

## Ammianus Marcellinus from Soldier to Author

# Historiography of Rome and Its Empire

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# Ammianus Marcellinus from Soldier to Author

*Edited by*

Michael Hanaghan  
David Woods



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# *Historiography of Rome and Its Empire Series*

*Carsten H. Lange and Jesper M. Madsen*

The *Historiography of Rome and Its Empire* series aims to gather innovative and outstanding contributions that identify debates and trends, and in order to help provide a better understanding of ancient historiography, as well as how to approach Roman history and historiography. The series welcomes proposals that look at both Roman and Greek writers as well as manuscripts which focus on individual writers, or individuals in the same tradition. It is timely and valuable to bring these trends and historical sources together in the series, focusing mainly on the Republican period and the Principate, as well as the Later Roman Empire.

Historical writing about Rome in both Latin and Greek forms an integrated topic. There are two strands in ancient writing about the Romans and their empire: (a) the Romans' own tradition of histories of the deeds of the Roman people at home and at war, and (b) Greek historical responses, some developing their own models (Polybius, Josephus) and the others building on what both the Roman historians and earlier Greeks had written (Dionysius, Appian, Cassius Dio). Whereas older scholarship tended to privilege a small group of 'great historians' (the likes of Sallust, Livy, Tacitus), recent work has rightly brought out the diversity of the traditions and recognized that even 'minor' writers are worth exploring not just as sources, but for their own concerns and reinterpretation of their material, as well as their place within the tradition. The study of these historiographical traditions is essential as a counterbalance to the outmoded traditional use of ancient authors as a handy resource, with scholars looking at isolated sections of their structure. This fragmentary use of the ancient evidence makes us forget to reflect on their work in its textual and contextual entirety.

## Preface

The idea for this project was hatched following a series of conversations between David Woods, the Head of the Department of Classics at University College Cork, Ireland, and Michael Hanaghan, who had joined the department in 2016 while holding a two-year Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded by the Irish Research Council. Both Woods and Hanaghan worked on the *Res gestae* of Ammianus Marcellinus, but for two very different reasons; Woods viewed Ammianus history primarily as a source, a rich repertoire of historical evidence that rewarded careful analysis, whereas Hanaghan considered Ammianus' history primarily for its literary value. In the course of the two years working together, both Hanaghan and Woods came to realise the many benefits, literary and historical, of combining their approaches to Ammianus.

In mid-2018, during an unusually warm Irish summer, a group of scholars gathered to consider the impact that Ammianus' military experience had on his *Res gestae*. A select number of papers presented at that conference, conceived in response to an open call, form the backbone of this edited volume. The editors would like to thank University College Cork and the Irish Research Council for their funding.





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