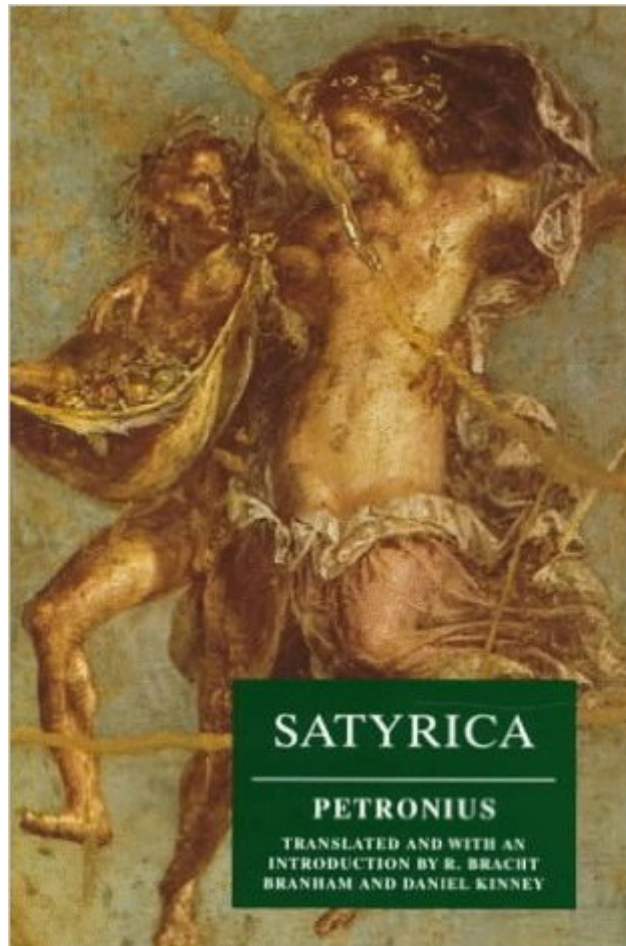


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Satyrica



Synopsis

Encolpius, a soldier of fortune, despiser of pedantry, lecherous and contrary, and the beautiful Giton, who lives off his charms, are invited to a gargantuan banquet hosted by the prodigal, pompous, newly rich Trimalchio. When the feast turns into a riot, the two, joined by the down-on-his-luck poet Eumolpus, leave town quickly to avoid trouble. So begins the *Satyricon*, a bizarre odyssey through the carnivalesque landscape of Nero's empire. The author of the *Satyricon*, Petronius, had been Nero's intimate and advisor on all matters of artistic taste and elegance but a jealous rival turned Nero against him. No longer enduring "the suspense of fear or of hope," Petronius eluded his former patron by ending his own life. His novel has lived on, preserving for centuries tales of a time when virtue and vice, power and money, human comedy and human cruelty, mixed and melded unpredictably. The translation is accurate and contemporary. In addition, a chronology, introduction, and commentary offer the reader background on Petronius's social milieu and on the fascinating complexity of his seemingly low-brow novel's poetic structure.

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Customer Reviews

At present on .com, there are 3 different editions of the SATYRICON offered. They are all excellent...I own all 3. And if permitted, I plan to review each of the three individually. This edition is hard to find, because of its title. has indexed it by its title -- SATYRICA -and thus, it does not come up on searches for "Petronius" or "Satyricon." Which is unfortunate, because it is probably the best of the 3 editions, with all of its extras. There have been many writers who have been influenced by having

read Petronius and the SATYRICON (or SATYRICA). Some of these writers have even gone so far as to offer their opinions about Petronius or about the SATYRICON itself. One of the excellent features of this edition of the SATYRICON (published by Univ. of California Press), translated and with an "Introduction" by R. Bracht Branham and Daniel Kinney, is the fact that in the back of the book they include a section titled "Petronius and his Critics." In this section, they give provocative quotes by authors starting with John of Salisbury (12th century) and extending up through T.S. Eliot in 1932. What they may not have known is that Herman Melville also has a short piece about Petronius in his novel REDBURN, Chap. 56, in which the narrator of the novel talks about the hands of his friend Harry Bolton and says: "It was not as the sturdy farmer's hand of a Cincinnatus, who followed the plough and guided the state, but it was the perfumed hand of Petronius Arbiter, that elegant young buck of a Roman, who once cut great Seneca dead in the forum." The SATYRICA (or SATYRICON) contains materials which might be considered salacious.

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