

provided with a summary of and some commentary upon the *De Senectute*. The quintessential Romanness of Cicero's Cato is demonstrated by such quotations as 'Age is respected if it actively defends itself, keeps a firm grip on its entitlements, is subservient to no-one and maintains control over its family to the very last breath' and the salutary opinion – still surely applicable today – re acquisitiveness in old age: 'Can anything be more ridiculous than a traveller needing more provisions, the closer he is to his destination?'

The best chapters are on 'Death and Burial' and 'Epitaphs and the Afterlife.' But even in the latter, the author suddenly throws in two pages about *Odyssey* Book 11 – to which perhaps a brief reference could have been made in the ensuing and appropriate passage about *Aeneid* book 6. We then get a section on Plato's *Republic* and the myth of Er the soldier. Er.....indeed.

'Romans never imagined they could "fight" death. They dealt with it by facing the hard facts of the real world. Modern man tries to escape them.' Fine: but then Jones goes on for several pages in this vein without really adding anything to the foregoing. He might do better to stick to his always readable and thought-provoking 'Ancient and Modern' column in *The Spectator*, where there is a word limit.

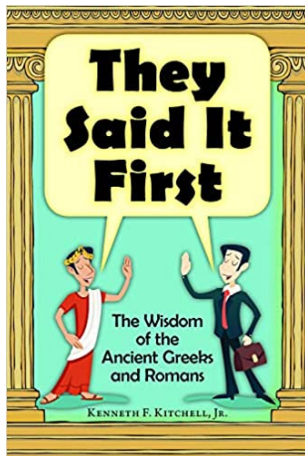
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## They Said it First. The Wisdom of the Ancient Greeks and Romans

Kitchell (K.F.). Pp. xxii + 326. Mundelein, ILL: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2019. Paper, US\$19. ISBN: 978-0-86516-864-0.

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This entertaining book is in a long tradition of list books and it does not disappoint. I think it would be an interesting addition to a school or a departmental library as it demonstrates well that we are following in the footsteps of so many generations before us; as Terence wrote in *The Eunuch*: *nullumst iam dictum quod non dictum sit prius* (there is nothing that has been said now, that has not been said before) but that aside there is a delight in flicking through a book like this and coming across gems both in Latin and Greek, all of which are

referenced should you wish to delve further. I have read books of quotations in the past, but this one allies the ancient quote with one or more modern ones not only reinforcing the idea that there is nothing new under the sun but proving it! In his introduction the author states his aims as entertainment and enlightenment (how Aristophanic) and he provides an extensive bibliography should

readers wish to pursue the subject further. He sensibly comments that, from the examples we can see that the ancients were, while grappling with many of the same concerns that we have, heading home to households run by those whose freedoms were severely limited. It is a big claim for a collection such as this to be wanting to make people think about their own social values but it is worth spending some time thinking about the apparent contradiction between high-minded political or social comment and the reality that lies behind it. Also, in the introduction there is a nod towards the tradition of collecting quotes together in one place, and we must be grateful to the grammarians for constantly using quotes from authors whose work has not otherwise survived, so we should be grateful to Athenaeus, Aulus Gellius, Diogenes Laertius and Stobaeus, though there is always that nagging annoyance that they did not include just one more. Kitchell has helpfully divided the collection into topics for easier use if browsing is not your reason for picking this volume up, and so we have areas such as Bragging, Family, Hypocrisy, Marriage, Stress, Politics and Power, Taxes, Teaching and Writing, to name but a few. Quotations range from pithy – *homines, dum docent, discunt* (while men teach, they learn) – to the more wordy – *canis timidus vehementius latrat quam mordet: altissima quaeque flumina minimo sono labuntur* (the cowardly dog barks more loudly than it bites, and the deepest rivers flow with the least sound) – which was, apparently, a popular Bactrian saying, quoted by Quintus Curtius. My favourite part of this book, however, is seeing how sayings have adapted to their culture or time, or are just plain funny. We all know the saying 'to make a mountain out of a molehill' but in Lucian it is apparently: *ἐλέφαντα ἐκ μυίας ποιεῖν* (to make an elephant from a mouse), in Cicero, *arcem ex cloaca facere* (to make a citadel from a sewer) and in Cicero again *si aut tragoedias agamus in nugis* (or if we were to make tragedies from trifles). I think I'll quoting Lucian a bit more from now on.

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## Work and Days. Daily Wisdom From The Greeks and Romans To Get You Through Your Working Day

Law, (A.). London: LID Publishing Ltd., 2019. Pp. 312 £12.06 ISBN 978-1-91255-510-9

Andrea Allman

Written by a retired businessman and Classics enthusiast, this book seeks to marry Classical wisdom with business advice for the modern world. Whilst Law admits that 'The business world and the classical world might not seem at first glance to be happy bedfellows' (p.4), he claims that the ancient authors could be seen as the originators of business strategy with much relevant advice to offer for a modern context. After all, the language of business is Classical: 'profit' from *profectus* and 'strategy' from *strategos*, for example; so why not start with the ancients if you are looking to progress in business?

The basic premise of the book is that for each day, there is a quote from an ancient author, a translation, a related business