

Week 2 Research Methods and Resources

To know what is history about is important. Historians don't describe the past, nor do they discover the past. Because the past does not exist for historians.

An introduction to historical research

Why is the importance of the ancient sources emphasized in this course? Why not just provide a clear and plain narrative? What is historical research about?

1. Johann Gustav Droysen (1808-1884)

Droysen, J. G., *Grundriss der Historik* (3rd ed. Leipzig 1882; 1st ed. 1868).

_____, *Outline of the Principles of History*, trans. E. B. Andrews (Boston [MA] 1897).

(1) Methodology

(2) In German (in the 19th century, German was the front runner in ancient history.)

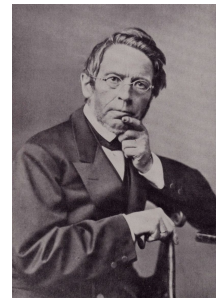
(3) § 4

The **science** of History is the result of empirical (经验) perception, experience and investigation, **ιστορία**. All empirical knowledge depends upon the 'specific energy' of the nerves of sense, through the excitation of which the mind receives, not 'images' but **signs** of things without, which signs this excitation has brought before it. Thus it develops for itself **systems of signs**, in which the corresponding external things present themselves to it, constituting **a world of ideas**. In these the mind, continually correcting, enlarging and building up its world, finds itself in possession of the external world, that is, so far as it can and must possess this in order to grasp it, and, by knowledge, will and formative power, rule it.

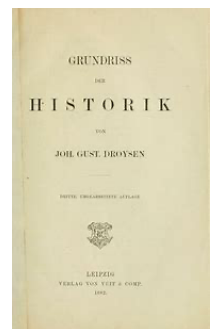
History is much more complex than just making a picture.

(4) § 5

All empirical (经验的) investigation governs itself according to the data to which it is directed, and it can only direct itself to such data as are immediately present to it and susceptible (易受影响的) of being cognized (认识) through



批注 [刘1]:



批注 [刘2]:

批注 [刘3]: Historia in Greek, "inquiry", used by Herodotus.

the senses. The data for historical investigation are **not past things**, for these have disappeared, but things which are still **present here and now**, whether recollections (回忆) of what was done, or remnants of things that have existed and of events that have occurred.

Data are not past things. Sources are things present now.

(5) § 6.

Every point in the present is one which **has come to be**. That which it was and the manner whereby **it came to be**, — these have passed away. Still, ideally, its past character is yet present in it. Only ideally, however, as faded (褪色的) traces (痕迹) and suppressed gleams (微光). Apart from knowledge these are as if they existed not. Only searching vision, the insight of investigation, is able to resuscitate (使复苏) them to a new life, and thus **cause light to shine back into the empty darkness of the past**. Yet what becomes clear is not past events as past. These exist no longer. It is so much of those **past things as still abides (存在) in the now and the here**. These quickened traces of past things stand to us in the stead (代替) of their originals, mentally constituting (构成) the 'present' of those originals.

Things in antiquity (古代) have passed away. Through the materials that have been passed down to the present, we may be able to determine what happened in the past through investigation and reasoning (推理). These materials evolved in the past, and we can infer what they were originally like. Historical research is based on the present to investigate the past. The materials that have been passed down to the present are always not completely reliable and require us to interpret and scrutinize (推敲) them.

(6) II. THE HISTORICAL METHOD.

§ 8.

The method of historical investigation is determined by the morphological

character of its material. The essence (本质) of historical method is
understanding by means of investigation.

Historians try to understand the past, rather than investigate the past.
Investigation is just a method.

2. Elements of historical research

- (1) Research question: this question usually arises from peculiarities and/or patterns that can be detected in the ancient source material while keeping the existing scholarly debate in mind (key, difficult).
- (2) Collection of the ancient sources (not difficult to do).
- (3) Collection and reading of modern scholarship.
- (4) Analysis and interpretation of the ancient sources used for argumentation.
- (5) Drawing up an argumentation and conclusions.
- (6) Present the conclusions orally and/or in writing.
- (7) Narrow topics, change problems, rewrite...

Sources of Roman History

1. Early Rome (kingdom)

- (1) Archaeological evidence (contemporary)
- (2) Traces of earlier institutions in later periods (later—mostly literary—sources).

