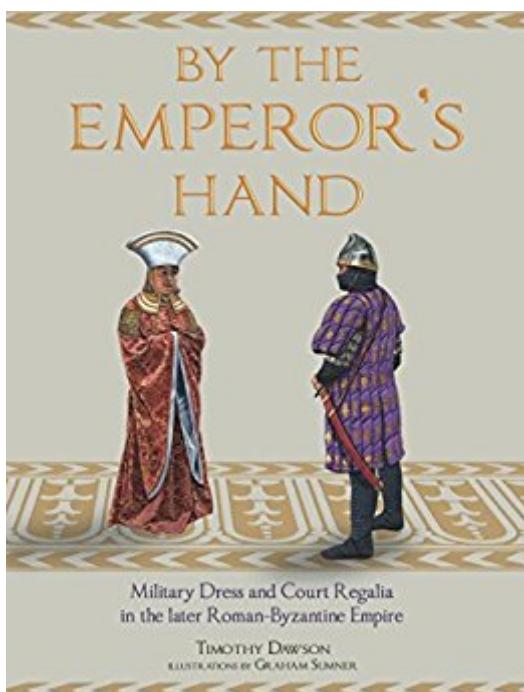


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# By The Emperor's Hand: Military Dress And Court Regalia In The Later Romano-Byzantine Empire



## Synopsis

By the sixth century of the common era the Roman Empire already had many hundreds of years of accumulated ceremonial embedded in its government, and practical science embodied in its army. The transition from Republic to Imperium and the more hierarchical structure that entailed, and the absorption of Christianity into state processes, had pushed the development of court ceremonial apace, and particularly driven its embodiment and display in ever more opulent regalia. The regalia embraced not only garments of distinctive form and decoration, but also both dress and non-dress accessories. It was crucial in displaying rank and function on an everyday basis, yet was also varied considerably for special occasions. Military dress largely reflected forms current amongst ordinary men, but with an emphasis on functionality, eschewing the excesses of fashion. Detailed literary and artistic sources, archaeology and insights derived from reconstruction and practical experience has gone into creating an incredibly lavish picture of the clothing of the longest-enduring political entity in history.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a fantastic overview of Roman clothing in the medieval period, stretching from the mid

6th to the mid 15th century, with gorgeous and extraordinarily accurate and well researched illustrations provided by Graham Sumner. I have debated and discussed topics with both the author, Timothy Dawson, and Graham Sumner personally, and I can vouch that both of them are very reputable authors having published a multitude of works in their field and that this book, which has been a decade or more in the making, is extraordinarily well researched. The book uses a myriad of surviving textile fragments, primary and secondary textual sources, and Romano-Byzantine art to effectively reconstruct the clothing of the period. One of the best aspects of this book is that it takes all the advanced terminology regarding Roman clothing and breaks it down, so a less-knowledgable reader can discern what the author is referring to when the author assemble a panoply of dress for a particular court official or military rank. In many cases, it almost serves as a guide to reconstructing medieval Roman dress for reenactment purposes. However, this book is very much a scholarly work analyzing and presenting new information and theories on medieval Roman dress, its influences, and how it influenced European and Arabic/Turkish dress. It also clearly shows the Romans maintained their own distinct "Romanness" through their dress and military equipment right up to the end of their empire. As an amateur scholar of Late Antique Roman and Hunnic history, I gladly recommend this book.

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