

What Do We Know About Caecilius Statius?

Post by “Joshua” of October 19, 2019 at 11:22 PM

Among the scrolls of (mostly) Philodemus found at the Villa of the Papyri in Herculaneum, there is a copy of a play by the (apparently) famous-in-Rome comic playwright Caecilius Statius. I've only just recently discovered that Caecilius was the author of a quote I have always seen attributed to Cicero—for Cicero does quote him directly;

Quote

One plants trees for the benefit of another age.

-Caecilius Statius

I'm struggling to find much in English on this writer. In addition to the above, here are a few quotes attributed to him:

note; I have not verified these selections

Quote

Fear created the first gods in the world

Quote

The whole world is a man's birthplace

Quote

Grant us a brief delay; impulse in everything is but a worthless servant.

Quote

Wisdom oft lurks beneath a tattered coat.

I'm wondering whether anybody else has come across him. I know Hiram has delved deeply into Philodemus' scrolls. I'm just wondering if he should be on our radar?