

Dr. John Noël Dillon

Senior Lecturer, Classics and the Yale Divinity School

Scholarly translator

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YDS faculty website: <https://divinity.yale.edu/faculty-and-research/yds-faculty/john-noel-dillon>

Education

PhD in Classics, Yale University, 2008

MA and MPhil in Classics, Yale University, 2005–2006

Post-Bacc. Certificate in Classics, UNC Chapel Hill, 2002

BA *summa cum laude* in English and History, minor in Classical Languages, UNC Charlotte, 2001

Current position

Senior Lecturer, Yale University Department of Classics and Yale Divinity School (since July 2023)

Scholarly translator specializing in German, French, and Italian studies of Classical Antiquity and European history and culture (ancient, medieval, and early modern)

Previous positions

Lecturer in Latin, Yale Divinity School (2016–2023)

Visiting Lecturer, Department of History, Peking University, Beijing, China (2012–2013)

Lecturer, Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of Exeter, UK (2010–2012)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany (2009–2010)

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Yale University (2004–2008)

Scholarly honors and awards

Young Talents Programme, Peking University (2012–2013)

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK (2012)

Whiting Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University (2007–2008)

Fulbright Research Grant, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (2005–2006)

DAAD Forschungsstipendium, Munich, Germany (declined)

William Flinn II Scholarship, Yale University (2004–2005)

Richard J. Franke Fellowship in Classics, Yale University (2002–2004)

Scholarly interests

Latin literature and textual criticism (all periods)

History of the Roman Republic, Late Antiquity, Roman law, Roman religion, numismatics

Greek literature, especially of the Roman period

Medieval Latin and textual criticism

Medieval history and culture, canon law

Early modern European intellectual history and culture

Teaching experience

Since 2004, I have taught Latin and history (and occasionally Greek) at the undergraduate and graduate level in lectures, seminars, small groups, and one on one in Germany (in German), the UK, China, and the US.

Latin: Introduction to Classical and Medieval Latin

Intermediate Latin (e.g., Apuleius, Catullus, Cicero, Cornelius Nepos, Ovid's *Fasti*)

Latin Prose (themed selections)

Translation and Criticism (selections of Latin poetry and prose)

Satire (Horace and Juvenal)

Greek: Advanced Greek (Lucian's *Dialogues*)

History and Literature: The Age of Cicero

The World of Catullus

The Roman Republic

The Constantinian Dynasty (the 4th century AD)

Roman Religion

Sources and methodology for ancient historians (Heidelberg)

Western Civilization and Interpreting Historical Sources (Beijing)

MA/Graduate: Seminar on Roman Myth (co-taught with T. P. Wiseman, Exeter)

Medieval Latin Survey

Abelard's *Historia calamitatum*

Augustine's *Confessions*

Medieval Latin Workshop (survey of Latin authors *chosen by the students*)

Medieval Latin Mystics (e.g. Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Mechthild of Magdeburg)

Languages

Scholarly: Latin (Classical and Medieval)

Ancient Greek (Homer to Justinian, specialization in prose)

Medieval German

Modern: English, German (fluent)

French, Italian (proficient)

Spanish (reading)

Mandarin Chinese (basic conversation)

Current projects

The Theodosian Code. Forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

Under contract with Cambridge UP, I am producing a new, authoritative translation of the codification of Roman imperial law issued by emperor Theodosius II in AD 438, in order to replace the outdated translation edited by Clyde Pharr (1955). My translation will feature a facing Latin text with a simplified apparatus criticus and will include laws recovered from the Codex Justinianus that Pharr omitted. The Latin text alone amounts to approximately 265,000 words. The manuscript of both text and translation is almost halfway complete; it currently sits at over 158,000 words and 325 single-spaced pages.

Abelard's Historia calamitatum for Learners of Medieval Latin.

