

Aulus Gellius Attic Nights Preface And S 1 10

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Ancient Libraries - Jason König 2013-04-25

The circulation of books was the motor of classical civilization. But books were both expensive and rare, and so libraries - private and public, royal and civic - played key roles in articulating intellectual life. This collection, written by an international team of scholars, presents a fundamental reassessment of how

ancient libraries came into being, how they were organized and how they were used. Drawing on papyrology and archaeology, and on accounts written by those who read and wrote in them, it presents new research on reading cultures, on book collecting and on the origins of monumental library buildings. Many of the traditional stories told about ancient libraries

are challenged. Few were really enormous, none were designed as research centres, and occasional conflagrations do not explain the loss of most ancient texts. But the central place of libraries in Greco-Roman culture emerges more clearly than ever.

The Attic Nights of Aulus Gellius - P. L.

Chambers 2014-10-20

The second year of Latin instruction can be the most difficult for student and teacher alike.

Students must remember a seemingly endless array of grammatical rules and vocabulary, and often the material to be translated seems dull and lengthy beyond endurance. These problems have been overcome by P. L. Chambers with the help of one ancient Roman. Aulus Gellius, a well-educated nobleman, is best known today for a collection of observations titled *Noctes Atticae*, a project he began during the long winter nights he spent in Attica, the region of Greece where Athens is located. The selections chosen for this reader touch on diverse aspects of Roman

culture and can be easily understood and translated by intermediate students. A classroom-tested book, *The Attic Nights of Aulus Gellius* will motivate second-year students to continue their course of study while providing a much-needed alternative for Latin instructors seeking accessible textbooks for their students.

The Anatomy of Myth - Michael W. Herren
2017

The Anatomy of Myth is a comprehensive study of the different methods of interpreting myths developed by the Greeks, adopted by the Romans, and eventually passed on to Jewish and Christian interpreters of the Bible. Greek thinkers only rarely saw "myth" as a category of thought in its own right. Most often they viewed myths as the creation of poets, or else as an ancient revelation that had been corrupted by them. In the first instance, critics attempted to find in the intention of the authors some deeper truth, whether physical or spiritual; in the second, they deemed it necessary to clear away

poetic falsehoods in order to recapture an ancient revelation. Parallel to the philosophical critiques were the efforts of early historians to explain myths as exaggerated history; myths could be purified by logos (reason) and rendered believable. Practically all of these early methods could be lumped under the term "allegory"--to intend something different from what one expressed. Only occasionally did philosophers veer from a concern for the literal truth of myths but a few thinkers, while acknowledging myths as fictions, defended their value for the examples of good and bad human behavior they offered. These early efforts were invaluable for the development of critical thinking, enabling public criticism of even the most authoritative texts. The Church Fathers took the interpretative methods of their pagan contemporaries and applied them vigorously to their reading of the scriptures. Pagan Greek methods of myth interpretation passed into the Middle Ages and beyond, serving as a perennial

defense against the damaging effects of scriptural literalism and fundamentalism.

The Rights of War and Peace - Hugo Grotius
1814

How to Read a Latin Poem - William Fitzgerald
2013-02-21

This is a book about poetry, language, and classical antiquity, and explains to the reader with little or no Latin how the language works as a unique vehicle for poetic expression.

Fitzgerald guides the reader through samples of Latin poetry to give a sense of how the individual poems feel in Latin and what makes Latin poetry worth reading.

The Philosopher's Banquet - Frieda Klotz
2011-10-06

A collection of essays on 'Plutarch's Table Talk', an influential Greek prose text which is a combination of philosophical dialogue and miscellany. The contributors offer a range of methodologically innovative and sophisticated

readings of the work's literary form, themes, and cultural background.

The Original Verses of Apollodorus'

›**Chronica**‹ - Kilian Fleischer 2020-07-20

The Chronica by the grammarian Apollodorus of Athens (2nd century BC) was an exemplary chronographical reference work. It was composed in trimeters and represents the first Iambic didactic poem ever. So far, the surviving original verses have hardly been appreciated and analyzed in their own terms. Therefore a comprehensive collection of these verses is provided, including an introduction, edition, translation and commentary. Most verses stem from Philodemus' Index Academicorum, a Herculanean papyrus. Through the use of new imaging techniques and cutting-edge editing methods, enormous textual progress has been made. Many verses have been newly restored or significantly improved. They often reveal new hard facts about Academic philosophers and also bear some relevance for the dating of the

Chronica and for Apollodorus' biography. In short, this collection guarantees easy access to the genuine verses of the Chronica, as originally drafted by Apollodorus, and thereby facilitates a contextualization or comparison with other (Iambic) didactic poems on a dramatically changed textual basis. The scope of the book fulfills various scholarly desiderata from a historical, philosophical, philological and literary-critical standpoint.

