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SIDONIUS
LETTERS



Translated by
W. B. ANDERSON

SIDONIUS

LETTERS III-IX

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WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
W. B. ANDERSON
藏书章



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SIDONIUS

II

LCL 420

INTRODUCTION

MANY people will be surprised to see that this second volume of the works of Sidonius, now first appearing in the Loeb series twenty-nine years after the publication of the first in 1936 has, like the first, the authorship of Professor W. B. Anderson, who died in 1959. During the latter part of his life he was working steadily on this his final task—the translation of Books III to IX of Sidonius' letters. He let us have long ago Book III of these complete, except notes on the subject-matter and on the Latin text, which I added after his death. Books IV to IX still remained in doubt. As the final years came upon him he grew more and more self-distrustful and more and more loath, so it seemed, to produce a complete volume which might be inferior. At last he told me that the translation was nearly finished, but that much was yet to be done. The last time I saw him in his rooms at St. John's College, Cambridge, I nearly had some of his material for books IV–IX in my hands; but he felt he could not give it to me; and, as I found later, he was justified in his gentle refusal.

After Anderson's death I secured, through the kindness of the authorities at St. John's College and of Dr. A. McDonald of Clare College, all the manuscript of Anderson's work on this second volume of Sidonius. On receiving the manuscript (some parts

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of which had been revised by Anderson, but of which the greater part was in pencil, full of tentative corrections and alternative phrases, roughly written—sometimes scribbled—as a first draft with marginal queries and reminders), I handed it over to Professor W. H. Semple, who himself had worked on Sidonius and whose help in the preparation of Volume I Anderson had generously acknowledged in his Preface to that volume. Professor Semple, by the permission of the University of Manchester, had the secretarial assistance of Miss Joan Sutcliffe, who, having been Anderson's secretary in his Manchester days, had the skill to decipher his handwriting and was able to make a typed copy of his work with all its corrections, alternatives, and notes. This copy Professor Semple redacted to a firm translation, testing every line against the Latin, critically selecting the most suitable from among Anderson's variant renderings, and here and there (with the permission of the Editors) shaping the tentative English phrasing into a more formal style such as Anderson, we believe, would have finally approved; and sometimes, but rarely (as is indicated in our footnotes) it was necessary to recast a passage, or to provide a translation for a passage entirely omitted. But it should be affirmed that in the main the work is Anderson's own—a second example of his magisterial scholarship in this field. The completed draft of the translation Professor Semple handed over to us for the addition of such *apparatus criticus* and such historical and explanatory notes as would make this a true companion volume to the first. The Editors would therefore wish to acknowledge the generous help which, both

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in the redaction of the translation and in the scrutiny of the proofs, Anderson's old Department of Latin in the University of Manchester and, above all, Professor Semple himself, have given *pietatis causa*. The translation, after the time when I received it from Professor Semple, and with his approval, was in some places further changed by me and in a few by my colleague Professor L. A. Post.

There remained the tasks of adding to the translation footnotes (for Anderson had provided very few) and of preparing a Latin text with critical notes. A large number of English footnotes has now been added, and also a Latin text which is based on that of Luetjohann and that of Mohr but has no claim to be better than either's. For the text here presented and for the critical notes on this text I am wholly responsible; on pages 609 ff. will be found some Additional Notes on the text which should not be overlooked by critics and other scholars because it may be that a few suggestions made in them deserve a more prominent place in the book, while others might be justly refuted. Of the English footnotes and parts of footnotes, those to which *A.* is appended are by Anderson; those to which *W.H.S.* are appended are by Semple; all others, whether signed *E.H.W.* or unsigned, are by me. I acknowledge with thanks a number of improvements in fact and substance by my son B. H. Warmington, Reader in Ancient History in the University of Bristol, and several corrections by H. Huxley, Reader in Latin in the University of Manchester. In these footnotes I have included some of Anderson's musings; they contain a number of his last thoughts and comments, and

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give hints of the difficulties which beset any interpreter of Sidonius' strange style.

To the details of the life and times of Sidonius, and of the Sidonian tradition and scholarship, as outlined already by Anderson in the first volume, should now be added especially the following:

Loyen, A. *Sidoine Apollinaire*. Tome I. Poèmes. Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 1960 (Budé).

Loyen, A. *Recherches historiques sur les Panégyriques de Sidoine Apollinaire*. Paris, 1942.

Loyen, A. *Sidoine Apollinaire et l'esprit précieux en Gaule aux derniers jours de l'empire*. Paris, 1943.

Haarhoff, T. J. *Schools of Gaul*. Johannesburg, 1958.

Rutherford, H. *Sidonius Apollinaris. L'homme politique, l'écrivain, l'évêque . . .* Thèse Clermont-Ferrand, 1938.

Chadwick, Nora. *Poetry and Letters in Early Christian Gaul*. Bowes and Bowes, 1955.

