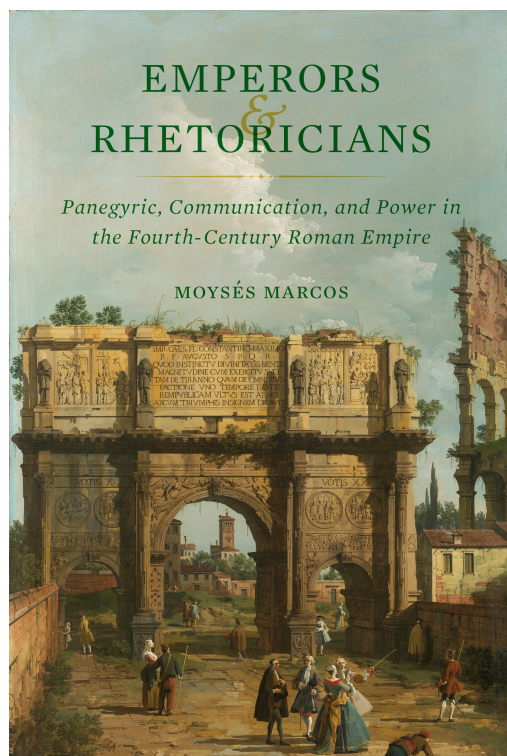


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## Emperors and Rhetoricians

Panegyric, Communication, and Power in the Fourth-Century Roman Empire

MOYSÉS MARCOS

"A sophisticated analysis of late Roman speeches of praise, this book demonstrates how Julian's fellow panegyrists, all of whom were members of the elite, engaged in a literary back-and-forth that communicated their own demands and hopes to the emperor but also translated the emperor's intentions to those through whom he governed. The result is a series of lively, engaging snapshots of late Roman politics in action, as close to a look into the imperial mind as read by contemporaries as it is possible to get."—Susanna Elm, Sidney H. Ehrman Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley

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Panegyric, the art of publicly praising prominent political figures, occupied an important place in the Roman Empire throughout late antiquity. Orators were skilled political actors who manipulated the conventions of praise giving, taking great license with what they chose to present (or omit). Their ancient speeches are rare windows into the world of panegyrists, emperors, and their audiences. In *Emperors and Rhetoricians*, Moysés Marcos offers an original, comprehensive look at all panegyrics to and by Julian, who in 355/56 CE promoted himself as a learned caesar by producing his own panegyric on his cousin and Augustan benefactor, Constantius II. During key stages in his public career and throughout the time he held imperial power, Julian experimented with and utilized panegyric as both political communication and political opportunity. Marcos expertly mines this vast body of work to uncover a startlingly new picture of Julian the Apostate, explore anew the arc of his career in imperial office, and model new ways to interpret and understand imperial speeches of praise.

**Moysés Marcos** is Lecturer in History at California State University, Northridge.

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