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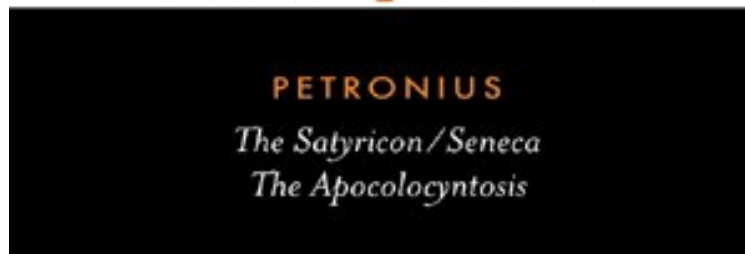
The Satyricon and The Apocolocyntosis of the Divine Claudius (Penguin Classics)

Petronius, Seneca

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#206326 in Books Petronius Arbiter/ Seneca, Lucius Annaeus/ Sullivan, J. P. (TRN) 1986-12-02 1986-12-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.77 x .60 x 5.111, .41 #File Name: 0140444890256 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Petronius, Seneca : The Satyricon and The Apocolocyntosis of the Divine Claudius (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Satyricon and The Apocolocyntosis of the Divine Claudius (Penguin Classics):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Satyricon By Andreea The Satyricon is a well known Ancient text (a fictional work that contains both prose and verse) written by Gaius Petronius Arbiter. Besides the main text translated in English by C. Firebaugh, you can read information about the Latin author, the age in which he lived, about forgeries and also notes about prostitution, pederasty, philosophy of death and other aspects of Roman life,

which can help you understand better Petronius's masterpiece and the Roman culture. The notes regarding the text are sustained by various quotes from famous chroniclers and scholars such as Livy, Tacitus, Cato, Catullus, Juvenal, etc. The *Satyricon* is comprised of five volumes and 141 chapters or fragments because the work didn't survive entirely the test of time; even its ending is pretty abrupt. The *Satyricon* was written during the reign of Emperor Nero and some critics consider it one of the first novel due to its narrative structure and its length' and it can be included in a few genres due to its complexity: - It is a satirical/decadent novel, because Petronius depicts the decline of morality education and arts, the promiscuity of the Roman citizens, their hypocrisy and greed. - It is a picaresque novel (*avant la lettre*) because Encolpius (the narrator and main character) and Giton (a teenager and Encolpius's 'brother') along with other two characters - Ascyltos (friend of Encolpius) and Eumolpus (an aged poet) - venture in many troubles and hilarious situations such as; the licentious episode in Lycas's house, Trimalchio's banquet, the arrival in Crotona and their plan to make people believe Eumolpus a rich heirless man, etc. - It is a pornographic novel or, at least, it contains some erotic scenes in which we can understand better what Roman citizens understood through pleasure. In *The Satyricon*, we find prostitutes of both sexes, pederasty or intercourse between a man and a boy (e.g. the relationship between Encolpius and his bedfellow Giton), the priestesses from Priapus's and Venus's temple - the former group seduces Encolpius, Giton and Ascyltos while the latter anoints Encolpius's body in order to cure him of his erectile disfunction: and also pedophilia in the scene where Giton is forced by Quartilla to have intercourse with a 7-years-old girl' who has to be initiated before becoming a priestess in Priapus's Temple. Through his masterpiece, Petronius criticises the Roman society of his time, the hypocrisy and perversity of men along with the decline of education arts and Roman culture.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. A classicBy CustomerI picked this up on a whim and was not displeased.It's a rather biting and often tasteless (even by today's standards) satire of ancient Roman social mores. Much of the original work has been lost, but this version includes (with appropriate markings) the forgeries made by later scholar / charlatans to try to complete the work. The forgery sections are often much weaker than Petronius' original words.The book centers primarily on three characters: Encolpus (the narrator) and Ascyltus are ex-gladiators who don't appear to have any gainful employment, and Giton a boy traveling with them who acts as their servant and whom the two Gladiators (and virtually everyone else) are trying to have sex with.None of the characters in the *Satyricon* has any redeeming features. They are all arrogant, vain, thieving, and lecherous. They are often prone to murderous rages, gluttony, and general wantonness. Nobody, especially the narrator, seems to have any sense of self-awareness or sense of responsibility for their own atrocious actions. In short, everyone acts like the titular character from the animated series "Archer."The introductory chapters are mainly forgeries, and the "meat" of Petronius' surviving words center on the "Dinner with Trimalchio." The titular character of this section is a fabulously wealthy Roman official, with by far the most bloated ego of anyone in the *Satyricon*. The chapter is flat-out hilarious, portraying an utterly ludicrous banquet peppered with a variety of odd and often bombastic monologues by the host.The rest of the book, while also quite good, is overshadowed by the brilliance of the banquet scene.I'd describe more of the plot, but there isn't really much of one. I suspect that the characters are probably very unflattering caricatures of contemporaries of the author and the main purpose of the work was to mercilessly lampoon them. If nothing else, the dinner sequence alone is worth a read.¹² of 13 people found the following review helpful. The *Satyricon*By MarkEven though the completed verison of *The Satyricon* was never recovered, one can read it on two levels. The one level being just another ancient pornographic novel, or read as a sophisticated commentary which reveals the contemptible behavior of his Roman world. The author vividly describes this hedonistic and decadent society. Petronius uses scatological verse to reveal the grotesque and bizarre actions that are contained in the Roman feasting and socializing rituals. He uses a mirror of realism to unveil the warts while still concealing his criticisms on that immoral world without openly saying it. In *The Satyricon*, the sex is unsexy, the food is uneatable, and the people are unlikeable.Through subterfuge, Petronius wants the reader to desire a Roman society which possesses a supreme moral quality by describing its complete opposite side. *The Satyricon* is a classical warning lesson to be learned by all present and future readers of the many dangers that are given birth through a society's moral decay. M. A. Kehrl

