

DEVELOPMENT OF ROMAN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT. This article is the about progress of Roman literature and analysis of its period and resources. This investigation was conducted by researching information about developmenting of Roman literature and analyzing. As part of our article we have to focus on when Roman literature began developing and who are this literature writers and which period.

Key words: literature, Roman writers, developing, language,

INTRODUCTION

“Let us live and love, nor give a damn what sour old men say. The sun that sets may rise again, but when our light has sunk into the earth it is gone forever.”

Catullus

Catullus was important as he discarded epic themes and wrote deeply personal poetry. He wrote to his friends and his lovers, attacked his enemies (and his lovers' lovers) in often obscene language. His poems on death, including that of his brother, are deeply moving. From writing this article I am going to describe at that period literature and which writer were and give information about developing Roman literature.

Publius Vergilius Maro (70 BC – 19 BC) wrote the great epic poem of Rome in the shape of the Aeneid, the story of Aeneas, a Trojan refugee who according to myth arrived in Italy to found the city[1]. His biography is full of uncertainties. He was probably born near Mantua in northern Italy and may have been of Umbrian, Etruscan or Celtic heritage. He worked as a lawyer before turning full time to poetry. Shyness and ill health seem to have been with him throughout his life. The Aeneid is considered his greatest work and its 12 books took 11 years to complete, possibly at the commission of Emperor Augustus. Homer's great epics of the Trojan War are an obvious influence[2]

Roman literature, written in the Latin language, remains an enduring legacy of the culture of ancient Rome. In the fact that some of the earliest extant works are historical epics telling of the early military history of Rome, followed by poetry comedies, histories and tragedies. The ground for Roman literature was prepared by an influx from the early 3rd century bc onward of Greek slaves, some of whom were put to

tutoring young Roman nobles. Among them was Livius Andronicus, who was later freed and who is considered to be the first Latin writer[3]. During what is considered the “Golden Age of Roman Poetry,” poets such as Virgil, Horace, and Ovid produced works that have had an everlasting impact. Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, for example, inspired authors such as Chaucer, Milton, Dante, and Shakespeare. In, Quintus Ennius is called father of Roman literature. Quintus Ennius (/ˈkwɪntəs ˈɛniəs/; c. 239 BCE – c. 169 BCE) was a writer during the period of the Roman Republic, and is often coadditionnsidered the father of Roman poetry. He was of Calabrian descent[1]. Due to Rome's imperial history, much of Roman literature was centered around the themes of conquest and governance. All of Roman writers try to describe that period and culture, tradition[4].The culture and history of the Roman Empire continually recycle through Western literature. The Romans were certainly composing many types of writings prior to 240 B.C. They were writing complex formal law codes, contracts, and treaties. They were also composing more personal and quotidian writings, such as calendars, graffiti, tombstone inscriptions, and songs. There were also some written works that recorded Italic stories and histories. However, all the way up until the last couple of centuries of the Roman Republic, such indigenous literary productions were not regarded very highly. They remained very much in the shadow of the brilliant corpus of Greek literature. Perhaps the area in which Roman authors were most successful in imitating the Greeks was theater and, in particular, comedic plays. The Romans produced several great comedic playwrights, the most prolific of whom was Plautus. A number of Shakespeare’s plays, for example, were borrowed from Roman history, including *Julius Caesar* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Even *The Comedy of Errors* has roots in *The Twin Brothers*, a now-obscure comedy by Plautus. As foretold by Ennius, Latin literature would soon truly come into its own. The Golden Age of Roman poetry (c. 70 BCE – 14 CE) produced such memorable writers as Virgil, Horace, Catullus, Propertius, Tibullus, and **Ovid**. According to Rodgers, Virgil, Horace, and the exiled Ovid created a classical style of **writing** comparable to many of the great Greek authors. One of these distinguished poets was Publius Vergilius Maro or Virgil (70 – 19 BCE). Unlike many of the poets who followed him, Virgil provided his audience with a more romanticized picture of Rome. Hailing from Cisalpine **Gaul** and a family of modest farmers, many of Virgil's themes demonstrate his love of the rural life. His *Eclogues*, written around 37 BCE, spoke of the loves and lives of shepherds, while his *Georgics*, written around 29 BCE, praised Roman country life: plowing, growing trees, tending cattle, and even keeping bees. However, his most memorable work is the **Aeneid**, an epic telling of the journeys of Aeneas after the fall of **Troy** through the founding of Rome by **Romulus and Remus** to the age of **Augustus**[5] As Aeneas was the ideal model for the Roman way of life, Augustus believed the poem demonstrated a fulfillment of Rome's destiny. The book of Romans,