Guilt by Association - Geoffrey Stephen Smith 2015

"Guilt by Association explores the creation, publication, and circulation of heresy catalogues by second- and early third-century Christians. Polemicists made use of these religious blacklists, which include the names of heretical teachers along with summaries of their unsavory doctrines and nefarious misdeeds, in order to discredit opponents and advocate their expulsion from the "authentic" Christianity community. The heresy catalogue proved to be an especially

effective literary technology in struggles for religious authority and legitimacy because it not only recast rival teachers as menacing adversaries, but also reinforced such characterizations by organizing otherwise unaffiliated teachers into coherent intellectual, social, and scholastic communities that are established and sustained by demonic powers. This study focuses especially on the earliest Christian heresy catalogues, those found within the works of Justin, Irenaeus, Hegesippus, and the authors the Testimony of Truth and the Tripartite Tractate, with a special emphasis on the first two. Justin and Irenaeus receive special attention not because as so-called "fathers of the church" they occupy a privileged position in the historical record, but because by promoting and making use of a particular heresy catalogue, the Syntagma against All the Heresies, they popularized one specific heresiological model at the expense of others. By focusing upon the heresy catalogue, Guilt by Association not only

accounts for the emergence of the Christian heresiological tradition; it also sheds new light upon the socio-rhetorical aims of the Pastoral Epistles, the circulation of early Christian literature, the emergence of a distinct Christian identity, and the origins of Gnosticism"--

Curiosities of Literature - Isaac Disraeli 1893

Procli In Platonis Parmenidem Commentaria II - Carlos Steel 2008-05-09

The Commentary on Plato's Parmenides by Proclus (AD 412-85) is the most important extant document on the interpretation of this enigmatic dialogue, and has had a crucial influence on all subsequent readings. In Proclus' Commentary, the Parmenides provides the argumentative and conceptual framework for a scientific theology wherein all mythological discourse about the gods can be integrated. Its exposition was therefore the culmination of the curriculum of the Platonic school. This theological reading of the Parmenides persisted, through the medium

of Ficino, until the nineteenth century. Previously this important text was only accessible in the edition of V. Cousin (Paris, 1864). This new critical edition is based on an exhaustive study of both the Greek tradition and the medieval Latin translation. This volume contains Books IV and V.

Franz Joseph Gall - Stanley Finger 2019-04-30

Franz Joseph Gall (1758-1828) was always a controversial figure, as was his doctrine, later called phrenology. Although often portrayed as a discredited buffoon, who believed he could assess a person's strengths and weaknesses by measuring cranial bumps, he was, in fact, a serious physician-scientist, who strove to answer timely questions about the mind, brain, and behavior. In many ways a remarkable visionary, his seminal ideas would become tenets of modern behavioral neuroscience. Among other things, he was the first scientist to promote publicly the idea of specialized cortical areas for diverse higher functions, while taking

metaphysics out of his new science of mind. Moreover, although he obviously placed too much emphasis on "tell-tale" skull features (mistakenly believing that the cranium faithfully reflects the features of underlying brain areas), he fully understood the strength of "convergent operations," conducting neuroanatomical, developmental, cross-species, gender-comparison, and brain-damage studies on both humans and animals in his attempts to unravel the mysteries of brain organization. Rather than looking upon Gall's "organology" as one of science's great mistakes, this book provides a fresh look at the man and his doctrine. The authors delve into his motives, what was known about the brain during the 1790s, and the cultural demands of his time. Gall is rightfully presented as an early-19th-century biologist, anthropologist, philosopher, and physician with an inquisitive mind and a challenging agenda--namely, how to account for species and individual differences in behavior. In this well-

researched book, readers learn why, starting as a young physician in Vienna and continuing his life's work in Paris, he chose to study the mind and the brain, why he employed his various methods, why he relied so heavily on cranial features, and why he wrote what he did in his books. Frequently using Gall's own words, they show his impact in various domains, including his approach to the insane and criminals, before concluding with his final illness and more lasting legacy.