Principle: "Much else that we think we know depends upon the principle that Roman institutions were deeply conservative" (p.11)

Literary sources on the period of the kingdom and the early Republic:

- a) Q. (Quintus) Fabius Pictor (3rd – 2nd c.): writing history, in Greek, of Italy and Rome up to 217/216. His work is lost; only a few *testimonia* (testimony, 证词) remain in later works.
 - *Testimonia*: "statements about the work or its author".
 - Fragments: "actual citations or paraphrases of a given work or an author"—David M. Schaps, *Handbook for Classical Research* (London 2011) 53.
- b) M. (Marcus) Porcius Cato (234-149: cos. 195): *Origines*, a work (now lost)

批注 [刘4]: Oxyrhynchus, a town in Egypt, is renowned for the discovery of numerous papyri, which have provided invaluable insights into ancient texts and documents. Among the significant figures in historical writing, Livy stands out as a historian known for his narrative style, providing detailed accounts and commentary on Rome's history. Varro, an antiquarian, wrote on a vast number of topics in Latin, embodying the true scholarly spirit of the past with his extensive works. Plutarch, a historiographer, is distinguished for his writings with a deductive purpose, offering biographical accounts that blend historical facts with moral lessons. These scholars and their works remain pivotal in our understanding of antiquity.

批注 [刘5]: Quintus Fabius Pictor, a notable early Roman historian, composed his works in Greek rather than Latin. He did so to communicate effectively with the Greek-speaking world, emphasizing the accomplishments and virtues of Rome. His aim was to provide a Roman perspective on history and to justify Rome's expansion and policies to an audience familiar with Greek historiographical traditions.

批注 [刘6]: Marcus Porcius Cato was a highly influential and conservative figure in Roman history, known for his repeated assertion "*Carthago delenda est*" ("Carthage must be destroyed"). He played a significant role in Roman politics and was a staunch defender of traditional Roman values. His involvement in the Third Punic War and his opposition to Carthage were driven by both strategic concerns and a desire to preserve Roman virtue. Despite his reputation as a "hawk," Cato's broader legacy is one of moral rigor and traditionalism.

in 7 books covering the **story** of Rome's foundation, origins of towns and customs in Italy, more recent history of his own time; his work is fragmentary, but it did contain at least two of his own speeches (167 BC) of which the one **against the proposal to declare war on Rhodes** is arguably the most famous one (since it has been—partially—preserved).

- c) **Livy** (Titus Livius, 59 BC – AD 17), *Books from the Founding of the City*, a work in **142 books** covering the period from Rome's 'foundation'. Only books 1-10 (treating the period until **293**), and 21-45 (**219-167**) survive. Of the remaining books we have: (fragments)

- *Oxyrhynchus Epitome*: (larger) parts of summaries from books 37-40 and 48-55.
- *Periochae*: (short) summaries, probably made in the fourth century, of all books except 136-137.

- d) M. Terentius Varro (116-27), *Human and Divine Antiquities*, a work of 41 books (25 on *res humanae* (human affairs), 16 on *res divinae*) from 47 BC, now lost, treating persons, places, times and various other issues.

- **Antiquarians**: authors who wrote on a variety of topics—e.g. legal, constitutional, military institutions, monuments, texts, calendar and chronological matters, family history, religious and social customs, language—and “almost invariably investigated **the meaning and origins** of technical words, personal names, place-names, archaic expressions, phrases and saying, ritual formulae, legal terminology, and so on”.—*T.J. Cornell, The Beginnings of Rome: Italy and Rome from the Bronze Age to the Punic Wars (c. 1000-264 BC)* (London 1995) 18-19.
- In the textbook, Potter claims Livy was able to exploit the work of Varro. But it is actually **debatable to what degree he used this work** (Cornell 1995, 19). Some scholars argue that Livy did not use Varro at all.

- e) Dionysius of Halicarnassus (c. 60 – after 7), *Antiquities of the Romans*, 20

批注 [刘7]: During the Third Macedonian War, Rhodes showed some uncertainty in their stance towards Rome's actions, reflecting the complex diplomatic landscape of the time.

批注 [刘8]: Livy, a renowned Roman historian, authored a monumental history of Rome, which was divided into multiple books and scrolls. Books 1-10 cover the period from the foundation of Rome in 753 BC to 293 BC, while Books 21-45 span the years from 219 BC to 167 BC. Livy's entire work originally comprised 142 scrolls, although many of these have been lost over time. The narrative of the Second Punic War is detailed in Books 21-30. The foundation of Rome is described in the first book, which serves as a single, comprehensive account of the city's legendary origins. In the 2nd century BC, Livy copied some of his content from the earlier historian Polybius, especially concerning the events of the Second Punic War. Livy's work remains a crucial source for understanding the early history and the significant military conflicts of Rome.

