Ancient Rome was a source of endless fascination to the early moderns. Historians, politicians, divines, and imaginative writers looked to the Roman example for models and inspiration. This international conference reassesses the place of ancient Rome in the political culture of late Tudor and early Stuart England. What was the impact of the Roman precedent on attitudes towards constitutional change, the rights and wrongs of empire, and the law? How did it influence ecclesiastical policy and, more generally, the views of the relationship between church and state? In what ways did Roman historiography, political writings, and rhetoric shape the language and substance of public argument? How did the Roman legacy compare with that of ancient Greece?

**S A T U R D A Y, J A N U A R Y 2 2 , 2 0 1 1**

8:30 Registration & Coffee
9:30 Welcome Robert C. Ritchie (The Huntington)
   Remarks Paulina Kewes (University of Oxford)

**Session 1: Religion**
Moderator: Lori Anne Ferrell (Claremont Graduate University)
   Anthony Grafton (Princeton University)
   “Early Christianity and its Jewish Background: British Variants on a New Vision of the Christian Past?”
   Arthur Williamson (California State University, Sacramento)
   “Roman Past, Jewish Future: Prophecy, Poetry, and the End of Empire”

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Session 2: Political Thought**
Moderator: Cynthia Herwig (University of Southern California)
   Paulina Kewes
   “Roman History in the Political Thought of the Late Elizabethan Succession Crisis”
   Eric Nelson (Harvard University)
   “Seeing Rome through Greek Eyes: Republican Decline in English Political Thought, 1516-1660”

**Session 3: Rhetoric and the Law**
Moderator: Thomas Cogswell (University of California, Riverside)
   Markus Pihlstrom (University of Helsinki)
   “Classical Rhetoric and Political Education in Pre-revolutionary Grammar Schools”
   Annabel Brett (University of Cambridge)
   “Aristotelian Gentilis and the Heritage of Roman Law in Early Modern England”

**F R I D A Y, J A N U A R Y 2 1 , 2 0 1 1**

9:00 Registration & Coffee
9:30 **Session 4: Historiography**
   Moderator: Glynn Parry (Vereinst University of Washington)
   Freya Cox Jensen (University of Oxford)
   “After Peter Burke: A Survey of the Popularity of Roman Historians in England, 1500-1700”
   Nicholas Pepper (The College of William and Mary)
   “Ancient Roman Wars in Early Modern England”

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Session 5: The Uses of Tacitus**
   Moderator: Peter Mancall (University of Southern California)
   Malcolm Smuts (University of Massachusetts, Boston)
   “Varieties of Tacitism”
   Patricia J. Omordia (Rome, Italy / Iowa State University College of Design)
   “Tacitean Scholarship and Stuart Politics: Edmund Bolton’s Revisionist Account of Tiberius’ Reign”

**Session 6: Ancient Rome and Early Modern England: Roundtable**
   Moderator: Mendelsohn Feingold (California Institute of Technology)

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