Cornelius Nepos - Cornelius Nepos 1854

Wax Tablets of the Mind - Jocelyn Penny Small
2003-09-02

Jocelyn Small's erudite volume represents a timely insight into the topical areas of literacy and memory, and provides a controversial and challenging analysis of the cognitive processes and their modes of display and retrieval.

On the Track of the Books - Roberta Berardi
2019-06-17

This book offers the hint for a new reflection on ancient textual transmission and editorial practices in Antiquity. In the first section, it retraces the first steps of the process of ancient writing and editing. The reader will discover how the book is both a material object and a metaphorical personification, material or immaterial. The second section will focus on corpora of Greek texts, their formation, and their paratextual apparatus. Readers will explore various issues dealing with the mechanisms that are at the basis of the assembling of ancient Greek texts, but great attention will also be given to the role of ancient scholarly work. The third section shows how texts have two levels of authorship: the author of the text, and the scribe who copies the text. The scribe is not a medium, but plays a crucial role in changing the text. This section will focus on the protagonists of some interesting cases of textual transmission, but also on the books they manufactured or kept in the libraries, and on the words they engraved on

stones. Therefore, the fresh voices of the contributors of this book, offer new perspectives on established research fields dealing with textual criticism.

War and Imperialism in Republican Rome, 327-70 B.C. - William Vernon Harris 1985

Between 327 and 70 B.C. the Romans expanded their empire throughout the Mediterranean world. This highly original study looks at Roman attitudes and behavior that lay behind their quest for power. How did Romans respond to warfare, year after year? How important were the material gains of military success--land, slaves, and other riches--commonly supposed to have been merely an incidental result? What value is there in the claim of the contemporary historian Polybius that the Romans were driven by a greater and greater ambition to expand their empire? The author answers these questions within an analytic framework, and comes to an interpretation of Roman imperialism that differs sharply from the conventional ones.

Classics in Progress - T. P. Wiseman
2006-01-26

The study of Greco-Roman civilisation is as exciting and innovative today as it has ever been. This intriguing collection of essays by contemporary classicists reveals new discoveries, new interpretations and new ways of exploring the experiences of the ancient world. Through one and a half millennia of literature, politics, philosophy, law, religion and art, the classical world formed the origin of western culture and thought. This book emphasises the many ways in which it continues to engage with contemporary life. Offering a wide variety of authorial style, the chapters range in subject matter from contemporary poets' exploitation of Greek and Latin authors, via newly discovered literary texts and art works, to modern arguments about ancient democracy and slavery, and close readings of the great poets and philosophers of antiquity. This engaging book reflects the current

rejuvenation of classical studies and will fascinate anyone with an interest in western history.

Suetonius: Domitian - Suetonius 1996

An analysis of Suetonius' account of the emperor Domitian. The book provides a detailed commentary on matters of historical importance in the text, together with a discussion of Suetonius' life. A comparison is offered between Suetonius' account and Dio's version. Latin sources are utilized.

The Worlds of Aulus Gellius - Leofranc Holford-Strevens 2004-12-23

This is the first collection of essays in any language on Aulus Gellius; its contributors, both established and younger scholars, include Gellian experts looking out with specialists in other fields looking in; they combine traditional and new approaches. Subjects range from the bilingual culture in which Gellius wrote, through his stylistic judgements, his skills in etymology and narrative, his relation to the antiquarian

tradition, the generic expectations of miscellany, his claim to educate his readers, the theory of 'Gellian humanism', and his attitude towards intellectuals, to his reception in the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Scientific Revolution.

Gellius the Satirist - Wytse Hette Keulen 2009

Noting previously unrecognised allusions to literary works and contemporary events, this book presents an original portrait of the miscellanist Aulus Gellius ("Attic Nights") as a satirical writer and a Roman intellectual working within the cultural milieu of Antonine Rome.
Studies in Aulus Gellius - Barry Baldwin 1975

Victim of the Muses - Todd Compton 2006

This book probes the narratives of poets who are exiled, tried or executed for their satire. It views the scapegoat as a group's dominant warrior, sent out to confront predators or besieging forces. Both poets and warriors specialize in madness and aggression and are necessary, yet dangerous, to society.

