

EMPIRE AND RELIGION IN THE ROMAN WORLD

The inspiration for this volume comes from the work of its dedicatee, Brent D. Shaw, who is one of the most original and wide-ranging historians of the ancient world of the last half-century and continues to open up exciting new fields for exploration. Each of the distinguished contributors has produced a cutting-edge exploration of a topic in the history and culture of the Roman empire dealing with a subject on which Professor Shaw has contributed valuable work. Three major themes extend across the volume as a whole. First, the ways in which the Roman world represented an intricate web of connections even while society remained fragmented and many people's lives were local. Second, the ways in which the peculiar Roman space promoted religious competition in a sophisticated marketplace for practices and beliefs, with Christianity being a major benefactor. Finally, the varying forms of violence that were endemic within and between communities.

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CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108831925 DOI: 10.1017/9781108932981

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First published 2021

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Flower, Harriet I. author, editor. | Shaw, Brent D., honouree. | Subjects of empire:
political and cultural exchange in Imperial Rome (Conference) (2017: Princeton, N.J.)

TITLE: Empire and religion in the Roman world / edited by Harriet I. Flower,
Princeton University.

DESCRIPTION: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021026935 (print) | LCCN 2021026936 (ebook) |
ISBN 9781108831925 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108932981 (ebook)

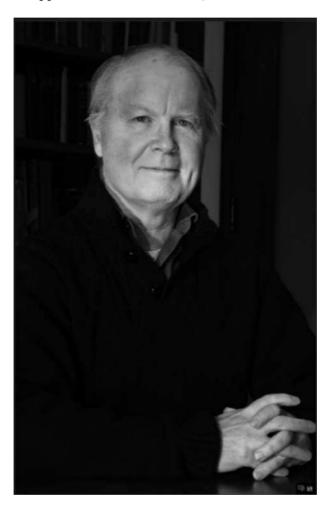
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Rome – History. | Rome – Politics and government. | Rome – Church history. | Christianity – Rome – History. | Rome – Religion. | Rome – Religious life and customs. | BISAC: HISTORY / Ancient / General | HISTORY / Ancient / General | CLASSIFICATION: LCC DG77 .E53 2021 (print) | LCC DG77 (ebook) | DDC 937–dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021026935 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021026936

ISBN 978-1-108-83192-5 Hardback

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For Brent D. Shaw, on the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Classics at Princeton University, with much appreciation and affection (photo: Robert A. Kaster)







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Acknowledgments

The editor wishes to acknowledge the many colleagues and friends who encouraged, fostered, and facilitated this volume since the conference at Princeton in May of 2017 that marked Brent D. Shaw's retirement from the Department of Classics. Above all, I am grateful to the contributors for their stimulating and thoughtful papers. The conference itself and the concept for the volume were both inspired by Andrew Feldherr, Chair of the Department of Classics at Princeton. My colleague in the Department of Religion, AnneMarie Luijendijk was a consistent source of advice and insights at each stage. Cait Mongrain provided vital help with copy-editing and preparing the manuscript for publication, even while working under uniquely challenging circumstances. Michael Sharp generously accepted this collection of essays for publication by Cambridge University Press. I appreciated the contributions of the anonymous readers for the press. A special thanks to Alwyn Harrison for copy-editing and to Raghavi Govindane for seeing the manuscript through production. Katie Idle provided invaluable support and help at a key moment. The index was expertly compiled by Judy Oliver. Dan-el Padilla Peralta gave essential feedback and advice. I could not have brought this project to completion without the constant support and help of Michael Flower.

Last but hardly least, everyone who contributed to this volume is grateful to Brent Shaw for intellectual inspiration and for setting an example of collegiality.

