

Cicero: Select Letters - Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics



Cicero: Select Letters (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics) by Marcus Tullius Cicero

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 248 pages



Unveiling the Treasures of Cicero's Epistolary Art

Marcus Tullius Cicero, the renowned Roman orator, statesman, and philosopher, left behind an invaluable legacy of epistolary works. His letters, spanning decades of his life and addressing a wide range of recipients, offer an unparalleled glimpse into the personal, political, and intellectual landscape of the late Roman Republic.

The Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics series, renowned for its scholarly excellence and meticulous editorial standards, presents a comprehensive collection of Cicero's Select Letters. This volume provides a rich selection of Cicero's correspondence, carefully chosen to showcase the breadth and depth of his epistolary skills.

Cicero's Epistolary Style and Techniques

Cicero's letters are not merely historical documents; they are works of literary artistry. Cicero employed a sophisticated and nuanced style that

combined rhetorical flourishes with conversational ease. His letters are characterized by their:

- **Elegance of expression:** Cicero's command of Latin is evident in his use of sophisticated vocabulary, rhythmic prose, and carefully crafted sentences.
- **Wit and humor:** Cicero's letters are often infused with a subtle wit and humor that reveals his keen eye for the ironies and absurdities of life.
- **Personal touch:** Despite being written to different recipients, Cicero's letters share a personal and intimate quality that allows readers to connect with the author on a human level.

Historical Significance of Cicero's Letters

Beyond their literary merits, Cicero's letters hold immense historical significance. They provide a unique perspective on:

- **Political events:** Cicero's letters document the tumultuous political landscape of the late Roman Republic, including the rise of Julius Caesar and the fall of the Republic.
- **Social customs:** Cicero's letters offer insights into the social norms, values, and everyday life of Roman society.
- **Philosophical ideas:** Cicero's letters reveal his deep engagement with Stoicism and other philosophical schools of thought.

Influence on Western Intellectual Tradition

Cicero's Select Letters have had a profound influence on Western intellectual tradition. They:

- **Shaped the development of Latin:** Cicero's epistolary style became a model for subsequent Latin writers, helping to refine and standardize the language.
- **Influenced political thought:** Cicero's letters on politics and government provided inspiration to later thinkers, including Niccolò Machiavelli and Thomas Jefferson.
- **Inspired moral philosophy:** Cicero's letters on friendship, duty, and virtue have been widely studied and admired for their ethical insights.

The Cambridge Edition: A Scholarly Resource

The Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics edition of Cicero's Select Letters is an invaluable resource for students, scholars, and anyone interested in Roman history, literature, and thought. The volume features:

- **Accurately edited text:** The text is based on the latest scholarship and incorporates critical apparatus to support textual analysis.
- **Detailed :** The provides a comprehensive overview of Cicero's life, career, and epistolary style.
- **Extensive commentary:** The commentary offers detailed explanations of historical, literary, and philosophical references, as well as insights into Cicero's rhetorical strategies.
- **Appendices:** The appendices include a chronology of Cicero's life and a glossary of terms.

Cicero's Select Letters, as presented in the Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics series, are an indispensable resource for studying Cicero's life,

works, and thought. This comprehensive collection showcases the brilliance of Cicero's epistolary style, providing a window into the complexities of Roman society and the enduring legacy of Cicero's intellectual contributions. Whether you are a student, scholar, or simply fascinated by the power of words, the Select Letters of Cicero will captivate and inspire you with their timeless wisdom and eloquence.



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