I have condensed my experience from teaching Medieval Latin at YDS since 2016 into a commentary intended for intermediate readers (e.g. MAR students in History of Christianity, graduate students in Medieval Studies). In contrast to most commentators, I actually explain what makes Medieval Latin distinct and show how it contrasts with Classical Latin, so a diligent student effectively can learn both. The manuscript is about two-thirds complete. I plan to submit it to the Michigan Classical Commentaries series edited by Ellen Bauerle, with whom I have collaborated in the past (see Scholarly Translation 2017–2018 below).

Publications

Monograph/book-length

The Justice of Constantine: Law, Communication, and Control. University of Michigan Press, 2012. Pp. xiv, 295.

Trans. and ed. “Introductory Constitutions” and “First Book.” In *The Code of Justinian: A New Annotated Translation, with Parallel Latin and Greek*, vol. 1, ed. Bruce W. Frier, 1–405. Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Scholarly translation

Wiemer, Hans-Ulrich. *Theoderic the Great: King of Goths, Ruler of Romans*. Yale University Press, 2023. <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/9780300254433/theoderic-the-great>

Translation of *Theoderich der Grosse: König der Goten, Herrscher der Römer* (Beck, 2018).

Regazzoni, Lisa. *Things of History: The Gallic Past and French Historiography in the 18th and Early 19th Centuries*. Routledge. Forthcoming 2024. (Translation complete.)

Translation of *Geschichtsdinge: Gallische Vergangenheit und französische Geschichtsforschung im 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert* (De Gruyter-Oldenbourg, 2020).

Friedrich, Markus. *The Jesuits: A History*. Princeton University Press, 2022.

Translation of *Die Jesuiten. Aufstieg, Niedergang, Neubeginn* (Piper, 2016).

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691180120/the-jesuits>

Brill's Encyclopedia of Early Modern History (online).

Numerous articles on legal and historical entries from *Enzyklopädie der frühen Neuzeit* (Brill, 2005–2012).

<https://brill.com/view/serial/EEMH>

Friedrich, Markus. *The Birth of the Archive: A History of Knowledge*. University of Michigan Press, 2018.

Translation of *Die Geburt des Archivs: Eine Wissensgeschichte* (Oldenbourg, 2013)

https://www.press.umich.edu/9394529/birth_of_the_archive

Habicht, Christian. *Divine Honors for Mortal Men in Greek Cities* (Michigan Classical Press, 2017).

Translation of *Gottmenschen und griechische Städte*, 2nd ed. (Beck, 1970).

<http://michiganclassicalpress.com/>

Editing and proofreading

Friedrich, Markus. *The Maker of Pedigrees: Jakob Wilhelm Imhoff (1651–1728) and the Rise of Genealogy in Early Modern Europe*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023.

<https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/12939/maker-pedigrees>

Brill's New Pauly Supplements II, Volume 9: The Early Mediterranean World, 1200–600 BC. Trans.

Duncan A. Smart. Brill, 2018. <https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/brill-s-new-pauly-supplements-ii-9>

Brill's New Pauly Supplements II, Volume 10: History and Culture of Byzantium. Trans. Duncan A.

Smart. Brill, 2019. <https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/brill-s-new-pauly-supplements-ii-10>

Articles and chapters

“The Emperor’s New Prose: The Style of Diocletian’s Legislation.” In *Diocleziano: la frontiera giuridica dell’impero*, ed. Werner Eck and Salvatore Puliatti, 285–343. Pubblicazioni del CEDANT, 16. Pavia University Press, 2018.

“Roman and Non-Roman Religious Spaces in Cicero’s Second Verrine Oration.” In *Raum-Ordnung: Raum und soziopolitische Ordnungen im Altertum*, ed. Sebastian Schmidt-Hofner, Claus Ambos, and Peter Eich, 251–270. (Winter, 2016).

“Conjectures and Criticism in Book I of the Codex Justinianus.” *Classical Quarterly* 65.1 (2015): 321–343.