Jones, A. H. M. *The Later Roman Empire*. Three volumes. Oxford, 1964.

Stroheker, K. F. *Der senatorische Adel im spätantiken Gallien*. Tübingen, 1948.

A detailed survey of the transmission of Sidonius' published work so far as it can be deduced from the extant MSS. was not given in our Volume I; nor can it be provided here. But to the short account given by Anderson in his introduction to that Volume I add the following. It has long been agreed among scholars that, of the many MSS. of all or part of

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Sidonius' work, less than fifty are of any serious importance; and that we need hardly go outside the codices *LMTCFP* (see Volume I of Sidonius in the Loeb series, pp. lxviii–lxix) to establish a "Sidonian" text. But I have fulfilled Anderson's intention to continue taking account of the readings in the Codex Remensis known as *R* (which may once have contained all Sidonius' works but is now available for the Epistulae only and was not used by Luetjohann or by Mohr) in the light of Malcolm Burke's useful study of it and of the other chief MSS. (*De Apollinaris Sidonii Codice Nondum Tractato*, Munich, 1911).¹ I have also noted readings in codd. *N* and *V*. Burke's tentative "stemma codicum" of the Epistulae (see his p. 17) may be accepted (instead of Leo's on p. XLI of Luetjohann's edition of Sidonius in *Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Auct. Antiquiss. Tom. VIII*)²; according to it, cod. *L* and cod. *N* are connected with each other in near ancestry; so it seems are *R* and *V*; so are *MTCFP*. Apparently the source of all extant MSS. recording the Epistulae was a lost MS. whose defects were partly remedied from another lost MS. by ancestors of codd. such as *MTCFP*. For the Carmina we have to rely on five MSS. only—*MTCFP*.

¹ Users of Burke's dissertation should beware of some serious misprints in it, particularly on its p. 6, where III. 39 should be III. 8. 3 fin., and at the top of p. 11, where, in lines four and five, IV should be IX.

² Anderson, on p. lxvii of the first volume of the Loeb Sidonius, refers to the "stemma" of Burke and the first "stemma" of Leo, but by a lapse of memory treats these two "stemmata" as if they applied to the Carmina as well as to the Epistulae.

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Leo (*op. cit.*, p. XLIII) gives for the Carmina a separate "stemma codicum" which we may accept. According to it, all these manuscripts come ultimately from a lost archetype; but *M* is derived from a lost intermediary (which contained the Epistulae also) better than the lost intermediaries from which *TCFP* are derived. Our material for Sidonius' published work as a whole can reasonably be traced back to two main sources: (i) a damaged MS. containing the Epistulae only; and (ii) a MS. containing the Carmina and also probably the Epistles; but the whole, it is agreed, comes ultimately from one lost archetype only. Of "Sidonian" MSS. in Great Britain some are of no importance; and even such as contain all Sidonius' work—Codex Regius 4. B. IV in the British Museum and the very closely related Codex Bodleianus Rawl. G. 45 at Oxford¹—do not repay scrutiny. But one of the British MSS. is in a wholly different class of value. Therefore I have examined cod. *L*—the Codex Laudianus lat. 104 in the Bodleian Library—with special reference to some doubtful places in the text. It does not contain the Carmina, but for Sidonius' Epistulae it is reasonably claimed to be the best MS.; yet, though neatly written, it betrays a "common" Latin speaker rather than a "cultured" or learned one. The writing in what survives of Book IX of the Epistulae is a little different from that in the earlier books, but the same man, it seems to me, wrote the whole codex. I feel that he was approaching old age, and

¹ Codex Bodleianus Digby B.N.6, now called MS Digby 61, also once had all Sidonius' works, but is mutilated.

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that some sclerosis or hardening of the lenses of his eyes made him keep them close to his "copy" and to his own handwriting, so as to get clear images; but that now and again he held his head higher for a few moments and thus caused some blurring of his vision and so caused also some of the wrong writing which he did not notice and revise. It may be also that his speed, though usually level, was fairly fast. The final part of the MS. does not exist, and the surviving part ends with the word *levis* (in *Ep.* IX. 7. 3)¹ in the course of a sentence, at the end of the bottom line of leaf now numbered 102. The last leaf, however, of the codex as we have it is leaf now numbered 103, containing *Ep.* VIII. 12. 5 *bicoloribus*—VIII. 13. 4 *aperuerit*. This misplaced leaf 103 should come between leaves now numbered and placed 96 and 97.

Of the nine codices *LNRVMTCFP*, only *TCFP* have all the Carmina; *M* has only the first eight; *LNRV* lack all of them. In the Epistulae the following are the most important omissions and gaps.² I. 1 and 2: absent from *V*. 1. 7. 5 *hanc*—I. 7. 7 *curandam*: absent from *R*. III. 3. 7 and 8: absent from

¹ I very much doubt whether it is right to believe (with *e.g.* Leo *op. cit.*, p. XXXIII) that this abrupt ending of *L* indicates the abrupt ending of the MS. from which the writer of *L* made his copy. His writing indicates clearly that he continued on another leaf. His source may well have been damaged at its own end; but surely one or more leaves are now missing from the end of *L* itself.

