Through an Ancient Lens:

Exploring Art, Literature, History and Culture in the Classical World

The books contained within discuss the art, history, mythology, culture, literature and material remains of Greece and Rome. They also reflect my love of history, art history and classical studies and merge these disciplines into a cohesive framework for teaching these complex subjects. It is comprised of both primary and secondary sources, allowing me to experience both first-hand accounts and removed analysis, for a more enriched knowledge base. This extensive collection has assisted me in my pursuit of knowledge regarding the Greco-Roman world and has allowed me to fully immerse myself in the culture by acknowledging every aspect of the Classical world.
Statement of Purpose

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited." Plutarch, a man both Greek and Roman, wrote these words millennia ago and today I still believe that truer words have never been written. I have loved learning from the time that I could speak and at an early age I endeavored to set my world ablaze with knowledge. Throughout my life, and especially in my academic studies, the books of this collection have served as kindling to the conflagration of learning that became my passion and overtook my mind like an uncontrollable inferno.

The spark of interest burst into flames of love for ancient history when I was a child reading juvenile books on the subject. Some of my fondest memories were of reading the *Horrible Histories* series; I have kept those beloved books even to this day. I remember the day that I carefully chose my selection from the Scholastic catalogues so omnipresent in my youth. I spent hours poring over the flimsy pages and deciding which books would be the first that I would purchase with my own money, with my own thought. These were to be my books and mine alone; there was no attentive parent peering over my shoulder in an attempt to discern the appropriateness of the tome, no necessity to share them with my brothers too young to appreciate them. At last the day finally came when I had made my selections and I could deliver my choices to my teacher. I was so excited that I almost forgot to give her my money. My anticipation grew with each passing day, with each moment that brought me closer to receiving my cherished books. Finally the day came when my books arrived in their plastic wrappers, beautiful and pristine. Everyone else ripped theirs open right then and there, but I gently tucked mine into my backpack and waited until I had arrived safely at home, where no harm could come to my books. I carefully removed them from their protective wrappings, placed two lovingly amongst the other treasures on my bookshelf and curled up on my
bed to read the final one, a thrilling book about *The Groovy Greeks*; thus began my fascination with the ancient world. From that time forward, at such a young age, the ancient torch was lit and I developed a voracious appetite for all things history.

As I have grown, my love of history and the Classical world has never faltered. I purchased book upon book over the years, much to my mother’s chagrin, slowly building up my collection that includes all genres. For a while I was actually banned from book stores as my bookshelves groaned under the weight of my spoils; even now, my fiancé loathes visiting booksellers with me for he knows the stacks that are about to ensue. I gathered historical books, including texts on the ancient world, all through my high school years and college days but my collection tripled upon entering Arizona State and enrolling within the Classics fields. I am currently triple majoring in History, Art History and Classical studies. All three of my degrees have a focus in antiquity and specifically the Greco-Roman world. Due to the vast number of topics encompassed within my majors, this bibliography is only a portion of my titles on the subject and does not include any auxiliary features such as film or documentaries. Some were collected as textbooks or utilized as library resources in research which I found so beneficial that I could not live without them. More, however, were amassed out of love for the subject as I grazed racks of books freshly printed and lovingly worn, stumbling upon finds as I looked for nothing in particular.

My desire was to become completely immersed in the culture, civilization and material remains of the Classical world. I feel that I am better equipped to teach the subject if I am familiar with all aspects of the ancient world, especially since much of what we know is only revealed to us through literature and the physical remains; the art and architecture of civilizations that fell long ago and yet exist today in political and cultural reincarnations. Their influence and prestige, their elegance and magnificence have never wavered, but served as a beacon to countless cultures who built upon their
strong foundations. I believe that it is essential to understand our past in order to fortify our present and shape our future. It is just as important to me to look back as to gaze forward, for I think that we have much to learn from the trials and tribulations, the victories and mistakes of our ancestors.

This belief led to my desire to engross myself in all things Classical. I have collected these volumes in order to better understand my field and be able to explore them fully, to utilize all facets of the culture in my teaching. There is such depth and variety to the tenets of culture in the ancient world that the list of subjects in immense and the list of books available is larger still. I have numerous selections on all facets of life in the Greco-Roman world. Included within my collection are titles on art, architecture, archaeology, history, society, culture, religion, mythology and literature. Primary sources are vital to our understanding and it is with that belief that I sought to collect works by ancient authors such as Sophocles, Euripides, Ovid and Tacitus. I have collected some of the most well-known titles in literature from some of the most respected names in the world in order to gain a first-hand account of life as it was in the ancient world. While these primary sources are imperative, it is sometimes difficult to understand the writings or the context without secondary scholars who are able to explain the complexities and clarify the obscurities of the ancient world. More than that, it is these secondary scholars who preserve, protect and discover the creations of primary authors and so I have attempted to accumulate a well-balanced selection of modern scholars who will bolster my research and illuminate my path. I feel that my collection reflects my desire to integrate all aspects of ancient life into my studies and to learn as much as I possibly can about my academic focus by consuming knowledge as a fire consumes its kindling; rapaciously, fervently and completely.