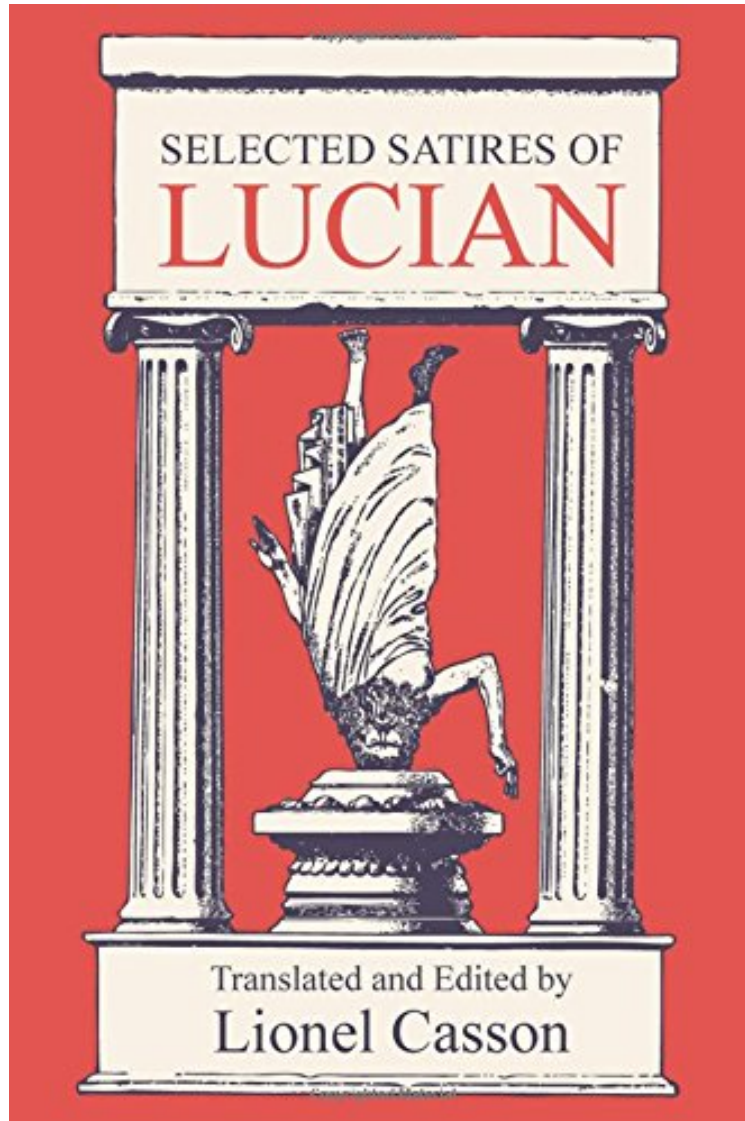


(Download pdf ebook) Selected Satires of Lucian

Selected Satires of Lucian

Lionel Casson

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#5551626 in Books Lucian of Samosata Casson Lionel 2008-08-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .90 x 5.981, 1.46 #File Name: 0202361926400 pagesSelected Satires of Lucian | File size: 15.Mb

Lionel Casson : Selected Satires of Lucian before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Selected Satires of Lucian:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. the antidote of laughterBy drollerei've purchased several recent editions of lucian, and this seems to me the best selection in the best (least mannered) translation. we get the "true story", precursor to all modern science fiction; "alexander the false prophet," a magnificent secular takedown of religious gullibility, and a wealth of sarcasms directed at fatuous fashions, authoritarian pretensions and superstitious idiocies that have not changed much across the centuries. lucian's innovation of applying the solemn form of the

