

A small treatise by Galen (129-210/217 AD) “On Bones for Beginners” (“De ossibus ad tirones”) is one of the most famous works included in the series of so-called “small anatomy” of Galen. It was written about 180, in the first Roman period of Galen, and, according to the author himself, was intended for the personal use of friends and students (Libr. propr., prol. 6, 9; I, 5; De ord. libr. I, 2 ). Later, in the second Roman period, Galen corrected and collected writings "for beginners" into a single body of texts, the reading of which served as an introduction to the study of medicine (Libr. propr., prol. 8; I, 1). This work is interesting in that Galen cites in it one of the first anatomical nomenclatures, the terminology of which to this day underlies modern osteology. Starting from the 6th century, this text was included in the Alexandrian medical canon of the writings of Galen, and throughout the Middle Ages and the Renaissance it was an obligatory part of the program of various medical faculties. Such popularity of this text was ensured, first of all, by its small volume and concise form of presentation of the material in the form of a textbook-catalog for easy memorization (ὑπόμνημα). Medical practice was based on knowledge of the nature of the body and its functions, so the study of anatomy was the first step in the study of medicine.

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