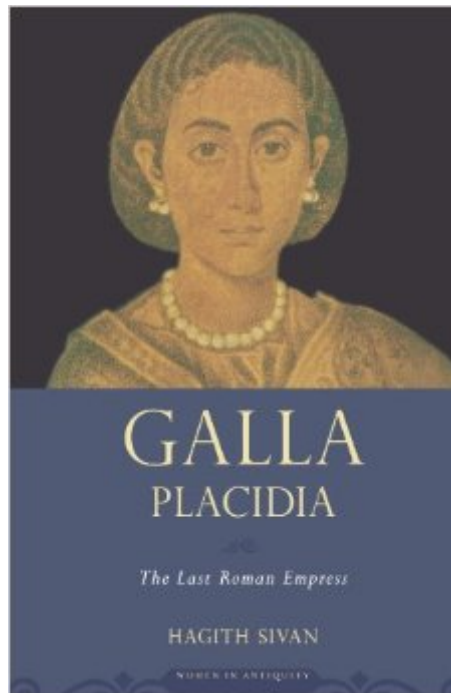


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Galla Placidia: The Last Roman Empress (Women In Antiquity)



Synopsis

The astonishing career of Galla Placidia (c. 390-450) provides valuable reflections on the state of the Roman empire in the fifth century CE. In an age when emperors, like Galla's two brothers, Arcadius (395-408) and Honorius (395-423), and nephew, Theodosius II (408-450), hardly ever ventured beyond the fortified enclosure of their palaces, Galla spent years wandering across Italy, Gaul and Spain first as hostage in the camp of Alaric the Goth, and then as wife of Alaric's successor. In exile at the court of her nephew in Constantinople Galla observed how princesses wield power while vaunting piety. Restored to Italy on the swords of the eastern Roman army, Galla watched the coronation of her son, age six, as the emperor of the western Roman provinces. For a dozen years (425-437) she acted as regent, treading uneasily between rival senatorial factions, ambitious church prelates, and charismatic military leaders. This new biography of Galla is organized according to her changing roles as bride, widow, bereaved mother, queen and empress. It examines her relations with men in power, her achievements as a politician, her skills at establishing power bases and political alliances, and her efficiency at accomplishing her desired goals. Using all the available sources, documents, epigraphy, coinage and the visual arts, and Galla's own letters, Hagith Sivan reconstructs the turning points and highlights of Galla's odd progression from a bloodthirsty princess at Rome to a bride of a barbarian in Gaul, from a manipulative sister and wife of emperors at the imperial court at Ravenna to a beggar at the court of her relatives in Constantinople, and from a devious regent of the western Roman empire to a collaborator of popes in Rome.

Book Information

Series: Women in Antiquity

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (August 31, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195379136

ISBN-13: 978-0195379136

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.6 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #263,744 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Rome](#) #420 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History >](#)

Customer Reviews

Galla Placidia was not the last empress of the Roman Empire, but the next to last. The was well researched and well written, had interesting pictures and was about a unique character in history. How strong women can be and resilient to undergo travel, the language barrier and marriage to barbarians, handed around like a commodity for a sack of grain and emerge to produce three children and a enjoy a long life. We are able to visit the mausoleum and see the wonderful mosaics to this day. The Roman Empire was way ahead of everyone else and its remnants are everywhere.

Complete, unbiased, scholarly work. An interesting read that gives great depth to this facinating historical figure. The book encapsulates and updates Galla scholarship with credibility.

Excellent product. Excellent service.

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