

A New Caesar? Julian in Gaul

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Controversy trailed Julian for almost his entire life and has continued to pursue him ever since. Strangely, however, the *quinquennium* which he spent in Gaul as Caesar has always tended to encourage agreement: he was, we are told, a great and surprising success, a just administrator and a brilliant general. His time there was marred by clashes with the 'notorious spies and sycophants' of Constantius and by his cousin's growing suspicion towards him, but it is basically a tale of triumph. The sequel in Iraq was certainly disappointing, but the last pagan emperor has always been suffused by the glow of Strasbourg.

In this paper, I seek to probe the conventional account of Julian's time on the Rhine, to understand how it came into being, whether we might wish to modify it at all, and what a slightly different version of the years from 355 to 360 might teach us about Julian.