批注 [刘9]: An important work.

批注 [刘10]: Dionysius of Halicarnassus (c. 60 BCE – after 7 BCE) authored the "*Antiquities of the Romans*," a comprehensive history of Rome that is more detailed than Livy's works. His narrative is notable for the numerous speeches he includes, which he uses to reveal the true character of individuals. However, it is important to note that these speeches may have been fabricated (编造) by Dionysius himself.

book scrolls written in Greek, covering the period from Rome's origins to the outbreak of the First Punic War (264-241), of which 11 survive (containing the account up to 441).

- f) Diodorus Siculus (c. 80-30), *Universal History*, 40 books in Greek, of which 15 survive, covering the period from mythological times to 60 BC.
- g) All in all, it is important to keep in mind that the evidence that later authors had at their disposal (供他们使用) for Rome's early history was very limited. In addition, ancient authors, especially poets and historiographers were at liberty to add information to their texts "to bring out the 'true meaning' of events."

2. Early and Middle Republic (c. 500-133)

(1) Literary sources

- a) For the king Pyrrhus of Epirus (r. 307-272)
 - For the Pyrrhic wars, we rely on Plutarch (c. 50-120), *Lives of Famous Greeks and Romans: Life of Pyrrhus*.



- b) For the Punic Wars, especially the second one
 - Polybius, *Universal History* in 40 books, written in Greek, of which books 1-5 have been preserved, with fragments and excerpts (摘录)

for later books (no excerpts for 17, 19, 26, 37, 40)

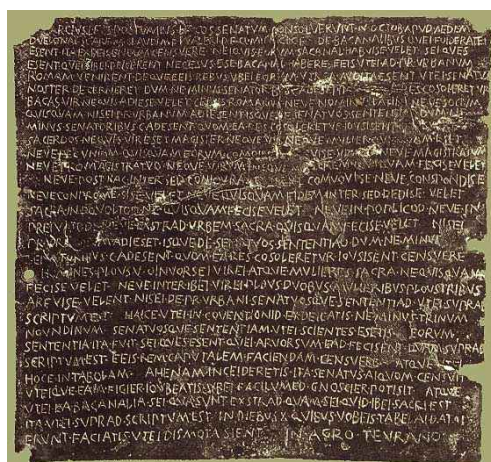
c) Livy

d) Appian (c. 100 – 160)

Book	Subject
	<i>Appian's Preface</i>
1	Concerning the Kings (fragments)
2	Concerning Italy (fragments)
3	The Samnite History (fragments)
4	The Gallic History (fragments)
5	Of Sicily and the other Islands (fragments)
6	The Wars in Spain
7	The Hannibalic War
8	Part I. The Punic Wars Part II. Numidian affairs (fragments)
9	Macedonian affairs (fragments)
10	The Illyrian Wars
11	The Syrian Wars
12	The Mithridatic Wars

(2) Inscriptions

a) *Senatus consultum de Bacchanalibus*: A Latin inscription.



Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum 1.581:

“Quintus Marcius the son of Lucius, and Spurius Postumius, consulted the senate on the Nones of October (7th), at the temple of the Bellonae. Marcus Claudius, son of Marcus, Lucius Valerius, son of Publius, and Quintus Minucius, son of Gaius, were the committee for drawing up the report.

Regarding the Bacchanalia it was resolved to give the following directions to those who are in alliance with us.

No one of them is to possess a place where the festivals of Bacchus are celebrated : if there are any who claim that it is necessary for them to have such a place, they are to come to Rome to the praetor urbanus, and the senate is to decide on those matters, when their claims have been heard, provided that not less than 100 senators are present when the affair is discussed. No man is to be a Bacchantian, neither a Roman citizen, nor one of the Latin name, nor any of our allies unless they come to the praetor urbanus, and he in accordance with the opinion of the senate expressed when not less than 100 senators are present at the discussion, shall have given leave. Carried.

