WHO WAS THE FIRST MAN--OR WOMAN--TO MAKE A JOKE?

Some Familiar Specimens of Modern Greek and Roman Sources.

In "where the shoe pinches," the ancient rendering took this form:

There was general disapproval in the audience of a Roman citizen who had
voiced his, quite, rich, and beautiful wife. "But," said he, pointing to his
foot, "there is a shoe, well made and brand new; no one but myself knows
where it pinches."

As to-day, in the days gone by, the doctors
were made the target of the jesters:

Pausanias, the Spartan General, when asked by a physician how
he was, "was not well," exultingly answered, "Be-
cause I never consult you."

At another time Pausanias said that the best physician was the one
who dispatched his patients with the least possible suffering:

Pausanias, strongly disapproving of a certain physician and his methods,
and having him in no mild terms, was asked by a friend how, as he had never
consulted that particular doctor, could he be so sure of his statements. Pausanias
answered, "Well, had I consulted him I would be living to-day."

A Syracusan king, during a snowstorm entirely nude, asked him if he
were not cold. "And you," responded the man, "is your nose red?"

A Syracusan king was asked for his seal, which he had made. The
philosopher reproached him for this servile groveling. "You should not blame
him," Dionysus, who has ears in his fast," was his apology.

A woman, vainly pleading her case many times before Philip of Macedon,
received at every refusal the reply that he had "not the time. At last her
patience gave out and she said to him, "Then cease to reign." The
monarch, feeling that he had deserved this rebuke, immediately
listened to her and rendered the justice that her case merited.

Anacharsis, the Scythian philosopher, speaking of the laws of Iran, said:
"They were like the web of a spider, very good for holding the weak, but al-
though the strong to escape."

A Roman general was tried and passed to prison. Dionen said to him:
"Poor, why didn't you rob on a grand scale, then it would have been
that would be sending others to prison."

The absurd sight of a person clothed or equipped with something all out of
proportion to his size always gives rise to a smile if not to some jocose remark. One
commonplace jest is the one about the small boy wearing a very large hat:
"Hey, hat! Where are you going with that boy?"

The in-law wearing a long sword, he cried out: "Who, I ask, has attached my
son-in-law to that sword?"

A similar incident is told of Plato, who,

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This same cynical philosopher, in enter-

ing a bath in which the water was ex-

tremely foul, remarked that he did not

see why the people who bathed there

should wash themselves first.

Two youths, rivals for the favors of

Naxitone, fell to settling their differ-

ence with a tussle. To the amuse-

ment of the worst of the affair Naxitone
cruelly cried: "Courage, it's a mat-

ter of second strength, but of who is

the richest.

Naxitone was dining with her friend

Democritus. She had finished the meal

at the first part of your discourse, and in consequence I may

understand the second part, and as for

the conclusion, I disapprove of it en-

tirely.

In choosing a husband for her daughter

the Spartan Admiral Dariophanes chose

one of a good reputation rather than

another who was very rich, as he preferred

a man without a fortune to a fortune

without a man.

Simonides, the lyric poet, said that he

had often reported of having spoken, but

never repented of his words.

Achilles cut off the tail of a fine dog, which had been accompanying him on

his hunting expeditions, saying: "You were so bold as to think that all Athens was joking about the

absurdity of the spectacle of a magnificent dog minus a tail." This, said

Achilles, "is what I wish." He then added: "I want the people to con-

cern themselves about the dog that they will have no time to con-

verse with splendid words to say about me."

Philip of Macedon, after the battle of 

Chaeronis, where he defeated the Greeks, sent a boastful and insolent letter to the

King of Sparta, saying: "The king of the Achaeans took this concocted rejoinder: "If thou wilt

measure thy shadow, thou wilt find that it

hath not increased in sizes since thy victory.

Ambassadors from a besieged town were treat-

ing with Alexander on the terms of

submission. Alexander ordered that Ac-

thus, the eldest of the ambassadors,

should be the Governor of the town, and

that he should send immediate mes-

sages one hundred of the best citizens.

Aciphus then smilingly observed: "Sire, if I am not mistaken, the terms you just

sent me tell thee one hundred of the worst citizens, instead of one hundred of the

best."

As the vehicle of the jest of all forms of humor, the answer to

"foolish, question, as it seems.

Carpaphus, coming out of the

theater, was asked if he had been to see the spectacle. "No," said

Carpaphus, "I was not there." "I was playing tennins in the orchestra."