as stated previously, is a letter, often called an epistle. It falls under the genre of hortatory and expository literature. Ancient Romans spoke Latin, which spread throughout the world with the increase of Roman political power. Latin became the basis for a group of languages referred to as the Romance languages. These include French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Catalan. Roman literature written after the mid-2nd century is often disparaged and largely ignored, and Medieval Latin was usually dismissed as “Dog -Latin”. However, long after the Roman Empire had fallen, the Latin language continued to play a central role in Western European civilization. Brief mention should also be made here of a lesser known genre, that of the ancient novel or prose fiction. Two such Ancient Roman novels have come down to us, the “Satyrion” of Gaius Petronius (1st century) and “The Golden Ass” (or “Metamorphoses” of Lucius Apuleius (2nd century). The Romans used a variety of tools for writing. Everyday writing could be done on wax tablets or thin leaves of wood. Documents, like legal contracts, were usually written in pen and ink on papyrus. Books were also written in pen and ink on papyrus or sometimes on parchment[6].

Although literature in Latin followed a continual development over several centuries, the beginnings of formal Latin literature started with the regular performance of comedies and tragedies in Rome in 240 BC, one year after the conclusion of the First Punic War. Roman literature was, from its very inception, influenced heavily by Greek authors. Some of the earliest works we possess are of historical epics that tell the early military history of Rome.

Here are five classics of Roman Literature.

- The anthology of Catullus. A bust of Catullus.
- Ovid’s Metamorphoses.
- 3 Horace’s Odes.
- Virgil’s Aeneid.
- Seneca’s Thyestes.

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Many prolific literary figures worldwide like William Shakespeare and his play ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and powerful poem, 9 circles of hell, composed by the Italian poet Dante Alighieri have drawn inspiration from the Literature of historical sculptures in relief, as opposed to Greek free-standing sculpture. The Literature in ancient Rome was written in Latin since Latin was the primary language used for both written and spoken purposes. Ancient Rome expanded into the Holy Roman Empire during the Imperial period in 27 B.C. from Portugal to Persia and Scotland to the Sahara Desert. The

expansion of territory helped to spread the Latin language across the Empire. The Empire transformed into a global superpower and made Latin a basis for several other languages [8].

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The ancient Roman literature was written in the Latin language. It maintains an enduring legacy of ancient Rome, its culture, and its people. The earliest Roman literary works were historical epics retelling Rome's early military history, while the later works were poetry, comedies, histories, and tragedies. By the time of the late Roman Republic, some distinctive and original literary voices had emerged in several different genres. An interesting example of this is the poet Catullus. Although the topic of his poetry was love, his troubled attitude towards it reflects the turmoil of the time he lived in. His viewpoint was that of a decadent, pleasure-seeking young nobleman. Catullus fell in love with a married woman whom he called Lesbia in his poems. Although, a later author identified Lesbia as the infamous noblewoman Clodia, who was connected to many of the most powerful politicians of the time[11] Catullus's intense feelings, particularly when he was ultimately rebuffed, seemed to have worn him out. His lifestyle caused him to go bankrupt before his death. He died around the age of 30, leaving behind a small but powerful body of work filled with raw emotion. The most prolific author of the era was the orator, statesman, and philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero. In addition, composing multiple manuals on rhetoric, and recording the many speeches he delivered in the law courts, to the senate and people of Rome, Cicero

wrote numerous works of philosophy and political theory. He even published seven books consisting of collections of letters he sent to other people, along with their replies.

