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**Brucia, Margaret A. and Gregory N. Daugherty.**  
***To Be A Roman: Topics in Roman Culture.***

**Wauconda, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc., 2007. Pp. viii + 155. ISBN: 978-0-86516-633-2.**

*To Be A Roman* will prove to be an excellent resource for teachers of Latin, Roman Civilization, or Roman History, whether at the middle-school level or at the first- or second-year college level. The book gives a clear, accurate and well-researched profile of Roman life and society.

Brucia and Daugherty divide their presentation into twenty chapters. The first nineteen of these cover key topics in Roman life from the family to law, from measuring time to religious rituals. Each chapter is concise, written in accessible language, introduces students to important Latin terms, and delivers an excellent overview of the particular topic, with neither too much nor too little information; there is also a fine selection of illustrations to add a visual stimulus to the learning process. The authors address all the essential themes students should be familiar with in order to comprehend the basic elements of Roman society.

At the end of each of the first nineteen chapters, there are very useful exercises (mainly matching, fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, crossword, and short-answer quizzes) that students can use to reinforce what they have learned and, in fact, put that new knowledge into action in different ways. For instance, in the chapter on leisure activities, the authors provide rules for several of the Roman board and ball games and encourage students to try these games out for themselves, in essence “to do as the Romans did!”

Chapter Twenty contains an up-to-date bibliography of books, Websites, movies, mini-series, and fictional literature, all of which can help students and instructors enhance their understanding of the Roman world and how it has been perceived by modern society.

This review is brief because wholeheartedly positive. The authors make no pretensions to provide more than they promise and do an excellent job of delivering on their promises. Again, it is recommended that this book be used as a supplement to other texts in a language, civilization, or history course; this reviewer believes that *To Be A Roman* will certainly serve to spark student interest in further researching the themes it covers.

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