

Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture: A Journey into the Shadows of the Roman Empire



Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture (Phoenix Supplementary Volumes Book 52)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4202 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 305 pages



The towering Roman Empire, spanning centuries and continents, rose upon the foundation of an institution that profoundly shaped its society and culture: slavery. Roman slavery was not merely a marginal practice but an intrinsic part of the empire's economic, social, and political fabric. In "Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture," a groundbreaking publication in the Phoenix Supplementary Volumes series, Professor Matthew Dillon invites us on a captivating exploration of the intricate relationship between human exploitation and the development of Roman material culture. This comprehensive work illuminates the profound impact slavery had on the tangible objects that surrounded the Romans, providing invaluable insights into their daily lives, social hierarchies, and cultural values.

A Mosaic of Slavery's Impact

Professor Dillon meticulously examines the ways in which slavery permeated every aspect of Roman material culture. Through the lens of labor, he unveils how slaves played a pivotal role in constructing the empire's vast infrastructure, agricultural production, and urban development. The author deftly illustrates how their forced labor laid the foundations of cities, aqueducts, and amphitheaters, shaping the physical landscape of the empire.

Beyond labor, Professor Dillon explores the multifaceted influence of slavery on domestic life, art, and architecture. He uncovers the pervasive presence of slaves in households, their indispensable role in servicing the needs of the elite, and their contributions to the production of luxury goods. The author also analyzes the ways in which slavery influenced the development of Roman art, particularly through the depiction of slaves in sculptures, mosaics, and paintings, shedding light on the social attitudes towards this institution.

Slavery in the Urban Landscape

Professor Dillon dedicates a significant portion of the book to examining the impact of slavery on the urban environment. He demonstrates how the presence of large numbers of slaves contributed to the growth and development of cities, such as Rome, Pompeii, and Ostia. The author analyzes the urban infrastructure designed to accommodate and control the slave population, including slave quarters, markets, and prisons. He also explores the social tensions and conflicts that arose within urban centers due to the presence of a substantial enslaved population.

Through a meticulous examination of archaeological evidence, Professor Dillon reconstructs the daily lives of slaves in Roman cities. He vividly portrays their living conditions, work routines, and social interactions, providing a glimpse into their often-hidden world. The author's analysis sheds light on the complex and multifaceted nature of slavery in the urban context.

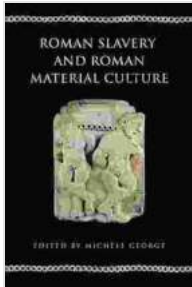
The Enduring Legacy of Roman Slavery

"Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture" not only offers a comprehensive examination of the past but also prompts us to reflect on the enduring legacy of slavery in the present. Professor Dillon argues that the institution of slavery has left a lasting imprint on Western civilization, shaping our attitudes towards labor, race, and social inequality. He invites us to confront the uncomfortable truths about our shared history and to strive for a more just and equitable society.

This thought-provoking work is essential reading for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Roman society, the history of slavery, and the enduring impact of the past on the present. Through meticulous research and engaging prose, Professor Dillon invites us to delve into the shadows of the Roman Empire and to confront the complexities of human exploitation. "Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture" is a seminal contribution to the study of antiquity and a powerful reminder of the transformative power of historical inquiry.

Professor Matthew Dillon's "Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture" is a masterfully crafted work that provides a comprehensive and engrossing analysis of the profound impact slavery had on the material culture of the Roman Empire. Through meticulous research and captivating prose, the

author illuminates the ways in which human exploitation shaped every aspect of Roman society and culture. This book is not only an invaluable resource for scholars but also a compelling read for anyone interested in the complexities of the ancient world and the enduring legacy of slavery.



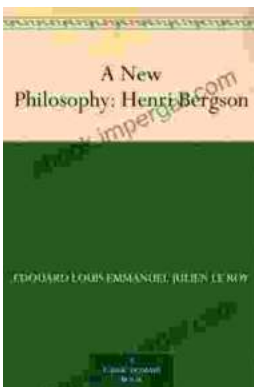
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