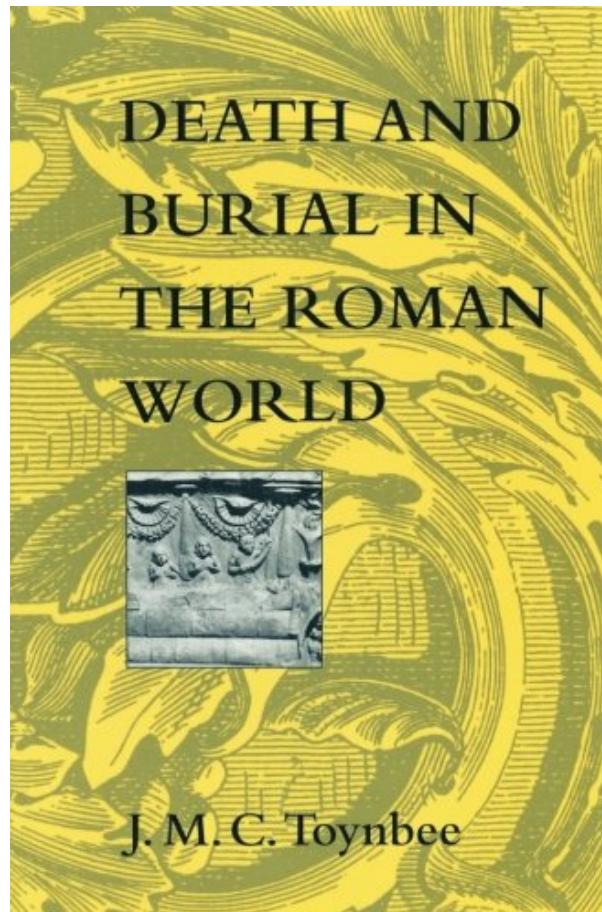


DEATH AND BURIAL IN THE ROMAN WORLD BY J. M. C. TOYNBEE



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Review

Throughout this book one is continuously conscious of the richness of the material and the difficulties the author must have encountered in trying to keep her work within manageable proportions. This she has accomplished in masterly fashion, giving us enough of each topic to prevent her treatment ever being described as summary, and yet making us aware of unresolved questions and filled with the desire to know the answers... This is most certainly a book which will inspire further research, perhaps in the form of more detailed studies of burial rights in individual provinces and their development from earlier native customs which were neither Greek nor Etruscan.

(Times Literary Supplement)

From the Back Cover

Never before available in paperback, J. M. C. Toynbee's study is the most comprehensive book on Roman burial practices. Ranging throughout the Roman world - from Rome to Pompeii, from Britain to Jerusalem - Toynbee's book examines funeral practices from a wide variety of perspectives. Toynbee first examines Roman beliefs about death and the afterlife, revealing that few Romans believed in the Elysian Fields of poetic invention. She then describes the rituals associated with burial and mourning: commemorative meals at the gravesite were common, with some tombs having built-in kitchens and rooms in which family could stay overnight. Toynbee also includes descriptions of the layout and finances of cemeteries, the tomb types of both the rich and the poor, and the types of grave markers and monuments, as well as tomb furnishings.

About the Author

J. M. C. Toynbee was Lawrence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University and an honorary Fellow of Newnham College. Before her death in 1985, she served as a Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Numismatic Society, and as a member of the faculty of the British School in Rome. She authored numerous articles and books, including *Art in Roman Britain*, *The Art of the Romans*, *Roman Historical Portraits*, and *Roman Life and Art in Britain*.

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Very Interesting Read

By S. Shrader

I find ancient history absolutely enthralling and this book does not fall short of my expectations. I first became acquainted with this book while writing a term paper for a religion course in college. The paper focused on comparisons of funerary rituals throughout the ancient world. It is an excellent text which offers different perspectives on ancient Roman funerary practices and belief systems.

Toynbee does a wonderful job at creating a comprehensive and accessible read on the Roman beliefs on death and the afterlife. Some of the topics discussed include Roman beliefs about the afterlife and cremation, funerary rites and the cult of the dead, construction and layout of cemeteries and tombs, and funerary architecture. It is absolutely fascinating. The book also contains an extensive amount of illustrations and chapter notes, as well as many, many, many footnotes.

More work is needed by anthropologists, sociologists and archaeologists in order to shed more light on these vast topics, but this book is a step in the right direction. I highly recommend it.

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