

## CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xiii

Abbreviations xvii

Introduction: Constantine and the Writing of  
Fourth-Century History 1

### PART I

#### THE ROMAN FRONTIER AND THE PERSIAN WAR

- 1 • Patronizing Persians: Constantine's Letter to Shapur II 17
- 2 • Constantine's Crusade: The Emperor's Last  
Days and the Persian Campaign 45
- 3 • Rereading Nisibis: Narrating the Battle for  
Roman Mesopotamia 65

### PART II

#### ROMAN CAPTIVES AND PERSIAN ENVOYS

- 4 • On War and Persecution: Aphrahaṭ the Persian  
Sage and the *Martyrdom* and *History of Blessed*  
*Simeon bar Šabba'e* 99
- 5 • The Church of the East and the Territorialization  
of Christianity 125
- 6 • Memories of Constantine in the *Acts of the*  
*Persian Martyrs* 154

Appendix A. Constantine's Letter to Shapur: Eusebius's <i>Life of Constantine</i> IV.8–14	181
Appendix B. <i>Martyrdom of the Captives of Beth Zabdai</i>	184
Appendix C. <i>Martyrdom of Abbot Barshebya, Ten Fellow Brothers, and One Magus</i>	191
Bibliography	197
Index	217