“Causa 3.” Edition incorporated in the forthcoming *Decretum Gratiani, First Recension*, ed. Anders Winroth. Available online at <https://sites.google.com/a/yale.edu/decretumgratiani/> (P. 302-328 in the 10/17/2015 version).

“Trojan Religion: Foreign Sanctuaries and the Limits of Roman Religious Exclusivity.” In *The Impact of Rome on Cult Places and Religion in Italy: New Approaches to Change and Continuity; Proceedings of the Workshop at the Royal Netherlands Institute at Rome, Rome, May 21, 2010*, ed. Tessa Stek and Gert-Jan Burgers, 113–143. BICS Supplements. Institute of Classical Studies, 2014.

“The Inflation of Rank and Privilege in the Later Roman Empire: Regulating Precedence in the Fourth Century A.D.” In *Contested Monarchy: Integrating the Roman Empire in the 4th Century AD*, ed. Johannes Wienand, 42–66. Oxford University Press, 2014.

“The Delegation of the Xviri to Enna ca. 133 B.C. and the Death of Tiberius Gracchus.” *BICS* 56 (2013): 89–103.

“New and Old-School Poets at the End of the Republic.” *Iris* (Summer 2011): 24–27.

[A light article for young people.]

“A Note on the Text and Interpretation of Cornelius Nepos, Alcibiades 10.2.” *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 511–515.

“Octavian’s Finances after Actium, before Egypt: The CAESAR DIVI F/IMP CAESAR Coinage and Antony’s Legionary Issue.” *Chiron* 37 (2007): 35–48.

“Case Statements (*themata*) and the Composition of Gratian’s Cases.” *Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte, Kanonistische Abteilung* 92 (2006): 306–339.

Lexicon articles

Twenty-nine articles on Roman law, government, and Late Antiquity for the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*, ed. Oliver Nicholson (Oxford, 2018)

Reviews

Silvie Crogiez-Pétréquin and Pierre Jaillette (eds.), *Société, économie, administration dans le Code Théodosien* (Lille 2012). *Klio* 98 (2016): 400–405

Lorenzo Sguaitamatti, *Der spätantike Konsulat* (Fribourg 2012). *Klio* 95 (2013): 560–564.

Christopher Smith and Liv Yarrow (eds.), *Imperialism, Cultural Politics, and Polybius* (Oxford 2012). *Journal of Roman Studies* 103 (2013): 271–272

Benjamin Kelly, *Petitions, Litigation, and Social Control in Roman Egypt* (Oxford 2011). *Mouseion* 11 (2013): 142–145.

Clifford Ando, *Law, Language, and Empire in the Roman Tradition* (Philadelphia 2011). *New England Classical Journal* 40 (2013): 54–57.

Mischa Meier (ed.), *Justinian, Neue Wege der Forschung* (Darmstadt 2010). *Journal of Roman Studies* 102 (2012): 417–418.

Noel Lenski (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Constantine, Revised edition* (Cambridge 2012). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, August 29, 2012. <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2012/2012.08.52/>

Robert M. Frakes, *Compiling the Collatio Legum Mosaicarum et Romanarum in Late Antiquity*, Oxford Studies in Roman Society & Law (Oxford 2011). *H-Soz-Kult*, January 16, 2012. <https://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/rezensionen/2012-1-030.pdf>

John Richardson, *The Language of Empire: Rome and the Idea of Empire from the Third Century BC to the Second Century AD* (Cambridge 2008). *Ancient History Bulletin Online Reviews* 1 (2011): 73–75. <https://ancienthistorybulletin.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/AHBReviews201122.DillonOnRichardson.pdf>

Robin Waterfield (trans.), *Polybius, The Histories* (Oxford 2010). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, August 16, 2011. <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2011/2011.08.29/>

H. H. Scullard, *From the Gracchi to Nero: A History of Rome 133 B.C. to A.D. 68* (first published 1959; London/New York 2011). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, July 22, 2011.

