. After this panel, we decided to bring together an international team comprising both early career academics and senior researchers in order to investigate questions around Dio's portrayals of emperors and his representation of Roman political culture in the *Roman History*. Between Easter 2016, when the outline of the volume was threshed out over coffee in the collegial atmosphere of the Wadham College SCR, and early 2020, when the final revisions were made in the isolation of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, neither the world nor 'Dio Studies' has stood still. Even so, it is hoped that this volume will make contributions to the twin fields of Roman imperial history and historiography.

It has been a pleasure to work with our collaborators over these past four years. We would like also to take this opportunity to thank several individuals who have contributed to the making of this volume. Although Verena Schulz's contribution from the Classical Association conference does not appear in this volume, we would like to thank her for her contribution to the original panel in Edinburgh: the arguments that she presented there can now be found in her excellent 2019 monograph *Deconstructing Imperial Representation: Tacitus, Cassius Dio, and Suetonius on Nero and Domitian*. With characteristic generosity, Chris Pelling has read over the entire

manuscript and offered feedback on several chapters at various stages. Rhiannon Ash, Cesare Letta, and Barbara Saylor Rodgers also provided valuable editorial feedback, not least by spotting typographical errors that had escaped our notice. Michael Sharp has been the model of professionalism at Cambridge University Press, and we are grateful for his support for this project from its inception. This volume benefitted from the advice of Cambridge's reviewers, who offered the best sort of critical feedback on the proposal and who helped shape the current structure of this volume.

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Finally, it seems only appropriate in a volume such as this that we acknowledge the scholarship of Sir Fergus Millar, who passed away in July 2019, and whose contributions to the study of Cassius Dio and to our understanding of Roman imperial culture continue to shape much of the current discussion.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations of ancient texts conform to those found in either *OCD*³ or *LSJ*⁹, except for those noted below. All references in this volume to Cassius Dio's *Roman History* are given by book, chapter, and section numbers. They are not prefaced by 'Cass. Dio' or 'Dio'. The 'reformed' book number of Boissevain's edition is given first, followed by the 'standard' numbering in brackets. Where the text derives from an epitome or collection from the *Excerpta Constantiniana* or another source, it is indicated in brackets following the reference.

Bekker	Bekker, I. (ed.) (1849), <i>Cassii Dionis Cocceiani rerum Romanarum libri octoginta</i> . Leipzig.
<i>BMCRE</i>	<i>Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum</i> .
Boissevain	Boissevain, U. P. (ed.) (1898–1931), <i>Cassii Dionis Historiarum Romanarum quae supersunt</i> , vols. 1–3 (text), 4 (<i>index historicus</i> , ed. H. Smilda), 5 (<i>index Graecitatis</i> , ed. W. Nawijn). Berlin.
Cary	Cary, E. (ed. and trans.) (1914–29), <i>Dio's Roman History</i> , vols. 1–9. London.
<i>CIL</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i> .
<i>ELg</i>	<i>Excerpta de Legationibus gentium ad Romanos</i> in Boor, C. de. (ed.) (1904), <i>Excerpta de Legationibus</i> . Berlin.
<i>ELr</i>	<i>Excerpta de Legationibus Romanorum ad gentes</i> in Boor, C. de. (ed.) (1904), <i>Excerpta de Legationibus</i> . Berlin.
<i>ES</i>	Boissevain, U. P. (ed.) (1906), <i>Excerpta de Sententiis</i> . Berlin.
<i>EV</i>	Büttner-Wobst, T. and Roos, A. G. (eds.) (1906), <i>Excerpta de Virtutibus et Vitiis</i> . Berlin.
<i>FGrH</i>	Jacoby, F. (ed.) (1923–58), <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> . Leiden.

<i>FRHist</i>	Cornell, T. J. <i>et al.</i> (eds.) (2013), <i>The Fragments of the Roman Historians</i> , 3 vols. Oxford.
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae.</i>
<i>ILS</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae.</i>
John Ant.	John of Antioch.
<i>LSJ⁹</i>	Liddell, H. G. and Scott, R. (rev. Jones, H. S. and McKenzie, R.) (eds.) (1996), <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , 9th edition. Oxford.
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary.</i>
Pet. Pat.	Peter the Patrician.
<i>P. Colon.</i>	<i>Kölner Papyri.</i>
<i>P. Giss.</i>	<i>Griechische Papyri im Museum des Oberhessischen Geschichtsvereins zu Giessen.</i>
<i>PIR²</i>	Groag, E. <i>et al.</i> (eds.) (1933–2015), <i>Prosopographia Imperii Romani, saec. i, ii, iii</i> , 2nd edition. Berlin and Leipzig.
<i>PLRE I</i>	Jones, A. H. M., Martindale, J. R. and Morris, J. (eds.) (1971), <i>The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire, Volume I, AD 260–395</i> . Cambridge.
<i>P. Oxy.</i>	<i>The Oxyrhynchus Papyri.</i>
<i>RE</i>	Pauly, A. F. von, Wissowa, G. E. <i>et al.</i> (eds.) (1894–), <i>Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> . Berlin and Stuttgart.
<i>RGDA</i>	Cooley, A. E. (ed.) (2009), <i>Res Gestae Divi Augusti: Text, Translation, and Commentary</i> . Cambridge.
<i>RIB</i>	<i>Roman Inscriptions of Britain.</i>
<i>RIC</i>	<i>Roman Imperial Coinage.</i>
<i>RPC</i>	<i>Roman Provincial Coinage.</i>
Sherk, <i>Hadrian</i>	Sherk, R. (ed.) (1988), <i>The Roman Empire: From Augustus to Hadrian</i> . Cambridge.
<i>TrGF</i>	Snell, B., Kannicht, R., Radt, S. (eds.) (1971–85), <i>Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta</i> . Leipzig.
Xiph.	Xiphilinus, <i>Epitome.</i>
Zonar.	Zonaras, <i>Epitome of Histories.</i>