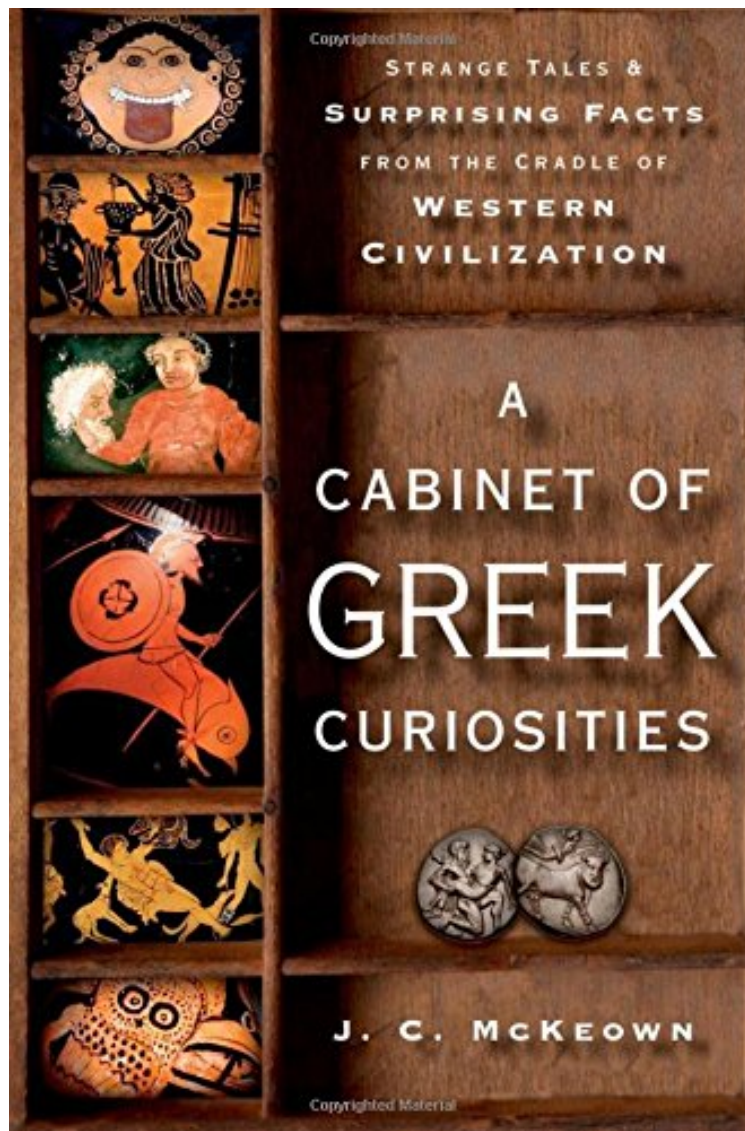


(Ebook free) A Cabinet of Greek Curiosities: Strange Tales and Surprising Facts from the Cradle of Western Civilization

A Cabinet of Greek Curiosities: Strange Tales and Surprising Facts from the Cradle of Western Civilization

J. C. McKeown

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J. C. McKeown : A Cabinet of Greek Curiosities: Strange Tales and Surprising Facts from the Cradle of Western Civilization before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Cabinet of Greek Curiosities: Strange Tales and Surprising Facts from the Cradle of Western Civilization:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Two Thumbs Up!By pageturnerI bought Cabinet of Roman

Curiosities several years ago and enjoyed it so much that of course I placed an advance order for McKeown's second cabinet, *Cabinet of Greek Curiosities*. It is a delightful book filled with quirky stories and facts about the ancient Greeks. You can pick it up and set it down without worry since it is organized into small snippets of information by subject matter. I am not an ancient history buff and knew little about the Romans or Greeks so this book was perfect for me. But even if you are an ancient history person, you will enjoy this book since these types of stories are not the kind the thing you find in history books. McKeown acknowledges in his introduction that this is not meant to be a scholarly work, even though he is a Classicist, and that it is meant for entertainment. However, it is not all light. I'm glad that I am not a woman living in ancient Greece for his chapter on women shows just how awful that was and he doesn't sanitize the stories at all. I was a bit surprised to see that the chapter on Sex was not as racy as the Roman counterpart, which is titled *Not for the Puritanical*. Out of the 24 chapters, I especially enjoyed *Animals, Food, Magic, and Tourist Attractions*. Even the ones I did not expect to enjoy quite so much, such as *Homer and Sparta*, were interesting. The illustrations are wonderful. I would definitely recommend this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice to have on 'the shelf' By Karen Campbell Not what I expected nor easy to access at least via Kindle, but glad I have it for those moments I only have moments to read--like doctors' waiting rooms. Or as a sort of reference.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting facts!! By Calvin E. Heikkila The book is full of interesting facts and quotes. Very fun to read! An easy light read by the pool!

The ancient Greeks were a wonderful people. They gave us democracy, drama, and philosophy, and many forms of art and branches of science would be inconceivable without their influence. And yet, they were capable of the most outlandish behavior, preposterous beliefs, and ludicrous opinions. Like its companion volume, *A Cabinet of Roman Curiosities*, this is an uproarious miscellany of odd stories and facts, culled from a lifetime of teaching ancient Greek civilization. In some ways, the book demonstrates how much the Greeks were like us. Politicians were regarded as shallow and self-serving; overweight people resorted to implausible diets; Socrates and the king of Sparta used to entertain their children by riding around on a stick pretending it was a horse. Of course, their differences from us are abundantly documented too and the book may leave readers with a few incredulous questions. To ward off evil, were scapegoats thrown down from cliffs, though fitted out with feathers and live birds to give them a sporting chance of survival? Did a werewolf really win the boxing event at the Olympic Games? Were prisoners released on bail so that they could enjoy dramatic festivals? Did anyone really believe that Pythagoras flew about on a magic arrow? Other such mysteries abound in this quirky and richly illustrated journey into the "glory that was Greece."

"The loveliest thing on the black earth." Sappho of Lesbos
"Well worth getting a copy." Pisistratus of Athens
"Meticulously written, a must for every library." Ptolemy of Alexandria
"Unputdownable." Atlas the Titan
"Fantastic! Incredible!" Cassandra, priestess of Apollo
"The ideal gift." Laocoon of Troy
"Not too long." Callimachus of Cyrene
"I find something new every time I dip in." Archimedes of Syracuse

"The selections are, on the whole, intriguing and often delightful... A Classicist will find much to use, and as a gift to a friend who wonders how the ancients can hold our fascination so thoroughly, this cabinet will surely inform and charm the recipient." --Bryn Mawr Classical Review

About the Author
J. C. McKeown is Professor of Classics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, coeditor of the *Oxford Anthology of Roman Literature*, and author of *Classical Latin: An Introductory Course* and *A Cabinet of Roman Curiosities*.