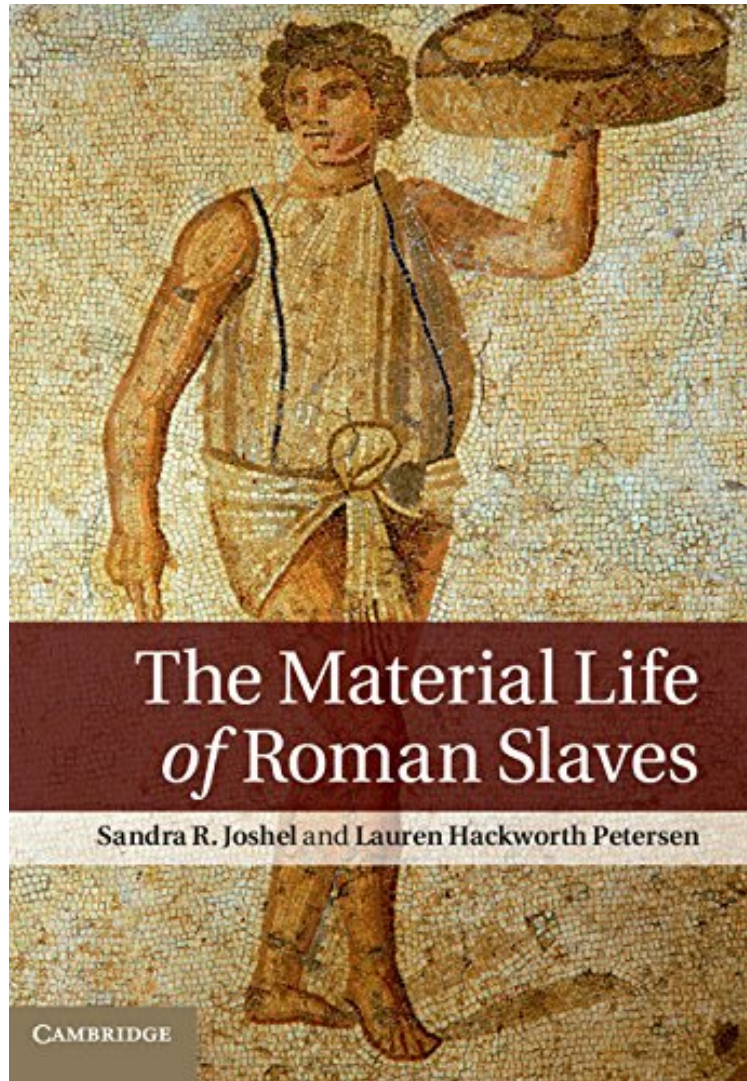


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The Material Life of Roman Slaves

Sandra R. Joshel, Lauren Hackworth Petersen
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Sandra R. Joshel, Lauren Hackworth Petersen : The Material Life of Roman Slaves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Material Life of Roman Slaves:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recovering the World of Ancient Slaves By Timothy B Smith The Material Life of Roman Slaves seeks to bring to the foreground the space in which Roman slaves lived and worked in order to better understand them. It offers useful insights and builds upon recent work by others to analyze the space and time of the ancient Roman context. I found it very much worth reading and reflecting upon. The authors also take on a crusading tone when it comes to decrying the neglect of scholars of the presence of slaves in the lives of the elite. They show how a careful reading of ancient sources and archaeological remains may uncover the experiences of

Roman slaves.

The *Material Life of Roman Slaves* is a major contribution to scholarly debates on the archaeology of Roman slavery. Rather than regarding slaves as irretrievable in archaeological remains, the book takes the archaeological record as a key form of evidence for reconstructing slaves' lives and experiences. Interweaving literature, law, and material evidence, the book searches for ways to see slaves in the various contexts - to make them visible where evidence tells us they were in fact present. Part of this project involves understanding how slaves seem irretrievable in the archaeological record and how they are often actively, if unwittingly, left out of guidebooks and scholarly literature. Individual chapters explore the dichotomy between visibility and invisibility and between appearance and disappearance in four physical and social locations - urban houses, city streets and neighborhoods, workshops, and villas.

"The object of this fascinating book is to render visible Roman slaves in the remains of the Campanian cities and villas destroyed in 79 AD by the eruption of Mt Vesuvius ... The possibilities raised are of great importance, and in its legitimate concern to evoke the day-to-day realities of life in slavery, [this] book is to be warmly applauded ... The challenge of recovering a history of slavery from archaeological evidence has been laid down, and it is in this that the book's special value lies." *Classical World*

"The *Material Life of Roman Slaves* complements and enriches a growing body of scholarship on the physical conditions and material remains of Roman slavery, but it also represents a logical continuation of the research agenda of both authors. Their collaboration on the present book represents a model of scholarly teamwork that bridges disciplinary divides and reconciles discrete classes of evidence. The result is not simply a new study of Roman slaves in their ancient physical setting but a compelling proposal for reading strategies that overcome historical silence. The attempt to address the deficiencies of the available evidence pushes the main argument into controversial territory, but even so this book will undoubtedly become an obligatory point of reference for any future work on Roman slaves and other historically mute populations." *American Journal of Archaeology*

"The book is not only a highly welcome contribution to the archaeology of Roman slavery - a still underrepresented field of research - but also an original and innovative study in the field of cultural geography and cultural theory." Andrea Binsfeld, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*

About the Author: Sandra R. Joshel is Professor of History at the University of Washington. A scholar of Roman slavery, women, and gender, she is the author of *Work, Identity, and Legal Status at Rome: A Study of the Occupational Inscriptions*, and editor of *Women and Slaves in Greco-Roman Culture: Differential Equations* (with Sheila Murnaghan) and *Imperial Projections: Ancient Rome in Modern Popular Culture* (with Margaret Malamud and Donald T. McGuire). Lauren Hackworth Petersen is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Delaware. A scholar of Roman art and archaeology, she is the author of *The Freedman in Roman Art and Art History* and editor of *Mothering and Motherhood in Ancient Greece and Rome* (with Patricia Salzman-Mitchell). She has received an ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship, a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Getty Foundation, and a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome.