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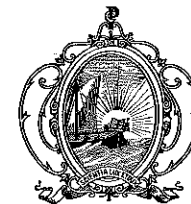
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LEARNED ANTIQUITY  
*Scholarship and Society in the Near-East, the  
 Greco-Roman world,  
 and the Early Medieval West*

EDITED BY

Alaisdair A. MacDonald, Michael W. Twomey  
and Gerrit J. Reinink



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## PREFACE

In 1999 the local Research School, Rudolf Agricola, and the Groningen members of the national Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies succeeded in obtaining a grant for an innovative, large-scale, collective research programme entitled *Cultural Change. Dynamics and Diagnosis*. Supported by the faculties of Arts, Philosophy and Theology and financed by the Board of the University of Groningen, the *Cultural Change* programme constitutes an excellent opportunity to enhance multidisciplinary approaches to phenomena characteristic of transformation processes in the fields of politics, literature and history, philosophy and theology. In order to enhance programmatic cohesion, three crucial 'moments' in European history were selected: 1) Late Antiquity to Early Middle Ages (ca. 200-ca. 600), 2) Late Medieval to Early Modern (ca. 1450-ca. 1650) and the 'Long Nineteenth Century' (1789-ca. 1918). In 2000 and 2002 the two abovementioned Research Schools obtained two more grants for *Cultural Change. Impact and Integration* and *Cultural Change. Perception and Representation* respectively. Several international conferences and workshops have already been organised; more are planned until the end of 2007.

This present volume, number V in the series *Groningen Studies in Cultural Change*, offers a selection of papers presented at the International Conference *Knowledge and Learning* held in November 2001 in Groningen. It is the first of three volumes. The second one (volume VI in the series) entitled *Schooling and Scholarship: The Ordering and Reordering of Knowledge in the Western Middle Ages* will be edited by Alasdair A. MacDonald and Michael W. Twomey. The third one (volume VII in the series) bears the title *Scholarly Environments: Centres of Learning and Institutional Contexts 1600-1960* and will be edited by Alasdair A. MacDonald and Arend H. Huussen. The papers in the present volume, written by scholars from disciplines such as theology, cultural history and law, treat matters of scholarship in Antiquity.

We thank the Board of the University of Groningen for the financial support given to the *Cultural Change* programmes. This initiative has had the happy effect of uniting several faculties and two research schools within a coherent research programme which shows the real advantages of stressing multidisciplinary approaches in the field of the humanities.

The editors are particularly grateful to Marijke Wubbolts for helping to organise the workshop and to Nella Gosman-Scholtens for preparing the texts for publication.

Martin Gosman  
General Editor