

# 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?

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**Post by “Cassius” of October 20, 2019 at 6:10 AM**

Great find, Joshua, I have never heard of him but will be watching for him from now on.

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### **Post by “Joshua” of October 20, 2019 at 8:22 AM**

In the video from the Getty Villa that Cassius posted it was mentioned that a chest of Latin texts was found along with the main Greek library, but that they were too badly damaged to even know what they are. So we probably shouldn't read too much into it.

In my truck, for example, there are 6 or 7 Epicurean texts, my old well-worn copy of *Walden*, a Latin Dictionary, and a copy of *Macbeth* that I bought at a used book store in Salt Lake City. I would encourage future papyrologists poking through my stuff not to place too much importance on the *Macbeth*!

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### **Post by “Elayne” of October 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM**

Great point-- I possess several books I've read in order to understand the positions of those I disagree with, lol. I even have, gasp, my mother's old bible (fortunately for her, she became a nonbeliever in college).

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### **Post by “Eikadistes” of November 3, 2023 at 11:01 PM**

#### [Quote from Joshua](#)

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?

Yes, and I am currently curious which Caecilius is Caecilius.

Right now, I am juggling with the possibility that he is just a character in "Octavius" by Minucius Felix".

I came across the possibility that he is Caecilius Statius. He (Caecilius "the Epicurean") could also be Titus Pomponius Atticus, whom was later called Quintus *Caecilius* Pomponianus Atticus.

Granted, the Romans, as I now realize, had a very, very limited number of first names, as an individual's identify was largely informed by their heritage, thus, driving modern historians to insanity ... so there were a ton of Quintus Caecilius' out there, and, regarding "Staius", we have, at least, Caecilius Staius the comic poet, whose works contrast with those of Horace such to give us reason to be suspicious of an Epicurean pedigree.

I have no answers to this.

Only one request:

Moving forward, let's all give our kids unique names. There are an innumerable amount of familiar names, and the Romans, who were *emaculate* with their historiography, only had about 6 names for boys.