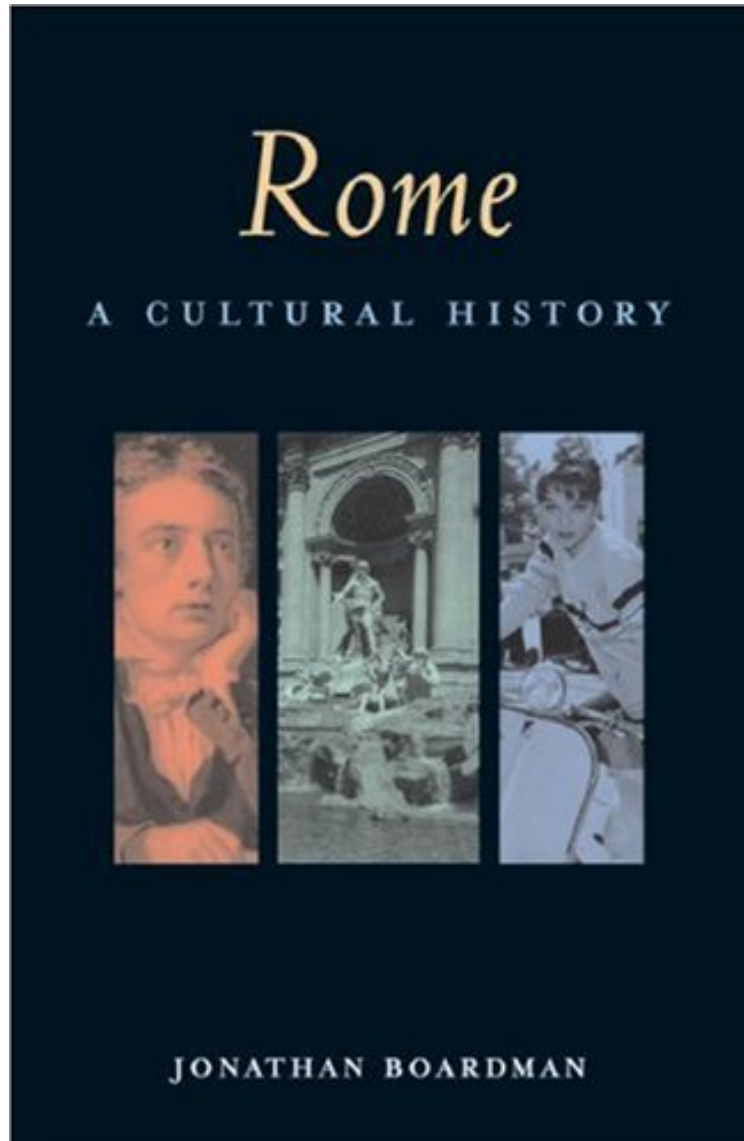


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## Rome: A Cultural History (Cultural Histories)

*Archdeacon of Italy and Malta Jonathan Boardman*  
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**Archdeacon of Italy and Malta Jonathan Boardman : Rome: A Cultural History (Cultural Histories)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rome: A Cultural History (Cultural Histories):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Cynical and soulless view of Rome?By JaneBoardman's "Rome: A Cultural History" is a thin history, not particularly well written, with weak attempts at witty asides and anecdotal humor. However, what has compelled me to write this review is his cynical, unrelentingly critical view of the papacy,

and Rome as the seat of the Roman Catholic Church. Denominations aside, I do not know how any christian could fail to be moved by the myriad christian cultural footprints permeating Rome: churches, art, catacombs, bells ringing, flocks of pilgrims and religious from around the world. I am shocked that the Anglican Chaplain of Rome would pen such a hard hearted, soulless piece. There are many wonderful books on Rome. Start with H.V. Morton's timeless 1957 masterpiece "A Traveller in Rome". William Murray's "City of the Soul" is a short delight that shines. The Blue Guide contains much historical and cultural information on the sites you will visit. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Probably not worth the time. By HRSquire171 I could not decide between a 2 or 3 star review. I decided to be generous as the definition of 3 stars is "ok" and 2 stars is "don't like." I can't say I didn't like it, but it definitely is a book not for everyone. First off, this is not a guidebook. This book reads like a compilation of the author's many impressions, thoughts and opinions on things Rome. Some of it is mildly humorous, in a dry British kind of way, and some is interestingly obscure, but a lot of it is just his opinionated view of his impressions over his many years visiting and living in Rome. I am not sure what category this book belongs in, maybe travelogue? If there is a common thread throughout the book it is literary references to ex-pat authors who ended up in Rome (Keats...). I don't consider having read it that I wasted time, on the other hand I am not sure who I would recommend this book to. 9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Too jaundiced a view of Rome for this series. By A Customer I have read dozens of books on Rome over the years, and I am compelled to warn fellow readers that this one is for a very narrow taste. The author's idiosyncratic observations and very verbose writing style beg for better editing. This might have been entertaining as a magazine article. However, as a book purporting to be " a cultural and literary companion", author and editor must share the blame for not working the text into a better product. The acidic point of view almost worked, but in the end fell flat.

The Eternal City has provided endless inspiration for religious thinkers, poets, artists, and philosophers. Boardman uncovers Rome's multifaceted experience, where each layer of development rests upon a foundation of a preexisting tradition. Maps and illustrations throughout.

From Library Journal Aware that "seeing Rome in its entirety, capturing the place as a whole, has been a longed-for, but ever-receding, Holy Grail," Boardman, the Anglican Chaplain to Rome, weaves a cultural and literary guide through the Eternal City that reflects personal taste and experience. The author uses Rome's architecture and ruins to conjure up the metropolis as it stood during Antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Unification of Italy (1860-71), and the fascist era. He draws insightful parallels between the past and present, likening, for instance, the notorious venality of the Borgias to the political bribery scandals of the early 1990s. Despite the occasional whimsical pronouncement ("Rome is a woman, but with a man's face"), Boardman writes in an assured, engaging manner, and his enthusiasm for his subject echoes that of such stranieri ("foreigners") as Henry James, Shelley, and Goethe, whose visits he recounts. Italian perspectives are surprisingly sparse, however, and readers may be surprised that Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck's Roman Holiday receives more attention than such Italian classics as *The Bicycle Thief* and *Rome, Open City*. Nevertheless, travelers to Rome will find this installment of Interlink's "Cities of the Imagination" series a fine complement to more practical guides that focus on hotels, restaurants, and museums. Recommended for general collections. DRichard Koss, "Library Journal" Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Publisher Jonathan Boardman uncovers Rome's multifaceted experience, where each layer of development rests upon the foundation of a pre-existing tradition. In a place where political and religious ideology has always expressed themselves through art, he also highlights a vibrant popular culture - from gladiatorial shows to the local Roma-Lazio soccer derby. \* Ancient and papal Rome: home of the Caesars, city of amphitheaters, temples, aqueducts and fountains; nursery of Christianity, scene of martyrdom, piety and scandal. \* Artistic Rome: workplace of Michelangelo, Raphael and Canova; the inspiration for Byron, Shelley and Goethe; the setting for Julius Caesar and *La Dolce Vita*. \* Rome past and present: city of pasta and soccer, capital of shopping and sex; headquarters of monarchy, dictatorship and republic, the Green dream of "Roma per Roma" in 2000AD Jonathan Boardman is Anglican Chaplain to the city of Rome and previously served as a priest in Liverpool, St. Albans and London.