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A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: The World's Oldest Joke Book

By Crompton, Dan, Translator.

Michael O'Mara. 1 Cloth(s), 2010. hard. Book Condition: New. Proving that, despite the advances of civilization, our sense of humor hasn't evolved all that much, this book presents some 240 cheeky puns, cheesy one-liners, sexual innuendoes, and more than its share of fart jokes, attributed to two 4th-century wits named Hierocles and Philagrios, originally collected under the title Philogelos (The Joker). Do they give us new insight into the philosophical and existential musings of our ancient predecessors? Not really they simply reveal that 1600 years ago, the Romans found nothing funnier than a eunuch with a hernia. The U.S. edition of Dan Crompton's educated, annotated translation is titled *The World's Oldest Joke Book*. "The gagmeisters of today would do well to learn from the ancients . a work of scholarship as much as a tickler of the funny bone: a sassy but accurate translation." *Daily Telegraph* (London) 159.



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