

The Roman Festivals of the Period of the Republic: An Introduction to the Study of the Religion of the Romans (Classic Reprint)

W. Warde Fowler

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Many years ago I became specially interested in the old Roman religion, chiefly, I think, through studying Plutarch sQ uaestiones Romanae, at a time when bad eyesight was compelling me to abandon a project for an elaborate study of all Plutarch sworks. The scrappy character not only of the Quaestiones, but of all the material for the study of Roman ritual, suited weak eyes better than the continual reading of Greek text; but I soon found it necessary to discover a thread on which to hang these fragments in some regular order. This I naturally found in the Fasti as edited by Mommsen in the first volume of the Corpus I nscriptionum Latinarum:, and it gradually dawned on me that the only scientific way of treating the subject was to follow the calendar throughout the year, and to deal with each festival separately. I had advanced some way in this work, when Roscher sL exicon of Greek andR oman Mythology began to appear in parts, and at once convinced me that I should have to do my work all over again in the increased light afforded by the indefatigable industry of the writers of the Roman articles. I therefore dropped my work for several years while theL exicon was in progress, and should have waited still longer for its completion, had not Messrs. (Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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