Back in our undergrad days, we loved studying Rome and Greek history, reading Ancient Rome books based on, about, and set in the city to transport us there. Upon graduation, we could not wait to travel to Italy to witness first-hand the places we learned about in such intriguing and powerful Roman books, texts, and myths. Below, unearth the best books about Rome to teach you more as well as take you there via armchair.

While we will start with books about Ancient Rome, we'll end with more contemporary and modern Rome novels — historical fiction, thrillers, translated literature, and memoirs included[12]Of course, find fun books set in Rome meant to stir up even more. The ground for Roman literature was prepared by an influx from the early 3rd century bc onward of Greek slaves, some of whom were put to tutoring young Roman nobles. Among them was Livius Andronicus, who was later freed and who is considered to be the first Latin writer. Roman literature often derived from Greek sources, but took Greek models and made them its own. It includes some of the best known classical authors such as Ovid and Virgil, as well as a Roman emperor who found time to write down his philosophical reflections. Rome's rich culture and history are continually being recycled through western civilization. Several great plays like 'Julius Caesar' and 'Antony and Cleopatra, which are now embedded in novels and chapters in History and English Literature textbooks, are all borrowed from Roman History. In the mid-1st century BC, Roman politics were restless. Political divisions in Rome split into one of two groups, *populares* (who hoped for the support of the people) and *optimates* (the "best", who wanted to maintain exclusive aristocratic control). Sulla overthrew all populist leaders and his constitutional reforms removed powers (such as those of the tribune of the plebs) that had supported populist approaches. Meanwhile, social and economic stresses continued to build; Rome had become a metropolis with a super-rich aristocracy, debt-ridden aspirants, and a large proletariat often of impoverished farmers. The latter groups supported the Catilinarian conspiracy resounding failure since the consul Marcus Tullius Cicero quickly arrested and executed the main leaders.

Gaius Julius Caesar reconciled the two most powerful men in Rome: Marcus Licinius Crassus, who had financed much of his earlier career, and Crassus' rival, Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (anglicised as Pompey), to whom he married his daughter. He formed them into a new informal alliance including himself, the First Triumvirate ("three men").

In conclusion, I say that about my article, you can find progress of Roman literature and analysis its period and resources. Above I said that, as part of our article we have to focus on when Roman literature began improving and who are this literature writers and which period. Rome became the most dominant province in the world, thanks to a combination of military strength, policy flexibility, growing economies and much luck. The Mediterranean world was changed and Rome itself changed as a result of this expansion. Allied foreign cities were often given the Latin Rights, an intermediary level between full citizens and foreigners, which gave their citizens rights under Roman law and allowed their leading magistrates to become full Roman citizens. While there were varying degrees of Latin rights, the main division was between those *cum suffragio* and *sine suffragio*. Most of Rome's Italian allies were given full citizenship after the Social War and full Roman citizenship was extended to all free-born men in the Empire.

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3. <https://historyten.com/roman/ancient-roman-literature/#ixzz8GtJszY9D>
4. Later in Christian liturgy, "noon" came to describe the nones, a time of prayer originally at 3 pm but later at midday, so "noon" became synonymous with midday.
5. Flaccus, and some of the mechanics of his musicianship, are described in the prologue of Terence's play *Phormio*. See also Moore, Timothy. *Music in Roman Comedy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
6. Everitt, Anthony. *The Rise of Rome: The Making of the World's Greatest Empire*. New York: Random House Publishing Group, 2012. Kindle Edition, location 1263. Mary Beard adds that by the 500s, "Rome was most certainly a small urban community" (Beard, Mary. *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*. New York and London: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2016, p. 91)
7. See Johnson, Allan Chester et. al. *Ancient Roman Statutes*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961, p.5. Mary Beard notes that the inscription's main significance for historians is its use of the dative case noun *recei*, supporting the existence of the regal history written about by Livy and others (see *SPQR* p. 92).
8. For an excellent discussion of the First Punic War and its impact on the generation of Livius Andronicus and Gnaeus Naevius, see Feeney (2016), Chapter 5: *A Stage for Imperial Power*.