

## 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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# EMPIRE AND RELIGION IN THE ROMAN WORLD

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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)



## Contents

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <i>List of Figures</i>   | page ix |
| <i>List of Tables</i>  | x       |
| <i>List of Contributors</i>  | xi      |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i>   | xiii    |
| <br>   |         |
| Introduction: Patterns and Paradigms in the Ancient<br>Mediterranean<br><i>Harriet I. Flower</i>             | I       |
| <br>   |         |
| PART I: EMPIRE   | II      |
| 1 Germs and Empire: The Agency of the Microscopic<br><i>Kyle Harper</i>                                      | 13      |
| 2 Imperial Integration on Rome's Atlantic Rim<br><i>Carlos Noreña</i>  | 35      |
| 3 The Ambitions of Government: Sovereignty and Control<br>in the Ancient Countryside<br><i>Clifford Ando</i> | 71      |
| 4 Contingency and Context: The Origins of the Jewish<br>War against Rome<br><i>Erich S. Gruen</i>            | 94      |
| <br>   |         |
| PART II: RELIGION  | II5     |
| 5 The First Christian Family of Egypt<br><i>Sabine R. Huebner</i>  | II7     |

| viii | <i>Contents</i>  |     |
|------|--|-----|
| 6    | Missionaries, Pious Merchants, Freelance Religious Experts,<br>and the Spread of Christianity<br><i>Éric Rebillard</i> | 139 |
| 7    | Christian Piety in Late Antiquity: Contexts and Contestations<br><i>Claudia Rapp</i>                                   | 161 |
| 8    | Ausonius at the Edge of Empire: Consular Poetics as Cognitive<br>Improvisation<br><i>Mark Vessey</i>                   | 187 |
| 9    | Peregrinationes in Psalmos<br><i>Catherine Conybeare</i>   | 212 |
| 10   | Muḥammad's Rivals: Prophets in Late Antique Arabia<br><i>Glen W. Bowersock</i>   | 232 |
| 11   | Brent Shaw: An Intellectual Profile<br><i>Peter Brown</i>  | 241 |
|      | <i>Appendix: Bibliography of Brent D. Shaw's Publications to 2020</i>  | 252 |
|      | <i>Index</i>   | 263 |

## Figures

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Frontispiece: Photograph of Brent D. Shaw (by Robert A. Kaster), <i>page</i> v   |     |
| reproduced with permission.  |     |
| 2.1 The Atlantic rim of the Roman empire (Carlos Noreña)   | 36  |
| 2.2 Distribution of Pascual I amphorae, first century CE (Carlos Noreña)   | 40  |
| 2.3 Distribution of Dressel I amphorae, c. 150 BCE–50 CE (adapted from Cunliffe 2001: fig. 9.16 by Carlos Noreña)  | 53  |
| 2.4 Voronoi diagram of cities in the western Roman empire, second century CE (Carlos Noreña)   | 59  |
| 2.5 Cities with aggregated radii of 20 km and lower-order urban centers, second century CE (Carlos Noreña)   | 60  |
| 5.1 Papyrus letter from Egypt ( <i>P. Bas.</i> 2.43, 17 by 7.5 cm), the earliest Christian private letter, first half of the third century CE (University of Basel papyrus collection, reproduced by permission, photo: Peter Fornaro) | 120 |

## *Table*

- 2.1 Aggregated capacities (in m<sup>3</sup>) of fish-salting factories in *page 46*  
Mauretania Tingitana, Baetica, and Lusitania (N = 26)  
(adapted from A. Wilson, *JRA* 19.2 [2006], fig. 3 by Carlos  
Noreña)



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