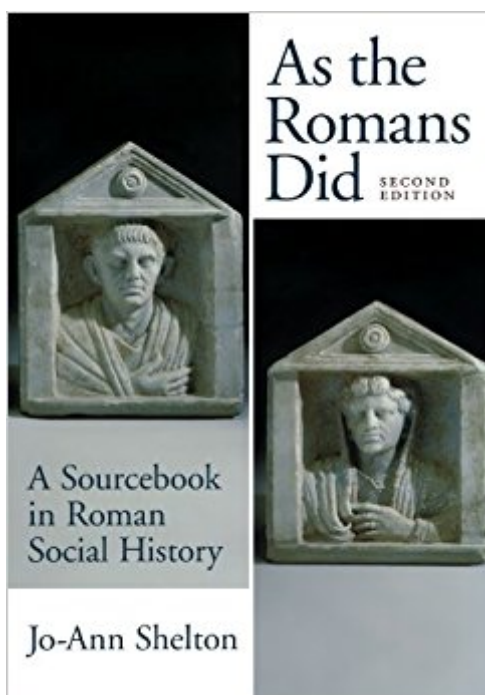


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# As The Romans Did: A Sourcebook In Roman Social History, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

Revised to include new selections and updated bibliographical material, the second edition of this popular sourcebook offers a rich, revealing look at everyday Roman life. It provides clear, lively translations of a fascinating array of documents drawn from Latin and Greek source material--from personal letters, farming manuals, medical texts, and recipes to poetry, graffiti, and tombstone inscriptions. Each selection has been translated into readable, contemporary English. This edition includes more than 50 additional selections that introduce new topics and expand coverage of existing topics. In addition, the commentary on all the selections has been revised to reflect the recent scholarship of social and cultural historians. Extensive annotations, abundant biographical notes, maps, appendices, cross-references to related topics, and a newly-updated bibliography provide readers with the historical and cultural background material necessary to appreciate the selections. Arranged thematically into chapters on family life, housing, education, entertainment, religion, and other important topics, the translations reveal the ambitions and aspirations not only of the upper class, but of the average Roman citizen as well. They tell of the success and failure of Rome's grandiose imperialist policies and also of the pleasures and hardships of everyday life. Wide-ranging and lively, the second edition of *As the Romans Did* offers the most lucid account available of Roman life in all its diversity. Ideal for courses in Ancient Roman History, Social History of Rome, Roman Civilization, and Classics, it will also appeal to readers interested in ancient history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Rich....Very much a collection for today's English-speaking investigator of the Roman world....Should find a very wide and happy audience."--New England Classical Newsletter & Journal (on the previous edition)"Will be useful in college courses and high-school classrooms alike."--The Classical Outlook"The most lucid account of daily activity thus far constructed....A wonderful sourcebook of everyday life...will become a short classic of the past."--Ronald T. Marchese, University of Minnesota"A wonderful book! The best introduction to the Romans that I have seen. The Romans speak to the students in their own voices, but the clear organization, excellent introductions and cross-referencing make the book accessible and informative."--Kathryn Argetsinger, University of Rochester

Jo-Ann Shelton is Professor of Classics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the author of several books and articles on the social and cultural history of Rome in the early imperial period, including *Hercules Furens: The Madness of Hercules* (1991).

This book was required reading for a Roman Civilization class, but we only read a few selections from it as supplementary evidence for other things we were studying, but since graduation I've had the opportunity to read it cover-to-cover and am surprised to find what enjoyable reading the book is on its own. Basically the book is a collection of excerpts from primary sources. In addition to the selections from contemporary writers, the author also includes inscriptions from gravestones and architectural monuments, graffiti, and personal correspondence of ordinary people. Some of the excerpts are funny, but a number of them are surprisingly moving and very disturbing, such as the letter from a soldier on the frontier to his pregnant wife at home. He writes that if she has a boy that she should keep it, but if it is a girl that she should expose it. The reader gets a really good idea of how the Romans thought and what their values were from their own words. The author has provided extensive footnotes, serviceable maps, and a comprehensive bibliography. This book, in tandem with Charles Boren's *ROMAN SOCIETY*, provides an excellent foundation for further studies in the culture of Ancient Rome. Highly recommended! Five Stars!

Was great.

An excellent resource for any student learning about the Romans, their customs, as well as history--with primary quotations and passages attached to every topic covered in this book. I have used this

book for numerous courses as well as some major research papers and it has proven its worth! From women, children, slaves, abortion, military, the power of the man in every familial unit, satire, etc- this book covers everything. I highly encourage students to purchase this book.

I have lots and lots of books on the Greek and Roman worlds. Source books and texts. Historical-fiction and Reviews. This book give a board look at Roman live under easy to follow heading IN THEIR OWN WORDS. What a wonderful giftThe. If you are interested in the day to day life of the peoples who made up the great empire - here it is! It is easy to read and it is in their own words. I love it. (only draw back are some limited examples on very interesting headings). No enough to stop you for a minute from purchasing this great, fun, factual book!

Book is great but it had writing in it in own and one page sellotape next time please describe item more accurately but many thanks for prompt shipment

Good condition

Bought this book on a lark, intrigued by its presentation format: snippets with Ancient Roman live anecdotes, to illustrate the snippets' meaning. I didn't expect a comprehensive and incisive organization to the material, but that's what I got. Shelton picks the right things to analyze, writes extremely well. Terms are defined, comparison to modern American life is made, so you can more readily appreciate what it was like to be a 'Roman'.Buy this book, pair it up with the Adkins' 'Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome' (also here at ): then you'll have a ready reference to the very many categories which relate to the question, 'what was it like to be alive, BACK THEN?'

I write historical novels and found this book to contain a wealth of information about everyday Roman life. There are loads of books out there about the political history of Rome but few truly good ones about how regular people conducted their lives. Recommend this title to anyone who wants to understand the Roman Empire from the grass roots up.

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