<https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2011/2011.07.36/>

Christoph Auffarth (ed.), *Religion auf dem Lande: Entstehung und Veränderung von Sakrallandschaften unter römischer Herrschaft* (Stuttgart 2009). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, April 22, 2010.

<https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2010/2010.04.22/>

Paul Dräger (ed. and trans.), *Eusebios. Über das Leben des glückseligen Kaisers Konstantin*, Utopica 1 (Oberhaid 2007). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, July 7, 2007.

<https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2007/2007.07.57/>

Michaela Pfeiffer (ed./trans.), *Cornelius Nepos: Berühmte Männer, De viris illustribus lateinisch-deutsch*, Sammlung Tusculum (Düsseldorf 2006). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, October 2, 2006.

<https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2006/2006.10.02/>

Talks

“The Emperor’s New Prose: The Style of Tetrarchic Legislation.” University of California, Berkeley. Oct. 7, 2014.

“The Style of Imperial Constitutions: Between Rhetoric and Law.” For the colloquium Diocleziano: La frontiera giuridica dell’Impero, Collegio dei Diritti Antichi (CEDANT). Pavia, Italy. Jan. 23, 2014.

“Thinking about the ‘Edict of Milan’ as Law.” Beijing Foreign Studies University. Beijing, China. April 3, 2013.

“The Priests, the Goddess, and the Murder of Tiberius Gracchus: Roman Ritual on Foreign Soil.” University of Hawaii at Manoa. Honolulu, HI. Feb. 5, 2013.

“The Misrepresentation of Religion in Cicero’s Verrine Orations.” For the annual meeting of the American Philological Association. Seattle, WA. Jan. 4, 2013.

“Cicero’s Verrine Orations: Looting and Drama at Lampsacus,” For the Sixth-Form Classics Conference, Classical Association of the South West. University of Exeter, Exeter, UK. March 17, 2012.

“The Invention of Prejudice against C. Verres.” Newcastle University. Newcastle, UK. March 30, 2011.

“Religious Norms and Cultural Realities: Roman Religion From Praeneste to Delphi.” For the conference Normative Raumordnungen in den Kulturen des Altertums / The Normative Order of Space in European Antiquity and the Ancient Near East (March 9–11, 2011). Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften. Heidelberg, Germany. March 10, 2011.

- “Quo usque tandem: Cicero’s First Catilinarian.” For the Sixth-Form Classics Conference. Classical Association of the South West. University of Exeter. Exeter, UK. March 5, 2011.
- “Roman Sacral Law Outside of Rome: Roman Magistrates and *sacra peregrina*.” For the workshop The Impact of Rome on Cult Places and Religion in Italy: New Approaches to Change and Continuity. Royal Netherlands Institute at Rome. Rome, Italy. May 21, 2010.
- “Roman Magistrates and Foreign Sanctuaries in the Roman Republic.” Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of Exeter. Exeter, UK. May 6, 2010.
- “Akklamationen und die Kontrolle der Verwaltung unter Konstantin.” For the conference Contested Monarchy: Integrating the Roman Empire in the 4th Century AD. Universität Konstanz. Konstanz, Germany. July 9, 2009.
- “The Inflation of Rank and Privilege in the Later Roman Empire, Its Causes and Consequences.” For the conference Centralization and Particularism in Late Antiquity. Meeting of the International Network for the Study of Late Antiquity. University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Knoxville, TN. May 22, 2009.
- “Formal Elements of the Edicts of Constantine the Great.” For the annual meeting of the Société Internationale Fernand de Visscher pour l’Histoire des Droits de l’Antiquité. Università di Catania. Catania, Italy. Sept. 25–29, 2007.
- “Spätantike Bürokratie bei der Arbeit: Die Inschrift von Didyma.” For the Antikrechtliches Seminar, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Munich, Germany. Jan. 31, 2006.
- “The Composition of Gratian’s Cases,” and roundtable discussion “Gratian, the Decretum and Recent Research.” For the International Congress of Medieval Canon Law. Catholic University of America. Washington D.C. August 2–7, 2004.