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CICERO
LETTERS TO ATTICUS
VOLUME IV



Edited and Translated by
D. R. SHACKLETON BAILEY

CICERO

LETTERS TO ATTICUS

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藏书章

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**CICERO'S
LETTERS TO ATTICUS**

CICERO

282 (XII.42)

Scr. Asturae VI Id. Mai. an. 45

<CICERO ATTICO SAL.>

- 1 Nullum a te desideravi diem litterarum; videbam enim quae scribis, et tamen suspicabar vel potius intellegebam nihil fuisse quod scriberes; a. d. VI<II>¹ Id. vero et abesse te putabam et plane videbam nihil te habere. ego tamen ad te fere cottidie mittam; malo enim frustra² quam te non habere cui des, si quid forte sit quod putes me scire oportere. itaque accepi VI Id. litteras tuas inanis. quid enim habebas quod scriberes? mi tamen illud quicquid erat non molestum fuit, <ut>³ nihil aliud, scire me novi te nihil habere.

Scripti<sti>⁴ tamen nescio quid de Clodia. ubi ergo ea est aut quando ventura? placet mihi res sic ut secundum

- 2 Othonem nihil magis. sed neque hanc vendituram puto (delectatur enim et copiosa est) et illud alterum quam sit difficile te non fugit. sed, obsecro, enitamur ut aliquid ad id quod cupio excogitemus.

- 3 Ego me hinc postridie <Idus> exiturum puto sed aut in Tusculanum aut domum, inde fortasse Arpinum. cum certum sciero, scribam ad te.

¹ *add. SB*

² *frustra dare coni. SB*

³ *add. Mueller (si Madvig : ut, si n- a-, scirem novi coni. SB)*

⁴ *add. Manutius (scripsi coni. SB)*

LETTER 282 (XII.42)

282 (XII.42)

Astura, 10 May 45

CICERO TO ATTICUS

I didn't expect you to have any 'letter day.' I saw the points you make in your letter, and in any case I suspected, or rather I realized, that there was nothing for you to write about. As for the 8th, I imagined you were away and saw plainly that you had nothing to say. But I shall send to you pretty well every day; I'd rather do so for nothing than that you should not have a bearer if there should by any chance be something you think I ought to know. So I have received a letter from you (on the 10th) which had nothing in it for the good reason that you had nothing to communicate. Still I was not sorry to get what there was—I mean, to know, if nothing else, that you have no news.

You do however say something about Clodia. Where is she then, or when is she coming back? This idea appeals to me so strongly that next to Otho there is nothing I should prefer. But I don't think she will sell (she likes the place and has plenty of money); and you don't need me to tell you the difficulties in the other plan. But I beg you, let us rack our brains to find a way to my goal.

I think I shall leave here on the 16th, but I may go either to Tusculum or to my house in town; from there perhaps to Arpinum. When I know definitely I shall send you word.

CICERO

283 (XII.41)

Scr. Asturae v Id. Mai. an. 45

<CICERO ATTICO SAL.>

- 1 Nihil erat quod scriberem. scire tamen volebam ubi esses; si abes aut <a>futurus es, quando rediturus esses. facies igitur certiore. et quod tu scire volebas ego quando ex hoc loco, postridie Idus Lanuvi constitui manere, inde postridie in Tusculano aut Romae. utrum sim facturus eo ipso die scies.
- 2 Scis quam sit φιλαίτιον συμφορά, minime in te quidem, sed tamen avide sum adfectus de fano, quod nisi non dico effectum erit sed fieri videro (audebo hoc dicere et tu ut soles accipies), incursabit in te dolor meus, non iure ille quidem sed tamen feres hoc ipsum quod scribo ut omnia mea fers ac tulisti. omnis tuas consolationes unam hanc in
- 3 rem velim conferas. si quaeris quid optem, primum Scapulae, deinde Clodiae, postea, si Silius nolet, Drusus aget iniuste, Cusini et Treboni. puto tertium esse dominum, Rebilum fuisse certe scio. sin autem tibi Tusculanum placet, ut significasti quibusdam litteris, tibi adsentiar. hoc quidem utique perficies si me levare vis, quem iam etiam gravius accusas quam patitur tua consuetudo, sed facis summo amore et victus fortasse vitio meo—sed tamen si me levare vis, haec est summa levatio vel, si verum scire vis, una.
- 4 Hirti epistulam si legeris, quae mihi quasi πρόπλασμα