Perhaps the strangest—and most strikingly modern—work to survive from the ancient world, *The Satyricon* relates the hilarious mock epic adventures of the impotent Encolpius, and his struggle to regain virility. Here Petronius brilliantly brings to life the courtesans, legacy-hunters, pompous professors and dissolute priestesses of the age - and, above all, Trimalchio, the archetypal self-made millionaire whose pretentious vulgarity on an insanely grand scale makes him one of the great comic characters in literature. Seneca's *The Apocolocyntosis*, a malicious skit on 'the deification of Claudius the Clod', was designed by the author to ingratiate himself with Nero, who was Claudius' successor. Together, the two provide a powerful insight into a darkly fascinating period of Roman history.For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Language NotesText: English, Latin (translation)From the Back CoverFor this edition Professor Sullivan has updated his translation and his invaluable literary and historical introductions in the light of the latest research; he has also included all Petronius' surviving verse.About the AuthorTitus Petronius Arbiter is reputedly the author of the Satyricon. According to Tacitus, Petronius' chief talent lay in the pursuit of pleasures, in which he displayed such exquisite refinement that he earned the unofficial title of the emperor Nero's 'arbiter of elegance' (arbiter elegantiae). Court rivalry and jealousy contrived to cast on Petronius the suspicion that he was conspiring against the emperor, and he was ordered to commit suicide in A.D. 66. He gradually bled to death, opening his veins, binding and re-opening them, passing his last hours in social amusement and the composition of a catalogue of Nero's debaucheries.Lucius Annaeus Seneca, statesman, philosopher, advocate and man of letters, was born at Cordoba in Spain around 4 BC. He rose to prominence in Rome, pursuing a career in the courts and political life, for which he had been trained, while also acquiring celebrity as an author of tragedies and essays. Falling foul of successive emperors (Caligula in AD 39 and Claudius in AD 41), he spent eight years in exile, allegedly for an affair with Caligula's sister. Recalled in AD 49, he was made praetor and was appointed tutor to the boy who was to become, in AD 54, the emperor Nero. On Nero's succession, Seneca acted for some eight years as an unofficial chief minister. The early part of this reign was remembered as a period of sound government, for which the main credit seems due to Seneca. His control over Nero declined as enemies turned the emperor against him with representations that his popularity made him a danger, or with accusations of immorality or excessive wealth. Retiring from public life he devoted his last three years to philosophy and writing, particularly the Letters to Lucilius. In AD 65 following the discovery of a plot against the emperor, in which he was thought to be implicated, he and many others were compelled by Nero to commit suicide. His fame as an essayist and dramatist lasted until two or three centuries ago, when he passed into literary oblivion, from which the twentieth century has seen a considerable recovery.