

## INTRODUCTION

When, in 1969, the board of the Dutch Archaeological and Historical Society decided to launch TALANTA, it intended to create a platform for interdisciplinary studies into the Roman-provincial and Mediterranean field (in its widest sense). At the same time the editors also acknowledged the need for discussion on special topics, more or less related to the main areas of our goals. The specials “Black Athena: Ten Years After” (*Talanta* 28-29, 1996-1997), “The Black Sea Region in the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Periods” (*Talanta* 32-33, 2000-2001), and “Recent Research and Perspectives in the Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean” (*Talanta* 44, 2012) are, we, think a good example of what multidisciplinary approach may add to a, still always hotly debated, issue.

Now, the 45th number of *Talanta* presents the papers held at the 2012 Pamplona workshop organized by the International Research Group *Graecapta*. The subject of that conference, and of this volume, is Late Antique imperial literature.

Whilst *Talanta* has presented numerous studies on Late Antique and Byzantine archaeology, relatively little has been published on the less material aspects of Late Antique life and culture. We hope the reader will be well served with this collection of articles, which may open new perspectives in a dynamic field of Otherness, the theme that has been chosen to approach historiographical and rhetorical texts from the Late Roman Empire.

The papers were collected and edited by María Pilar García Ruiz and Alberto J. Quiroga Puertas from the universities of Pamplona and Granada respectively, both distinguished scholars in the field of Late Antique historiography and rhetoric. The editors of *Talanta* are grateful for their efforts and patience, and for their willingness to collect and edit the articles in this special issue of *Talanta*.

The editors would like to express their greatest gratitude to the three Radboud University assistants Evelien Renders (authors), Margot Vreuls (sources) and Ilse Verstegen (subjects) for their acute production of the indices, for which the entries have been selected by the guest-editors.

D.W.P. Burgersdijk  
J.P. Stronk  
M.D. de Weerd