No man is to be a priest ; no one, either man or woman, is to be an officer (to manage the temporal affairs of the organization) ; nor is anyone of them to have charge of a common treasury ; no one shall appoint either man or woman to be master or to act as master ; henceforth they shall not form conspiracies among themselves, stir up any disorder, make mutual promises or agreements, or interchange pledges ; no one shall observe the sacred rites either in public or private or outside the city, unless he comes to the praetor urbanus, and he, in accordance with the opinion of the senate, expressed when no less than 100 senators are present at the discussion, shall have given leave. Carried.

No one in a company of more than five persons altogether, men and women, shall observe the sacred rites, nor in that company shall there be

present more than two men or three women, unless in accordance with the opinion of the praetor urbanus and the senate as written above.

See that you declare it in the assembly (contio) for not less than three market days ; that you may know the opinion of the senate this was their judgment : if there are any who have acted contrary to what was written above, they have decided that a proceeding for a capital offense should be instituted against them ; the senate has justly decreed that you should inscribe this on a brazen tablet, and that you should order it to be placed where it can be easiest read ; see to it that the revelries of Bacchus, if there be any, except in case there be concerned in the matter something sacred, as was written above, be disbanded within ten days after this letter shall be delivered to you.

In the Teuranian field. »

(3) Papyri

3. Late Republic and Principate

(1) Inscriptions

(2) Papyri

(3) Literary sources

- a) M. Tullius Cicero (106-43): was arrogant, liked to talk about himself, and many speeches and letters; assassinated by Antony.
- b) C. Julius Caesar (100-44): Civil war, Gaul.
- c) Cornelius Tacitus (c. 55-120): very detailed, and try to reveal political struggles.
- d) C. Suetonius Tranquillus (c. 70-140).
- e) Cassius Dio (c. 164-230): late Republic onwards; very detailed.

Finding scholarship and sources

1. Scholarship

- (1) PKU library catalogue: lib.pku.edu.cn
- (2) JSTOR

(3) L' Année philologique (French)

(4) ProQuest

2. Sources

(1) Literary sources

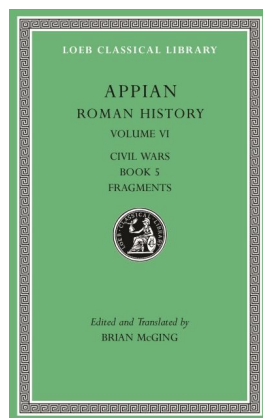
a) Critical editions: Oxford Classical Texts, Teubner, Budé, and others.

b) English translations

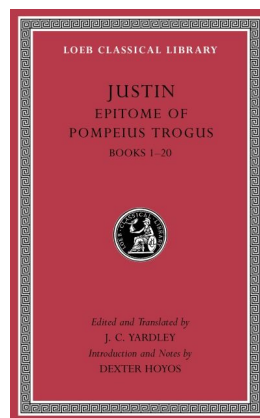
- **Loeb Classical Library.**

- ✓ Founded in 1911 by James Loeb, a Jewish-American philanthropist (慈善家).

- ✓ Currently 555 volumes.



2020



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- <https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home.html>
- <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>
- [Livius - Articles on ancient history](#)

批注 [刘11]: This is what moved him:

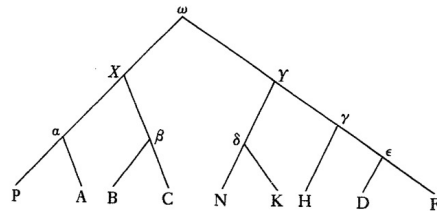
"In an age when the Humanities are being neglected more perhaps than at any time since the Middle Ages, and when men's minds are turning more than ever before to the practical and the material, it does not suffice to make pleas, however eloquent and convincing, for the safeguarding and further enjoyment of our greatest heritage from the past. Means must be found to place these treasures within the reach of all who care for the finer things of life."

The aim of the Loeb Classical Library was:

"To make the beauty and learning, the philosophy and wit of the great writers of ancient Greece and Rome once more accessible by means of translations that are in themselves real pieces of literature, a thing to be read for the pure joy of it, and not dull transcripts of ideas that suggest in every line the existence of a finer original form from which the average reader is shut out, and to place side by side with these translations the best critical texts of the original works, is the task I have set myself." (Loeb in the first volumes of his Classical Library)

"Handy books of a size that would fit in a gentleman's pocket."

c) Manuscripts



L.D. Reynolds (ed.), *C. Sallusti Crispi Catilina, Iugurtha, Historiarum fragmenta selecta, appendix sallustiana* (Oxford 1991) xi.

d) Fragments

- Greek historians: *Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*
- Roman historians: T.J. Cornell (ed.), *The Fragments of the Roman Historians*, 3 vols (Oxford 2013).

