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Henry Nettleship

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The celebrated classical scholar and lexicographer Henry Nettleship (1839–93) published this volume in 1885 while he was Professor of Latin at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The volume is a revised collection of his published articles up to 1884 on the topic of Latin literature, along with a number of his unpublished lectures given in Oxford between 1884 and 1878. The volume includes an essay on the German philologist Moritz Haupt (1808–74); early Italian civilisation and literature; the Latin authors Cicero, Catullus, Virgil, and Horace; the Latin grammarians Nonius Marcellus, Verrius Flaccus and Aulus Gellius; and reviews of text-critical editions of Latin works such as Georg Thilo's edition of Servius Maurus Honoratus's complete works (1878–1902). This collection of essays and lectures is a valuable source for the theories and ideas of a nineteenth-century Latinist who continues to influence Latin scholarship.

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LECTURES AND ESSAYS

ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH

LATIN LITERATURE AND SCHOLARSHIP

BY

HENRY NETTLESHIP, M.A.

CORPUS PROFESSOR OF LATIN LITERATURE IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1885

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Dedicated

TO THE MEMORY OF

THE REV. MARK PATTISON,

LATE RECTOR OF LINCOLN COLLEGE.

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PREFACE.

THE papers of which this volume is composed represent for the most part, in a concentrated form, lectures or courses of lectures given in Oxford during the past six years. Several of them have been already published either independently or in the *Journal of Philology*, the *American Journal of Philology*, or the *Fortnightly Review*. Some additions, and some alterations in form, have been made since their first publication.

HENRY NETTLESHIP.

OXFORD, 1884.

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NOTE ON MR. VERRALL'S STUDIES IN HORACE.

MR. VERRALL'S *Studies in Horace*¹ have appeared just as the last sheet of this work is going through the press. It would be disrespectful to Mr. Verrall either to pass over his book in silence, or merely to record, without giving my reasons, the fact that I dissent from his general conclusions with respect to the first three books of the Odes.

I will therefore endeavour to state, as briefly as possible, the grounds on which, after a careful study of his work, I still adhere to the views expressed in my first essay on Horace.

Mr. Verrall thinks that the first three books of the Odes were written between 40 and 19 B.C. (pp. 90, 117). I think that, so far as we have any definite evidence, the natural conclusion is that they were written between 33 and 23.

Mr. Verrall supposes that the third Ode of the first book refers to the journey of Vergil to Greece in 19 B.C. The fact in itself is not susceptible either of proof or disproof; but if on other grounds it is probable that the first three books were not published later than 23 B.C., then the Ode in question must have been written earlier. I may be allowed to quote on this point what I said four years ago in the fourth edition of Conington's *Virgil* (vol. I. p. xxiv):—

‘The opening of the third Georgic (29 B.C.) would be more easily intelligible could we suppose that the book was written either in Greece or after a visit to that country. There is something to be urged in favour of that hypothesis. In the third Ode of his first book, Horace speaks of a Vergilius, whom he calls *animæ dimidium meæ*, and for whom he prays a safe journey to the coast of Attica May Horace be referring to a journey taken by Vergil about the time when the third Georgic was written?’

¹ *Studies, Literary and Historical, in the Odes of Horace*, by A. W. Verrall, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Macmillan, 1884.

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NOTE ON MR. VERRALL'S

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The theory that the first three books may be dated as late as 19 B.C. lands us, it seems to me, in great difficulties. In the first book of the Epistles Horace speaks of himself as having given up poetry, and as having no inspiration left: *non eadem est aetas, non mens*. Now the latest date assignable to any of the epistles of the first book is this very year 19 (1 Ep. 12. 26). Had Horace been finishing his Odes then, how could he with any sincerity say that he was too old to write poetry? But supposing the Odes to have been published in 23, four years before, in Horace's forty-third year, the whole matter becomes intelligible. A man may well feel older at forty-six than at forty-two.

Again, the fourth book of the Odes was published in 15 or 14 B.C.; Suetonius says, referring to the first three books, *ex longo intervallo*. This expression would be rather exaggerated if the interval was only four or five years, not so if it was eight or nine years.

Mr. Verrall makes a great point of the unsuccessful conspiracy and death of Varro Murena, which, following Dio, he places in 22 B.C., and to which he finds a considerable number of allusions in the first three books of the Odes. I think it more probable that the conspiracy took place in 23 than in 22. Velleius (2. 93) says that it occurred about the same time as the death of Marcellus (23, autumn); and in c. 91 he says that it was immediately connected with the pacification of the East and the restoration of the standards of Crassus. He must mean, not the actual restoration (20 B.C.) but the promised restoration dated 23 B.C. by Dio (53. 32). I know how unsatisfactory Velleius is in matters of chronology; still we must remember that the *Fasti Consulares* mention an Aulus Terentius Varro Murena as consul for a short time in 23 B.C.¹

And here we come across another difficulty. Dio calls the conspirator Licinius Murena; but a better authority, Suetonius (Aug. 19, Tib. 8) calls him Varro Murena, and Tacitus (Ann. 1. 10) speaks of him as a Varro. By Velleius he is called L. Murena (is L. a mistake for A.?). His sister, we know, was a Terentia. It seems to me therefore most probable that he was a real, not (as Mr. Verrall thinks) an adopted Terentius Varro, and that Murena was a *cognomen* which he chose to adopt, just as other Terentii Var-

¹ Mommsen positively identifies this man with the conspirator, and consequently supplies the imperfect inscription with the words *mortuus est in magistratu*. Mr. Verrall very strangely uses these conjecturally inserted words as an argument that Varro Murena died *before* the conspiracy.

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rones had called themselves Lucullus¹ and Gibba. The cognomen Murena was not confined to the Licinii. It is found in the *gens Valeria*; Corpus Inscr. Lat. 2. 3563 *M. Valerius Silanianus Severus Murenæ filius*.

The *Licinius* of Dio I think, then, is a mistake. But does not Horace call Murena Licinius in 2 Od. 10, *Rectius viues Licini*? Not at all, I think. The Licinius there mentioned is by the best of the old scholiasts, Porphyrio, called Licinius Valgius (Valgus?); the Cruquian scholia name him Licinius Crassus, and the inscription *Ad Licinium Murenæ* is only found in the inferior manuscripts.

I fail, then, to find any direct allusion to Varro Murena's conspiracy in the first three books of the Odes. The Murena of 1 S. 5, 38 (*Murena præbente domum*) and of 3 Od. 19, 10 (*auguris Murenæ*) may have been the conspirator; but of his conspiracy and his fall nothing is said, nor can I see any necessity for reading any indirect allusions to those events into any of the poems of the first three books.

The chronological *terminus a quo* of these Odes depends mainly on the year assigned to the second Ode of the first book. I still think that 33 or 32 B.C. is a more natural date than any other (see p. 154).

¹ Probably the cousin of Lucius Lucullus, as Eutropius says (6. 7). The other authorities call him *frater*; but this is not inconsistent with the *consobrinus* of Eutropius.