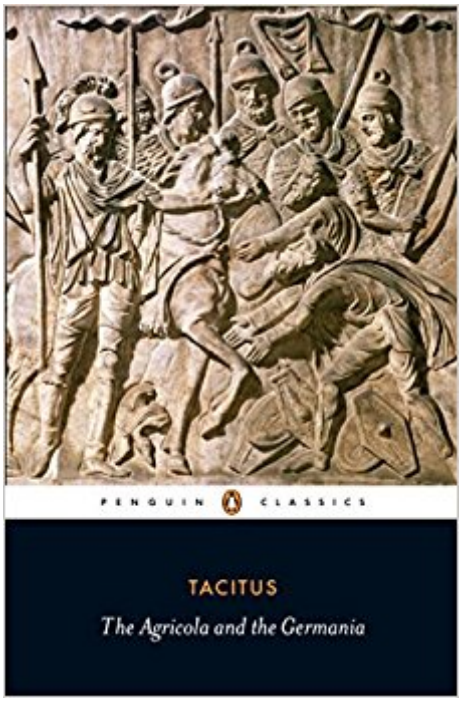
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Agricola And Germania (Penguin Classics)



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Synopsis

The Agricola is both a portrait of Julius AgricolaÃ¢â ¬â •the most famous governor of Roman Britain and Tacitus' well-loved and respected father-in-lawÃ¢â ¬â •and the first detailed account of Britain that has come down to us. It offers fascinating descriptions of the geography, climate and peoples of the country, and a succinct account of the early stages of the Roman occupation, nearly fatally undermined by Boudicca's revolt in AD 61 but consolidated by campaigns that took Agricola as far as Anglesey and northern Scotland. The warlike German tribes are the focus of Tacitus' attention in the Germania, which, like the Agricola, often compares the behaviour of "barbarian" peoples favourably with the decadence and corruption of Imperial Rome.For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700Ã Â titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust theÃ Â series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-dateÃ Â translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Latin (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book includes the writings of the ancient Roman writer, Tacitus, as he follows the campaigns of

Agricola into Anglesey and northern Scotland. He also follows closely the campaigns into Germania, a country as untamed as Scotland.The reader is given a vivid look into an ancient world, but through the eyes of the conqueror and not the conquered. Still, this is a masterpiece of information about a lost time. The translation was done very well by Harold Mattingly and his introduction sheds light on Tacitus' life and literary career, the governorship of Agricola and Rome's political backgroud in an everchanging empire. The two maps of Roman Britain and Germania were an added surprise.I was a little disappointed that Tacitus did not give more descriptions on the native tribes of Scotland in The Agricola. For this reason, I felt that The Germania stood out much more. His vivid descriptions of the German tribes and their religious beliefs was wonderful to read.I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Roman history and/or the native tribes of Scotland and Germania.

Absolutely the best to read about the people and Roman emperor's of the time written by someone who actually knew them, love it. It has spurred me to bye other books by Tacitus.

Tacitus' Agricola and Germania are among the two most-cited sources on Roman Britain and on the ancient Germans, respectively, and anyone with an interest in the Classical World should have a copy of this book.The Agricola is our primary source on Cnaeus Julius Agricola-governor of Roman Britain in the late 1st Century AD who is known to history primarily for the defeat he inflicted on the Caledonians at Mons Graupius in AD 83, and for his planned conquest of Ireland. Reading Tacitus' account, however, we find that his legacy in his own times was more for bringing justice to southern Britain, where previous Roman governors had abused their authority and driven the tribes to revolt.I can't imagine that we can take everything in the Agricola word-for-word, as Tacitus' account is naturally biased-Agricola was his father-in-law, and Tacitus does not speak a single negative word-not even the slightest criticism of a minor feature-of him.The Germania is also biased in that Tacitus is portraying these wild tribes as `noble savages'-claiming they never lied or indulged in improper sexuality, and had no love for money or fine clothing; in all, the Germania is as much an attack on the decadence of the Romans of Tacitus' generation as it is an account of the peoples of Germany in the 1st Century.After giving an at times rather humorous account of Germanic culture and customs, Tacitus looks at all the major tribes and their unique features-such as the bizarre hairdos of the Suebi, the strange religious rites of the tribes worshipping the Goddess Nerthus, and the customs of the Harii, who painted themselves black and only fought battles at night.Overall, this is a must read for a student of the Classical, especially Roman world, showing much about the culture and worldview of both the Romans and their Germanic contemporaries, and how these were

perceived by a fairly typical upper-class Roman writer.

Both versions use quite complex grammatical constructions, but the Penguin version flows better, in my inexpert opinion. If you're reading for pleasure, this is the one I would recommend.I can't resist saying that I'd much rather read Tacitus in the original Latin, but unfortunately I only have a rudimentary knowledge of the language.

Great overview history of the Roman empire during the Augustan dynasty.

Bought this for my Ancient Mediterranean History class that I'm taking as an elective, instead of buying it at the college book store I bought it here for a 1/10th of the price. Great Book that describes the struggles of the Roman Empire on the conquest of the German Tribes and the British Isles.

I love reading the classics

great view of a little known period of history.

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