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PREFACE

The letters in this selection have been chosen partly as revelatory of Cicero's personality or otherwise intrinsically interesting, partly to give an impression of the variety of the correspondence and to illustrate the main types of letter to be found in it. Though some of my choices are historically important, it has not been my aim to present a conspectus of historical source-material. I have judged it best to exclude (with one small exception) letters not written by Cicero, interesting and valuable though some of these are.

In conformity with the purposes of the series, its editors, Professor Kenney and Mrs Easterling, suggested numerous additions and amplifications in the original draft of my notes. Practically all these suggestions I have gratefully adopted.

June 1978

D.R.S.B.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A full list of relevant publications might fill a volume larger than this. Here are a few noteworthy items.

Critical texts: (i) *Ad Atticum*: Oxford Classical Text ed. W. S. Watt (I–VIII, 1965) and D. R. Shackleton Bailey (IX–XVI, 1961). *Cicero's letters to Atticus* (with commentary and translation), ed. D. R. Shackleton Bailey (Cambridge Classical Texts and Commentaries, 7 vols., 1965–70). (ii) *Ad familiares*: ed. D. R. Shackleton Bailey (with commentary) in the same series (2 vols., 1977). The Oxford Text by L. C. Purser (1901) is poorly edited and of course far out of date. The editions of H. Sjögren (Teubner, 1925) and U. Moricca (Paravia, 1950) are preferable, but with many deficiencies. (iii) *Ad Quintum fratrem, Ad M. Brutum, Fragmenta*: Oxford Classical Text ed. W. S. Watt (1958).

Commentaries: See above. The commentary of Tyrrell and Purser (Dublin, 7 vols., 1904–33), containing the whole correspondence, is a work of very indifferent scholarship, now hopelessly antiquated. The earlier volumes of the unfinished Budé edition (1950) by L.-A. Constans have some good notes and introductions. On the historical side W. W. How's *Cicero, select letters* (Oxford, 1925, based on an earlier selection by A. Watson) was admirable in its day.

Translations: A translation of the entire correspondence by D. R. Shackleton Bailey (including the already published translation of the letters to Atticus) appeared in the Penguin Classics series in 1978. Of earlier English translations the least unsatisfactory is by E. S. Shuckburgh (London, 1899–1900).

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Biographies: Three more in English have appeared in the current decade: D. Stockton, *Cicero: a political biography* (Oxford, 1971); D. R. Shackleton Bailey, *Cicero* (Classical life and letters series, London, 1971; based on the correspondence); E. Rawson, *Cicero: a portrait* (London, 1975). Gaston Boissier's *Cicéron et ses amis* (1865; Engl. tr. 1897) remains unsurpassed as a charming and sympathetic presentation.

Historical background: As a general survey, T. Rice Holmes, *The Roman Republic* (3 vols., 1923), can still be recommended, along with the relevant chapters of the *Cambridge ancient history* (vol. ix, Cambridge, 1932). Mommsen's *History of Rome*, being a work of genius, can never become obsolete and the same is true of R. Syme's *Roman revolution* (Oxford, 1939). A great deal in the history of this period is actively controversial, producing an unabated flow of books and articles. Anything by E. Badian and P. A. Brunt is sure to be of high scholarly quality; much of their output is addressed to specialists. Though sometimes tendentious in argument and not free from errors of detail E. S. Gruen's massive and challenging *Last generation of the Roman Republic* (Univ. of California Press, 1972) calls for mention even in so brief a list as this. For penetrating political analysis the work of Christian Meier, especially *Res publica amissa* (Wiesbaden, 1966) and *Caesars Bürgerkrieg* (1964; reprinted in *Entstehung des Begriffs Demokratie* (Frankfurt am Main, 1970)), stands alone. Unfortunately his difficult German has not yet been translated. J. Carcopino's venomous and totally untrustworthy *Secrets de la correspondance de Cicéron* (2 vols., 1947), translated into English almost as badly as it deserved in 1951, is noticed here only by way of warning.