

Ammianus Marcellinus  
and the Representation  
of Historical Reality

Timothy D. Barnes

Cornell University Press

Ithaca and London

# CONTENTS

Preface	vii	
Editions, Translations, and Commentaries	ix	
Abbreviations	xi	
I The Impartial Historian	I	
II Reality and Its Representation	11	
III Symmetry and Structure	20	
IV Narrative and Excursus	32	
V Dating, Emphasis, and Omission	43	
VI Origin and Social Status	54	
VII The Greek Template	65	
VIII Christian Language and Anti-Christian Polemic	79	
IX Things Seen and Things Read	95	
X Enemies, Animals, and Stereotypes	107	
XI Empresses and Eunuchs	120	
XII Tyranny and Incompetence	129	
XIII The New Achilles	143	
XIV Past, Present, and Future	166	
XV Tacitus, Ammianus, and Macaulay	187	
APPENDICES		
1 The Text of Ammianus	201	
2 The Structure of Livy's <i>Ab Urbe Condita</i>	209	
3 Ammianus' References to the Lost Books	213	
4 Consular Dates in the <i>Res Gestae</i>	218	

## CONTENTS

5	Formal Excursus	222
6	Ammianus' Use of Accentual Clausulae	225
7	Corrupt and Mistaken Dates	231
8	Missing <i>Praefecti Urbis</i>	237
9	Maximinus and the Trials at Rome under Valentinian	241
10	The Movements of Valens	247
	Bibliography	255
	Indexes	
	Names of Persons and Places	279
	Modern Scholars	287
	Passages of Ammianus Discussed	289