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EPHESUS, TURKEY

Editor-in-Chief **William Binder, MD**, is shown here visiting the **Library of Celsus**, located in Ephesus, western Turkey, on the coast of the Aegean Sea. The two-story structure is made of marble and harkens back to the Greek and Roman civilizations of antiquity.

The library was commissioned in 114 CE by Tiberius Julius Acquila to commemorate his father, Tiberius Julius Celsus Polemaeanus, who had been a member of the Roman Senate and was, from 105 to 107 CE, the proconsul of Ephesus. Completed in 117 CE, Celsus was then entombed in a lead coffin encased in a marble sarcophagus at the site.

At its height, the library held more than 12,000 papyrus and parchment scrolls ensconced in the niches of the structure. Like many other Roman ruins, the original Library of Celsus has long since collapsed. Its facade was reconstructed in the 1970s using fragments that had been found during excavations. It is a popular tourist attraction in Turkey today.



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