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Archaeology, History, and Literature

Rome, long known as the Eternal City, has proved a perpetual source of fascination for historians, archaeologists, literary scholars, and art historians. From prehistoric activity in the area that was to become an urban centre, through the heyday of the Roman Empire, and after, via the Renaissance and up to the modern day, the importance of Rome as both place and ideological concept has endured. This unique interdisciplinary series encourages a focus on all aspects of Rome and the Roman world from the paleolithic up to the modern era, with the aim of drawing together different research fields and traditions in one place for the first time. Promoting cutting-edge and innovative new research in disciplines including archaeology, history, philology, historiography, theology, and church history, the series welcomes proposals for both monographs and edited collections that can contribute to a wider understanding of both Rome and its legacy over time.

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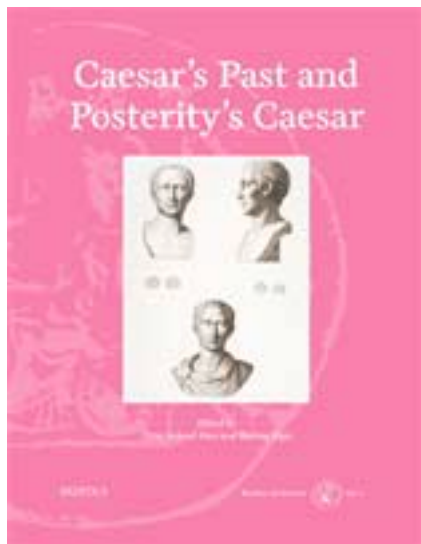
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T. A. HASS / R. RAJA, EDS.

CAESAR'S PAST AND POSTERITY'S CAESAR

2021 – xii + 248 pp., 53 fig. € 98,80

ROME STUDIES, 1

This volume focuses on the reception of Gaius Julius Caesar, one of the most well-known and widely discussed personalities of Antiquity.

Gaius Julius Caesar was the first to design a forum in his family's name. The forum itself had two focal points — a temple to Venus Genetrix and an equestrian statue of Caesar himself — carefully juxtaposed to create a narrative of a strong, enterprising, and controversial sovereign to whom legitimacy was granted by his divine lineage and links to Rome's mythical founders. Through this design, the expansion of the older Forum Romanum thus became a promotion of Caesar himself in a clever show of identity politics. It was a bold — and ultimately fatal — undertaking, and it demonstrates a political vision that not only divided his contemporaries but that has continued to drive scholarly debate, with Caesar variously realized as a mirror for Antiquity, a representative of an age, and a ruler to be examined in relation to all applicable dilemmas and conflicts.

This important volume offers new insights into the legacy of Julius Caesar by focusing on two central questions: how did he use the past to construct his own persona as head of the Roman State and Empire? And how has he been remembered — and used — by posterity? Contributions

from a range of fields, among them archaeology, classical studies, and history, engage with these questions as they explore Caesar's own self-fashioning through his use of city space, rituals, wars, history, and literature, as well as tracing how he and his actions have been understood, justified, criticized, and used in the centuries since his death, from late antique literature to nineteenth-century drama.

Trine Arlund Hass is a post-doctoral researcher in classical philology and reception studies at The Danish Academy in Rome and Aarhus University. Her project *Our Caesar: Danish receptions of Gaius Julius Caesar* collaborates with the Danish-Italian excavations of Caesar's Forum in Rome.

Rubina Raja is professor of classical archaeology and director of Centre for Urban Network Evolutions. She co-directs the Danish-Italian excavations of Caesar's Forum in Rome.

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