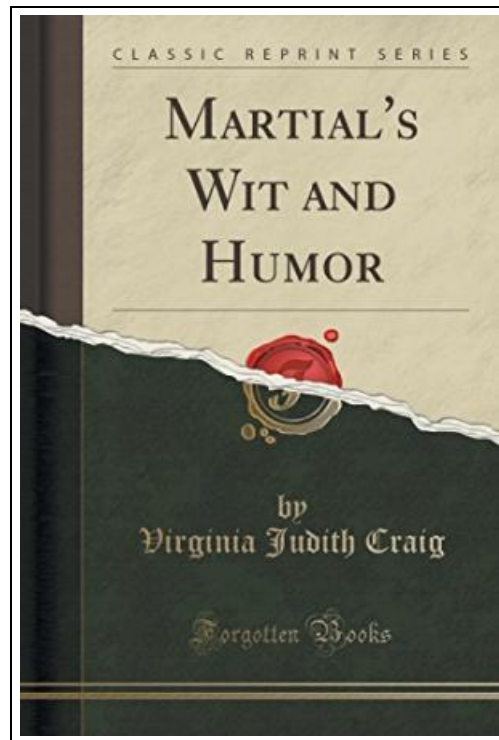


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Martial s Wit and Humor The Latin poet, Martial, is responsible for the modern view of the epigram. He so stamped his genius upon this literary form that from his day wit has constituted its quintessence; satire and broad humor, its keenly relished flavor. It is true that he was not the pioneer in his peculiar field. Many comic epigrams are to be found in the Greek Anthology even if we eliminate the far greater number which were written after Martial s day and which owe no less to his influence, than do those of Prior or of Pope. Yet no Greek even approaches the Roman poet in the range or variety of comic epigrams. In Greece the epigram blossomed into a perfect literary genre centuries before its charm was in any sense due to wit or humor. It had speedily lost its objective character as an inscription and had become the expression of a reflection often indeed exquisitely subtle or delicately poetic, but not incisive or satiric. The witty type of epigram developed in a later period among the Alexandrines, was of comparatively limited range and had no power to alter the early conception. For a century after the Christian era, the Greeks regarded the epigram, apart from the questions of length and verse structure, somewhat as we view the sonnet. They would have found the statement of Jean Paul that the epigram is the boundary stone between the satiric and comic most perplexing or even unintelligible. In general, their uses of literary forms have had a wonderful persistence and permanence. It is, consequently, a remarkable achievement, that a writer of another nation should...



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