Livy's Political Philosophy - Ann Vasaly
2015-05-18

This volume explores the political implications of the first five books of Livy's celebrated history of Rome, challenging the common perception of the author as an apolitical moralist. Ann Vasaly argues that Livy intended to convey through the narration of particular events crucial lessons about the interaction of power and personality, including the personality of the Roman people as a whole. These lessons demonstrate the means by which the Roman republic flourished in the distant past and by which it might be revived in Livy's own corrupt time. Written at the precise moment when Augustus' imperial autocracy was replacing the republican system that had existed in Rome for almost 500 years, the stories of the first pentad offer invaluable insight into how republics and monarchies work. Vasaly's innovative study furthers the integration in recent scholarship of the literary brilliance of Livy's text and the seriousness of its purpose.

Gelliana - Leofranc Holford-Strevens 2019-08
Written by Leofranc Holford-Strevens to accompany his Oxford Classical Texts edition of Aulus Gellius' *Noctes Atticae*, this volume presents more expansive discussions and explanations of choices of readings at various places in the text than would be possible within the narrow confines of the edition's apparatus criticus (in which all passages discussed in *Gelliana* are marked with an asterisk). The grounds adduced are generally grammatical in the modern sense of the word, concerning accident, vocabulary, or syntax, but sometimes invoke palaeography, logic, or other matters of content. Previous scholars, and also translations, are frequently cited in order either to credit the person first on record as having understood the text correctly or to indicate the source of a current misinterpretation. The preliminary matter includes an extensive list, significantly expanded from that drawn up by Martin Hertz, of places where scribes have inadvertently

corrupted the text through inappropriate importation of the Christian terms with which they were familiar, while a separate appendix contains corrections to and revisions of passages in the author's previously published monograph *Aulus Gellius: An Antonine Scholar and his Achievement* (OUP 2003, corrected paperback 2005) and article 'Recht as een Palmen-Bohm and other Facets of Gellius' *Medieval and Humanistic Reception* in *The Worlds of Aulus Gellius* (co-edited with Amiel D. Vardi, OUP 2004).

Christianity, Book-Burning and Censorship in Late Antiquity - Dirk Rohmann 2016-07-25

It is estimated that only a small fraction, less than 1 per cent, of ancient literature has survived to the present day. The role of Christian authorities in the active suppression and destruction of books in Late Antiquity has received surprisingly little sustained consideration by academics. In an approach that presents evidence for the role played by

Christian institutions, writers and saints, this book analyses a broad range of literary and legal sources, some of which have hitherto been little studied. Paying special attention to the problem of which genres and book types were likely to be targeted, the author argues that in addition to heretical, magical, astrological and anti-Christian books, other less obviously subversive categories of literature were also vulnerable to destruction, censorship or suppression through prohibition of the copying of manuscripts. These include texts from materialistic philosophical traditions, texts which were to become the basis for modern philosophy and science. This book examines how Christian authorities, theologians and ideologues suppressed ancient texts and associated ideas at a time of fundamental transformation in the late classical world.

The Church in Ancient Society : From Galilee to Gregory the Great - Henry Chadwick 2001-12-13

The Church in Ancient Society provides a full

and enjoyable narrative history of the first six centuries of the Christian Church. Ancient Greek and Roman society had many gods and an addiction to astrology and divination. This introduction to the period traces the process by which Christianity changed this and so provided a foundation for the modern world: the teaching of Jesus created a lasting community, which grew to command the allegiance of the Roman emperor. Christianity is discussed in relation to how it appeared to both Jews and pagans, and how its Christian doctrine and practice were shaped in relation to Graeco-Roman culture and the Jewish matrix. Among the major figures discussed are Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Constantine, Julian the Apostate, Basil, Ambrose, and Augustine. Following a chronological approach, Henry Chadwick's clear exposition of important texts and theological debates in their historical context is unrivalled in detail. In particular, theological and ecclesial texts are examined in relation to the behaviour

and beliefs of people who attended churches and synagogues. Christians did not find agreement and unity easy and the author displays a distinctive concern for the factors - theological, personal, and political - which caused division in the church and prevented reconciliation. The emperors, however, began to foster unity for political reasons and to choose monotheism. Finally, the Church captured the society.

