Marcus Valerius Martialis

MARTIAL

- born March 1, 38-41 AD in Bilbilis, Spain
- went to Rome in 64 AD
- supported by the Seneca family
- appointed military tribune
- achieved equestrian status
- first published in 80 AD
- an acquaintance of future emperor, Nerva
- friends of writers, Silius Italicus, Quintilian, Juvenal & Pliny the Younger
- left Rome in 98 AD and returned to Spain
- died at Bilbilis around 104 AD

Martial’s Major Literary Works

80 AD  Liber Spectaculorum
A book of poems written to commemorate the opening of the Coliseum.

86-102 AD 12 books of Epigrams
Epigrams were short poems derived from inscriptions upon Greek tombstones.

84-85 AD  Xenia & Apophoreta
2 books of poems written to accompany Saturnalia gifts.

Martial’s hometown, Bilbilis, in Hispania Tarraconensis

to accompany Wheelock, Chapter 34
created by Jessica Fisher, 2006