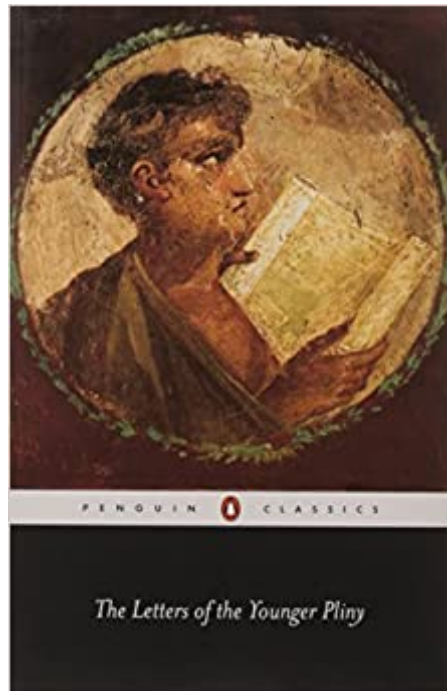




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The Letters Of The Younger Pliny (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

Providing a series of fascinating views of Imperial Rome, The Letters of the Younger Pliny also offer one of the fullest self-portraits to survive from classical times. Pliny's lively and very personal letters address an astonishing range of topics, from a deeply moving account of his uncle's death in the eruption that engulfed Pompeii, to observations on the early Christians – "a desperate sort of cult carried to extravagant lengths" – from descriptions of everyday life in Rome, with its scandals and court cases, to Pliny's life in the country. 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pliny (c. AD 61-113), a prominent lawyer and administrator, was also a prolific letter-writer. Betty Radice was an honorary fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford and vice-president of the Classical Association. She was a renowned translator of both Latin and Greek.

Classical writings are the core of any great Liberal Arts education. Pliny the Younger's Letters provide glimpses into the Pax Romana. From the eruption of

Mount Vesuvius to his correspondence with Emperor Trajan, these letters are a treasure.

I'm really enjoying this. Bright, newsy letters. Generally social in content, sometimes describing serious issues like an important trial, but not grimly. Mostly letters between Pliny and his friends, though the last chapter is letters he wrote to the emperor. I will read this book more than once. Excellent quality of writing.

These letters are a window into Roman life around 100 AD. I was amazed at how contemporary Pliny's ideas and attitudes seem. And a contemporary lawyer would have no trouble understanding the work he did. At the same time, the way he lived was very different from the way we live. Even very wealthy people now get along with few, if any, household staff and no slaves, at least in this country (the US). Pliny had lots of both.

I purchased this book mainly for Pliny's two letters describing the volcanic eruption that destroyed Pompeii, which are the only surviving first hand account of the eruption. But I also learned a lot about Roman life and politics from reading the other letters. This wonderful book gives you insights into life in the early Roman Empire that you won't get from modern histories. How fortunate this book survived for nearly 2,000 years.

Really great read for getting an insight into attitudes and thoughts of those of that era. Terrific description of the eruption of Vesuvius and how horrific it was for even those towns quite some miles away. Interesting section when he speaks about the Christians of that time and the Roman attitude toward them. Gives great detail on architecture and the story of the dolphin is touching.

One word: delicious!

Translation provides insights into the classical world, from the mundane to the touchingly familiar. The exposition about his house would be of use to a modern day realtor.

exciting

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