



The Ancient City: Life in Classical Athens and Rome

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off

Media type:

Book

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5

Connolly's past achievements in his field of reconstructive archaeology make him facile princeps in it already. Clearly this, his major work to date, is invested with immense authority. As you would expect, it is very detailed, for Connolly's pre-occupation with absolute accuracy touches everything he does, be it words, drawings or photographs. First we look at Athens. As well as providing a thorough understanding of architecture and daily life, Connolly provides a perceptive look at the Athenian version of the democratic process (probably the world's first?) and demonstrates that this was the spring which drove the Athenian engine to provide such a considerable influence on the ascendant Rome, where the engine began to misfire badly. Connolly's presentation of the changing Roman scenario is masterly - facts and impressions by the gross are effortlessly introduced, and retained, too, in my experience and the whole thing is a complete joy. You can doubtless visit classical Athens and Rome on the Internet and go for a Virtually Real trip round the Acropolis and Colosseum. That you can is due in no small measure to the scholarship, application and enthusiasm of people like Connolly, but if such electronic experiences generate half the lasting pleasure that this traditionally presented volume does, they will be doing well. A tremendous acquisition for an interested household, this is an essential library purchase too, even if it is the only thing you can afford for a month - which is only \$1.00 a day, after all. An opus maximus all right!

Running Order:

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