philosophical dialog to the purposes of scathing and riotous satire seems to arise from the epicurean belief that most philosophy is absurd fantasy and most social norms are unjustified habits. epicurean philosophy always aimed by rational explanation of the physical world to relieve mankind of the anxieties that belief in the supernatural seems to feed, and in these works lucian adds to reason the sparkling antidote of laughter and lighthearted parody.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Carlton H.Good quality and cheap.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite books...By Geoff PuterbaughIf you ever get in a mood where you're suspecting that philosophy rots the brain, take a break and dip into this wonderful book.Others have noted that Lucian influenced Erasmus. I would reply, "Not enough!" I have never been able to read more than two pages of the supposedly hilarious "In Praise of Folly," but I can read anything and everything by Lucian, including his great satire, "Philosophies For Sale," where Zeus tries to raise a little cash by auctioning off philosophers, beginning with "that long-haired guy over there," Pythagoras. His little dialogue, "Timon," has volumes to say about Wealth, and says it all in about fifteen pages.Lucian loves to poke fun at Socrates, as well, openly doubting the "purity" of Socrates' love for handsome young men."Alexander the Quack Prophet" may be Lucian's best piece. It's based upon a real person who lived at the same time as Lucian. I think the most memorable character is one Rutilianus, who is a mature, sensible Roman who has served Rome well in many important functions, but has a serious screw loose when it comes to religious gullibility. The satire is really deadly, especially if you have ever known someone who fits "the Rutilianus Profile." :-)It's fun reading, but, like most satire, it's making some serious points during all the fun.

The unsurpassed satirist of the ancient era was a young Syrian named Lucian, who, writing in Greek in the second century a.d., combined wit, irony, fearless candor, and exuberant comic fantasy to create the triumphantly irreverent dialogues and stories contained in this book. His genial mockery, aimed at man's omnipresent feelings, has never gone out of date. The jabs he gave the hypocrites; grandstanders, fakers and boobs of the ancient world can just as appropriately be administered to their counterparts in the modern world.Lucian's most typical genre is a parody of a Platonic dialogue, in which Zeus, Hermes, Eros, and other Olympians jabber in undivine harassment as some clever mortal (who very much resembles Lucian) is about to make scandalous fools of them. He also excelled at straight narrative, his two most famous tales being the elaborate science fiction spoof; "A True Story," and an old folk tale retold outrageously, "Lucius the Ass." His works were the product of an unrelentingly rational and skeptical mind, and have had an incalculable effect on writers and painters through the ages.Until this volume, the English language reader of today to appreciate the importance and intelligence of Lucian. No volume of representative selections in translation is in print. There are satisfactory versions of the complete works, but the reader who takes this long will most likely lose a good deal of the sting of Lucian's needle. Lionel Cassen also illustrates the full range of Lucian's subject matter and various literary forms and when translating tried to focus on the Greek spirit as opposed to the literal meaning.

"This book is primarily intended for the man in the street. In a brief general introduction Casson gives a crisp account of Lucian's life, views, and influence on posterity. He helps non-specialists by short introduction to each work and by a generous ration of lucid notes.... Casson's translation... recaptures much of the wit and humor which are Lucian's greatest gifts.... Casson's translation can be recommended." —M. D. Macleod, *The Classical From the Back Cover* Lucian's genial mockery, ' writes Lionel Casson, 'aimed at man's omnipresent failings, is never out of date: the jabs he gave the hypocrites, grandstanders, fakers, and boobs of the ancient world can just as appropriately be administered to their counterparts of the modern.'About the Author Lionel Casson is emeritus professor of classics at New York University, and is well-known as a lecturer and writer on the Greek and Roman Theater as well as books on the topic of ancient maritime travel. He is an editor and translator of Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus and Terence, and has newly translated all the works in this volume. He has also been on the advisory boards of American Neptune and Archaeology. Lionel Casson is emeritus professor of classics at New York University, and is well-known as a lecturer and writer on the Greek and Roman Theater as well as books on the topic of ancient maritime travel. He is an editor and translator of Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus and Terence, and has newly translated all the works in this volume. He has also been on the advisory boards of American Neptune and Archaeology.