Delphi Complete Works of Aulus Gellius - 'The Attic Nights' (Illustrated) - Aulus Gellius
2016-08-02

Composed during the nights of an Attic winter, the sole surviving work of Aulus Gellius, the second century Latin author and grammarian, is an intriguing compendium of notes covering philosophy, history, biography and questions of grammar. 'Attic Nights' offers a valuable insight into the works of lost authors and the manners and occupations of Roman society. Delphi's Ancient Classics series provides eReaders with the wisdom of the Classical world, with both

English translations and the original Latin texts. This comprehensive eBook presents Aulus Gellius' complete extant works, with relevant illustrations, informative introductions and the usual Delphi bonus material. (Version 1) * Beautifully illustrated with images relating to Aulus Gellius' life and works * Features the complete extant works of Aulus Gellius, in both English translation and the original Latin * Concise introductions to the 'Attic Nights' * Includes John C. Rolfe's translation previously appearing in the Loeb Classical Library edition of Aulus * Excellent formatting of the texts * Easily locate the sections you want to read with individual contents tables * Provides a special dual English and Latin text, allowing readers to compare the sections paragraph by paragraph - ideal for students * Features a bonus biography - discover Aulus Gellius' ancient world * Scholarly ordering of texts into chronological order and literary genres Please visit www.delphiclassics.com to explore our range of

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Aulus Gellius - Leofranc Holford-Strevens
2003-11-06

Aulus Gellius originated the modern use of 'classical' and 'humanities'. His Attic Nights, so named because they began as the intellectual pastime of winter evenings spent in a villa outside Athens, are a mine of information on many aspects of antiquity and a repository of much early Latin literature which would otherwise be lost; he took a particular interest in questions of grammar and literary style. The whole work is interspersed with interesting personal observations and vignettes of second-century life that throw light on the Antonine

world. In this, the most comprehensive study of Gellius in any language, Dr Holford-Strevens examines his life, his circle of acquaintances, his style, his reading, his scholarly interests, and his literary parentage, paying due attention to the text, sense, and content of individual passages, and to the use made of him by later writers in antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and more recent times. It covers many subject areas such as language, literature, history, law, rhetoric, medicine; light is shed on a wide range of problems in Greek as well as Latin authors, either in the main text or in the succinct but wide-ranging footnotes. In this revised edition every statement has been reconsidered and account taken of recent work by the author and by others; an appendix has been added on the relation between the literary trends of Latin (the so-called archaizing movement) and Greek (Atticism) in the second century AD, and more space has been given to Gellius' attitudes towards women, as well as to recurrent themes

such as punishment and embassies. The opportunity has been taken to correct or excise errors, but otherwise nothing has been removed unless superseded by more recent publications.

Celibacy and Religious Traditions - Carl Olson 2008

For an educated, general readership and for use in college courses, this text introduces the role of celibacy, or a lack of it, in various religious traditions, and the contributors present the rationale for its observance (or not) within the context of each tradition.

Risen Indeed? Resurrection and Doubt in the Gospel of Mark - Austin Busch 2022-08-05

Risen Indeed? Resurrection and Doubt in the Gospel of Mark traces the literary dynamics and explores the theological dimensions of the Gospel of Mark's thematization of skepticism regarding resurrection. In every place where it seems to depict resurrection—Jesus's and others'—Mark evades the issue of whether resurrection actually occurs. Austin Busch

argues that, despite Mark's abbreviated and ambiguous conclusion, this gospel does not downplay resurrection but rather foregrounds it, imagining Jesus's death and restoration to life as a divine plot to overcome Satan through cunning deception. *Risen Indeed?* constitutes a careful literary reading of Mark's Gospel, as well as an assessment of Mark's impact on the traditions of Christian literature and theology that emerged in its wake.

Lucian's True History - Lucian (of Samosata.)
1902

Originally written in the second century A.D., this ancient work by the Greek-speaking Syrian author Lucian of Samosata is the earliest known work to depict travels to outer space, encounters with alien life and interplanetary warfare. Though written by Lucian as a satire against his fellow ancient writers—who often mixed fantastic and mythical events with the truth—this work is also considered one of the first true science fiction tales.

A Tale Blazed Through Heaven - Oliver J. Noble-Wood 2014

"This book presents the first detailed study of poetic and pictorial representations of the tale of Mars, Venus, and Vulcan in the Golden Age of Spain."--Introduction, p. 7.

