



History News: The Roman News

By Andrew Langley

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"These entertaining, deftly organized books will make terrific light-hearted additions to curriculum units on ancient civilizations." — Publishers Weekly

Stop the presses! What if ancient civilizations had daily newspapers? And they were amusing and compellingly informative? They might just look like this innovative series of historical nonfiction, presented in a unique, kid-friendly format.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5 Up. Browsable reads to whet the appetite. The "editors" (authors) of these two volumes have hit upon a unifying theme to chronicle the accomplishments of the ancients?a newspaper style. The Roman News and The Greek News are not exactly major city dailies; their format is more suggestive of a news magazine or at least a Sunday section highlighting fashion, sports, trade, food, and the military. Each page presents readable articles complete with headlines, boldface, column breaks, illustrations, and, often classifieds: instruments for sale; racing chariots built to order; reusable wax tablets. The front page (book cover) suggests a scope of approximately 1200 years, and the rise and fall of each empire is explained. A publisher's disclaimer also cautions that the ancients did not have newspapers (of course, they didn't even have paper!), but if they had, "they would have been reading...." Similar comments dart in and out of the news stories so that the entire tone is more human interest than ready reference. Such editorializing, however, only slightly distracts from the facts, which are accurate. Significant dates and events are all newsworthy. "Olympic Games Spoiled," "Caesar Stabbed," and "Hannibal Invades" are typical stories. The slightly oversized pages with decorative borders, sidebars, ads, and cartoons create an interesting layout. Many teachers would probably rejoice with the delivery of The Greek or Roman News as a project for a social-studies or whole-language unit. Kids can adopt this highly readable, albeit slightly sensationalized journalistic style. All in all, serviceable reporting.?Harriett Farnoli, Great Neck Library, NY

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Review

Read all about it! Now The Roman News presents life in ancient Rome in the form of a daily newspaper written at the time. Featuring news stories about key events of the period, fascinating articles on daily life, letters to the editor, and even advertisement, this innovative book presents historical nonfiction in a unique child-friendly format. Full color. (*Ages 10 and up*). -- *Synopsis*

About the Author

Andrew Langley, the author of many nonfiction books for children and adults, believes that "children's nonfiction should be exciting as well as informative, allowing for some free rein to the imagination."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth Irizarry:

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Latoya Brown:

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Chris Henderson:

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