(2) Inscriptions

- a) The discipline that studies and edits inscriptions is called **epigraphy** (铭文学). Inscriptions have been published in various platforms divided according to the **language** used (Greek or Latin) and the **region** of discovery.

b) Corpora (文集)

- *Inscriptiones Graecae* ([Inscriptiones Graecae \(bbaw.de\)](http://bbaw.de)) This project started in 1902 on the initiative of Ulrich Wilamowitz-Moellendorff; it aims at publishing **all** Greek inscriptions from Greece, Italy and the Aegean islands.
- *Tituli Asiae Minoris*: this project was initiated in 1890, and aims at publishing all Greek and Latin inscriptions **from Asia Minor** ([Tituli Asiae Minoris \(oeaw.ac.at\)](http://oeaw.ac.at)).
- *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* ([Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum: Home \(bbaw.de\)](http://bbaw.de)) Work for this project, initiated by Theodor Mommsen, began in 1853. It aimed at publishing **all** ancient Latin

inscriptions.

- c) Other regional corpora (very selective)
 - *Inscriptionen griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien* (1972): this series does not aim to be comprehensive.
 - *Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie* (IGLS) .
 - d) For a comprehensive overview of epigraphic publications, see: *Guide de l'épigraphiste* ([Guide de l'épigraphiste \(english\) – Département des Sciences de l'Antiquité \(psl.eu\)](#)).
 - e) Platforms providing updates
 - Supplementum epigraphicum graecum
 - ✓ Published annually.
 - ✓ Available online and in print also in the library.
 - *Bulletin épigraphique* ([Bulletin épigraphique | Revue des Études Grecques \(revue-des-etudes-grecques.com\)](#))
 - ✓ Published annually in the Revue des études grecques
 - f) Anthologies (文选, various sources)
 - Robert K. Sherk (ed.), *Translated Documents of Greece and Rome*, IV: *Rome and the Greek East to the Death of Augustus* (Cambridge 1984).
 - Robert K. Sherk (ed.), *Translated Documents of Greece & Rome*, VI: *The Roman Empire: Augustus to Hadrian* (Cambridge 1988).
 - g) Online resources
 - [Documents - inscriptions and papyri \(attalus.org\)](#)
 - [PHI Greek Inscriptions \(packhum.org\)](#)
 - [Epigraphische Datenbank Clausen - Slaby \(manfredclausen.de\)](#)
- (3) Papyri: <https://papyri.info>
- (4) Coins
- a) Online resources
 - [Online Coins of the Roman Empire \(numismatics.org\)](#)
 - [Coinage of the Roman Republic Online \(numismatics.org\)](#)

- [RPC — Home \(ox.ac.uk\)](http://ox.ac.uk)

e) Links to online resources of all types of sources

- [DIGITAL HUMANITIES DATABASE TRACKER \(qq.com\)](http://qq.com)



M. Aurelius Cotta, AR denarius, 139 BC
Obv: Head of Roma, Cota below, X behind
Rev: Hercules holding a club in a *biga* (chariot) drawn by *centaurs* (who have a human upper body and an equine lower body), M. Aureli below, Roma in exergue.
Crawford, no. 229/1.



Vespasian, AR denarius, AD 70
Obv: laureate head of Vespasian r., IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG
Rev: Aequitas standing l. holding scales and scepter, COS ITE[R] TR POT
RIC 21, BMC 17



Caracalla AE of Damascus, Syria.
Obv: laureate and cuirassed bust r., AVTOKRA ANTONINW,
Rev: ΔΑΜΑΣΚΟ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΟΣ, turreted and draped bust of Tyche left, holding cornucopia at shoulder



Marcus Aurelius. AE Capitolias
Obv: AYT KAIC M AYP ANTΩNEINOC; laureate-headed bust of Marcus Aurelius wearing cuirass, r.
Rev: ΚΑΠΙΤΩΛΙΕΩΝ ΙΕΡ ΑCY AYT O; monumental gateway with two outer towers and ten columns schematically enclosing statue of Zeus seated, l., extending hand, holding long sceptre; above (i.e. behind), large conical altar on square base. *RPC* IV.3 6553