² On omissions that appear to be intentional see especially Mommsen in Luetjohann's edition of Sidonius (*Monumenta* etc. as cited above) page XXV; on causes of some other omissions see Burke *op. cit.* pp. 19 ff.

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LNVRT. III. 5 and 6 and 7: absent from *T*. IV. 24. 2 *verum et*—IV. 25. 1 *cupientem*: absent from *R*. VI. 5 and 6 and 7: absent from *N*. VI. 12. 2 *terseris*—end of letter: absent from *LNVRT* (from *R* from *verecundia quam* onwards). VII. 1 and 2 and 3 and 4: absent from *LNVRT*. VII. 5. 1–2 as far as (*sacro*)*sanctam*: absent from *LNVRT*. VII. 6 and 7: absent from *LNVRTP*. VII. 9. 9 *everberat*—VII. 9. 18 (*consilio*)*sio*: absent from *R*. VII. 18. 4 *hic licebat*—end of letter: absent from *LNVT*. VIII. 2: absent from *LNVRT*. VIII. 4. 2 *Narbonensibus* onwards and all succeeding letters (*i.e.* to IX. 16): absent from *R*. VIII. 12. 8 *confligant* onwards and all succeeding letters: absent from *V*. VIII. 14 except the end: absent from *N*. IX. 1: absent from *LNT*. IX. 4 and 5 and part of 6: absent from *N*. IX. 7 and all succeeding letters: absent from *NT*. IX. 7. 3 *ac modis* onwards and all succeeding letters: absent from *L*.

Further study of the manuscripts and of the language of Sidonius may well lead to improvements in the Latin text of Sidonius' work where it is now admittedly corrupt or is later found to be so. But the common urge to emend should normally confine itself to suggestions; and some people will feel that some of the emendations of modern scholars which I have admitted into the present text ought to have remained among the suggestions and that a conservative critic is the wisest unless he is very expert indeed. Be that as it may, it is right to say that Sidonius is in need of explanation rather than emendation. It is our hope that this volume, which is a memorial of W. B. Anderson, has made a con-

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tribution to both needs. This Introduction was finished and signed on the fifth anniversary of Anderson's death.

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9th December 1964

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LETTERS OF GAIUS SOLLIUS
APOLLINARIS SIDONIUS

BOOKS III-IX

GAI SOLLII APOLLINARIS SIDONII EPISTVLARVM

LIBER TERTIVS

I

SIDONIVS AVITO SVO SALVTEM

1. Multis quidem vinculis caritatis ab ineunte pueritia quicquid venimus in iuventutem gratiae sese mutuae cura nexuerat, primum quia matribus nostris summa sanguinis iuncti necessitudo, dein quod ipsi isdem temporibus nati magistris usi, artibus instituti lusibus otianti, principibus evecti stipendiis perfuncti sumus; et, quod est ad amicitias ampliandas his validius efficaciusque, in singulis quibusque personis vel expetendis aequaliter vel cavendis iudicii parilitate certavimus. 2. propter

* Published, it seems, separately. The first letter of it was written about A.D. 471 after Sidonius was made bishop (see p. 4, n. 2). Other letters in it fall within the years 461–474. The book contains allusions to the sieges of Clermont during 471–474 by the Visigoths, to whom all Auvergne was ceded in 475. In 475 and 476 Sidonius was in exile and confinement; in 476 he went to Bordeaux, returning to Clermont during the same year (see pp. 441 ff.). Not before 477 could he have had

LETTERS OF GAIUS SOLLIUS APOLLINARIS SIDONIUS

BOOK III *

I

SIDONIUS TO HIS DEAR AVITUS, GREETING

1. Right from our earliest boyhood to our present stage of manhood our earnest desire for mutual regard had bound itself with many chains of affection: first, because our mothers were united by the closest tie of kindred blood; then because we were born in the same times, studied under the same teachers, were trained in the same accomplishments, amused ourselves with the same sports, received advancement under the same emperors and passed through the same state service; added to all this was a force which is even more powerful and effective in strengthening friendships—I mean that in seeking no less than in avoiding intimacy with such and such individuals our judgments always coincided. 2. For

inducement or opportunity to publish the book. Cf. C. Stevens, *Sidonius Apollinaris*, 145 ff.; 170; 197 ff. Avitus of the first letter was a kinsman it seems of the Emperor Eparchius Avitus and of Sidonius, that emperor's son-in-law. In *Carm.* XXIV. 75–79 Sidonius refers to the recipient of this letter as “our Avitus,” and as “friend.”