

Roman Imperial Coinage Volume Iii Antoninus Pius To Commodus

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the reign of antoninus pius is widely seen as the apogee of the roman empire yet due to gaps in the historical sources his reign has been overlooked by modern historians he is considered one of the five good emperors of the antonine dynasty under whom the pax romana enabled the empire to prosper trade to flourish and culture to thrive his reign is considered a golden age but this was partly an image created by imperial propaganda there were serious conflicts in north africa and dacia as well as a major revolt in britain on his death the empire stood on the cusp of the catastrophic invasions and rebellions that marked the reign of his successor marcus aurelius antoninus pius became emperor through the hand of fate being adopted by hadrian only after the death of his intended heir lucius aelius caesar his rule was a balancing act between securing his own safety securing the succession of his adopted heir and denying opportunities for conspiracy and rebellion equanimity was the last password he issued to his guards as he lay on his death bed in the face of the threats and challenges he remained calm and composed providing twenty three years of stability a calm before the storms that gathered both within and beyond rome's borders

shortly after the death in 161 of antoninus pius his sons dedicated a column to him as a funerary monument the form of the column in general and the reliefs on the pedestal in particular raise problems central to the understanding of roman art in this first thorough study illustrated with nearly 100 photographs lise vogel restores the column to its rightful place as one of the major monuments of roman art in addition she re evaluates the meaning of the column of antoninus pius in the context of the development of second century roman imperial sculpture

drawing from a broad range of documentation this book vividly characterizes eleven royal women who are brought visually to life through photographs of over 300 ancient coins and through the author's own illustrations spanning the period from the death of julius caesar in 44bc to the third century ad and with an epilogue surveying empresses of later eras the author's compelling biographies reveal their remarkable contributions towards the legacy of imperial rome examining the wives

daughters sisters and mothers of emperors the study includes a pregnant roman princess who saves a roman army through an act of personal heroism three third century empresses who rule the most powerful state on earth presiding over unprecedented social and political reform an empress though revered by her husband is immortalized in history for infidelity and corruption by students of her greatest enemy jasper burns paints portraits of these exceptional women that are colourful sympathetic and above all profoundly human this book will be highly valuable to numismatists students and scholars of roman history or women s studies

excerpt from the reign of antoninus pius i have placed at the commencement of my essay a list of the books to which reference has been made in the following pages and of the abbreviations which i have used in neither case is the list quite complete but i have referred only incidentally to those books which i have not included in the list while the abbreviations not included will explain themselves readily about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks.com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

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