Nox Philologiae - Erik Gunderson 2009-01-15

In this strikingly original and playful work, Erik Gunderson examines questions of reading the past—an enterprise extending from antiquity to the present day. This esoteric and original study focuses on the equally singular work of Aulus Gellius—a Roman author and grammarian (ca. 120-180 A.D.), possibly of African origin. Gellius's only work, the twenty-volume *Noctes Atticae*, is an exploding, sometimes seemingly random text-cum-diary in which Gellius jotted down everything of interest he heard in conversation or read in contemporary books. Comprising notes on Roman and classical grammar, geometry, philosophy, and history, it is a one-work overview of Latin scholarship,

thought, and intellectual culture, a combination condensed library and cabinet of curiosities. Gunderson tackles Gellius with exuberance, placing him in the larger culture of antiquarian literature. Purposely echoing Gellius's own swooping word-play and digressions, he explores the techniques by which knowledge was produced and consumed in Gellius's day, as well as in our own time. The resulting book is as much pure creative fun as it is a major work of scholarship informed by the theories of Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze, and Jacques Derrida. [Saints and Symposiasts](#) - Jason König 2012-08-23 Explores the afterlife of the classical Greek symposium in the Greco-Roman and early Christian culture of the Roman Empire. Argues that writing about consumption and conversation continued to matter, communicating distinctive ideas about how to talk and think, and distinctive and often destabilising visions of human identity and holiness.

Brill's Companion to the Reception of Socrates - 2019-05-15

Brill's Companion to the Reception of Socrates, edited by Christopher Moore, provides three-dozen studies of nearly 2500 continuous years of philosophical and literary engagement with Socrates as innovative intellectual, moral exemplar, and singular Athenian.

The Cambridge Companion to Cicero - C. E. W. Steel 2013-05-02

A comprehensive and authoritative account of one of the greatest and most prolific writers of classical antiquity.

Remnants of Early Latin - Frederic De Forest Allen 1880

Electra and the Empty Urn - Mark Ringer 2000-11-09

Metatheater, or "theater within theater," is a critical approach often used in studies of Shakespearian or modern drama. Breaking new ground in the study of ancient Greek tragedy,

Mark Ringer applies the concept of metatheatricality to the work of Sophocles. His innovative analysis sheds light on Sophocles' technical ingenuity and reveals previously unrecognized facets of fifth-century performative irony. Ringer analyzes the layers of theatrical self-awareness in all seven Sophoclean tragedies, giving special attention to *Electra*, the playwright's most metatheatrical work. He focuses on plays within plays, characters who appear to be in rivalry with their playwright in "scripting" their dramas, and the various roles that characters assume in their attempts to deceive other characters or even themselves. Ringer also examines instances of literal role playing, exploring the implications of the Greek convention of sharing multiple roles among only three actors. Sophocles has long been praised as one of the masters of dramatic irony. Awareness of Sophoclean metatheater, Ringer shows, deepens our appreciation of that irony and reveals the playwright's keen awareness of his

art. Originally published in 1998. A UNC Press Enduring Edition -- UNC Press Enduring Editions use the latest in digital technology to make available again books from our distinguished backlist that were previously out of print. These editions are published unaltered from the original, and are presented in affordable paperback formats, bringing readers both historical and cultural value.

C. Iuli Caesaris Commentariorum - Julius Caesar 2015

A revised critical edition for the Oxford Classical Texts series of the Latin text of Caesar's *Bellum civile*, his account of his civil war against Pompey. Features an expanded and up-to-date critical apparatus. Includes an appendix critica, an appendix orthographica, and a conspectus editionum. Suitable for classroom use as well as for research purposes.

Theophrastus of Eresus: Commentary

Volume 9.1 - Massimo Raffa 2018-03-20

Theophrastus of Eresus: Commentary Volume

9.1 concerns the extant ancient testimonies on Theophrastus' thought on music, which strike the reader as surprisingly original and modern. Music is regarded as something that originates from the soul and comes into existence through the body.

The History of Time: A Very Short

Introduction - Leofranc Holford-Strevens

2005-08-11

Why do we measure time in the way that we do? Why is a week seven days long? At what point did minutes and seconds come into being? Why are some calendars lunar and some solar? The organisation of time into hours, days, months and years seems immutable and universal, but is actually far more artificial than most people

realise. The French Revolution resulted in a restructuring of the French calendar, and the Soviet Union experimented with five and then six-day weeks. Leofranc Holford-Strevens explores these questions using a range of fascinating examples from Ancient Rome and Julius Caesar's imposition of the Leap Year, to the 1920s' project for a fixed Easter. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.