



# BATHING IN PUBLIC IN THE ROMAN WORLD



GARRETT G. FAGAN

MICHIGAN

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For Romans, bathing was a sociable event. They went to meet friends, drink wine, pick up sexual companions, and generally while aside the idle afternoon hours. Public baths, actually, were one of the few places where large numbers of Romans gathered daily in an informal context. This publication is the first to review the Roman public bathing experience mainly as a historical, interpersonal, and cultural phenomenon rather than a technical or architectural one. Regardless of the disapproval of the morally excellent, the popularity of the baths endured for over a millennium and pass on to every part of the Roman world.



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Informative and well crafted First, i want to digress - I was raised 'bathing in public' because in my part of the older USSR we had no interior plumbing. Once a week the family visited the general public baths - men's section upstairs, women's downstairs. I still remember the man with a Stalin and Lenin tattoos on his upper body - while he was soaping himself, the two images appeared to be speaking to one another. Among the reviewers complained about too many references - well, man, simply skip them! Fagan's reserve after getting captivated by his history lectures on audio CDs. I liked the reserve a lot - a very thorough and engaging demonstration of this issue. I wholeheartedly agree with many positive remarks by previously reviewers. I bought Prof. The book itself is about 200 pages before footnotes and reads very well. Recommended more for study than for entertainment This is really a scholarly work. Were people totally naked? He occasionally works with a disagreement by making a comparison to additional cultures, or by using statistics, but he's quick to indicate that such "evidence" is actually only educated guessing. Vivid Fagan's reserve asks a whole lot of interesting queries. Why do communal bathing recognition in historic Rome? Who constructed the baths and for what reason?. It really is interesting but too detailed and does not movement. I come from the reserve with a clear idea of the who the bathers were, how they bathed, what else they did in the baths and the need for bathing within their society. But I found the text engaging and the reality fascinating -- and the topic thoroughly covered. In that stratified society, did the different classes frequent the baths at the same time? How hygienic were the baths? Good query! Fagan attempts to answer the questions using traditional methods of archaeological evidence and primary sources. Recommended more for study than for entertainment. I found the book refreshingly unpedantic, except for the chapter on "Bath Benefactors: Italy and the Provinces.. Fagan did a lot of impressive research and his writing is vivid and evocative. Every web page is packed to the brim with footnotes and the appendixes, index and bibliography, etc. Mr. Fascinating and scholarly We thoroughly enjoyed this publication! Fagan's colleagues content but won't endear him to the public.. Did only the elite classes use them, or had been they open to everyone, even slaves?) in addition to archaeological finds. It *is* a scholarly book. I anticipated it to be full of footnotes and appendices -- and it is. The type of social interaction continued? Did men and women bathe together? Additional books I; This book makes me remember why I chose never to head to graduate school! People would bathe because they thought it was best for their health, however when Mr.ve looked at on this subject concentrate mainly about architecture and aquaducts, but this reserve answers the questions about historic baths that I'm thinking about -- the people-related questions, and does so with intelligence and a dose of dried out humor. I liked this book a lot. This book shows the worthiness of the bathing experience to Romans, empire wide. The writer hems and haws therefore much and is so hesitant to commit himself to a definitive declaration that I wanted to grab him by his lapels and give him a good shaking! The middle section of this already brief book (220 pages of actual reading materials.." This chapter is incredibly valuable and helpful, but because it required constant flipping back and forth to an epigraphical appendix, it became tedious after some time. You learn who visited the baths and just why. but don't forget those footnotes that sometimes take up 1/2 a full page) is mind numbingly boring and almost plenty of to totally ruin the publication. This section handles who actually decided to build or restoration the baths and can be full of figures that I'm sure make Mr. It's filled with anecdotes from people of the time (particularly memorable was the complaint about how noisy the baths had been from the phone calls of the sausage vendor to the man in love with his own singing voice. Baths existed which catered to different tastes. Suppliers would setup stalls beyond the baths offering light snacks to the bathers. How were they cleaned? The

solution is because the initial and last thirds of the reserve are quite interesting and well-written!. They gossiped, gazed and laughed. Some people would visit the baths and spend all their time attempting to wangle a supper invitation out of someone.". Some individuals would move the baths looking for sex or simply hoping to get a great look at some nude women or men. Could Have Used A Good (Editor's) Scrubbing ! Fagan explains that in a few baths the ill could bathe with the healthy and that people would commonly essential oil themselves up and then scrape off dirt and essential oil in to the communal bathwater, you wonder just how healthy the whole thing might have been! Fagan. Therefore, overall I found this book well worth reading although the next time around I hope a good editor gets ahold of Mr. Five stars. Fagan makes Roman bathing become more active. are provided that the reserve is itself! He discusses the splendor of the baths,the medical treatises and general curiosity in bathing which helped to promote the habit. It really is very clear that the Romans of most classes had fun. You get a large amount of fascinating material concerning the social areas of bathing. The frivolous visited wile away their period, the thoughtful mused at sculpture, read books, listened to lectures and believed. You might be requesting yourself at this stage, "So why can be this vituperative joker providing this reserve 3 stars? So there were baths for family members, for men, for ladies and there were baths which catered to those that wanted to ogle. This book will enhance anyone's go to to bath ruins throughout Europe.



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