¹ The pamphlet (*liber*) of Letter 281.1. It was presumably addressed to Cicero.

LETTER 283 (XII.41)

283 (XII.41)

Astura, 11 May 45

CICERO TO ATTICUS

I have nothing to say, but I wanted to know where you are and, if you are away or going to be away, when you will be back. So please send me word. And in answer to your question as to when I shall be leaving this place, I have decided to spend the night of the 16th at Lanuvium and the following at Tusculum or in Rome. You shall hear on the day which I am going to do.

You know how quick misery is to find fault, not indeed where you are concerned by any means, but still I am hungry for the shrine. If I don't—I won't say get it, but see myself in process of getting it, my grief (yes, I'll say it, and you will take it in your usual way) will turn upon you, unjustly to be sure; but you will be patient with these words that I write, as you are and ever have been patient with all I say and do. I should like you to direct all your efforts to console me on this single point. If you ask my choice: first Scapula's, then Clodia's, after that (if Silius won't sell and Drusus is exorbitant) Cusinius and Trebonius'. I think there is a third owner—I know Rebilus used to be at any rate. If however you favour Tusculum, as you seemed to in one of your letters, I shall assent to your opinion. You really must put this through if you want to see me comforted. You now actually upbraid me in sterner language than it is like you to use; but you do it out of the warmth of your affection and perhaps driven to it by my fault—but as I say, if you want to see me comforted, this is the best comfort, or, if you want the truth, the one and only.

As soon as you have read Hirtius' letter,¹ which looks to

CICERO

videtur eius vituperationis quam Caesar scripsit de Catone, facies me quid tibi visum sit, si tibi erit commodum, certiore.

Redeo ad fanum. nisi hac aestate absolutum erit, quam vides integram restare, scelere me liberatum non putabo.

284 (XII.43)

Scr. Asturae IV Id. Mai. an. 45

<CICERO ATTICO SAL.>

1 Venerat mihi in mentem monere te ut id ipsum quod facis
(42. 3) faceres. putabam enim commodius te idem istuc domi agere posse interpellatione sublata.

2 Ego postridie Idus, ut scripsi ad te ante, Lanuvi manere
(1) constitui, inde aut Romae aut in Tusculano; scies ante utrum[que].¹

Quod scribis² scire te³ mihi illam rem fore levamento, bene facis; quin⁴ id esse mihi crede perinde ut existimare tu non potes. res indicat quanto opere id cupiam, cum tibi audeam confiteri quem id non ita valde probare arbitrer. sed ferendus tibi in hoc meus error. ferendus? immo vero

3 etiam adiuvandus. de Othone diffido, fortasse quia cupio.
(2) sed tamen maior etiam res est quam facultates nostrae, praesertim adversario et cupido et locuplete et herede. proximum est ut velim Clodiae. sed si ista minus confici possunt, effice quidvis. ego me maiore religione quam

¹ *del. Schiche* ² *scies vel sues (Manutius)*

³ *recte (SB)*

⁴ *quom vel cum (Lattmann : tu modo coni. SB)*

¹ Otho.

LETTER 284 (XII.43)

me like a sort of rough-cast for the abuse of Cato which Caesar has written, you will let me know your view, if it is not too much trouble.

I come back to the shrine. Unless it is finished this summer—we have it all before us—I shall stand guilty before my conscience.

284 (XII.43)

Astura, 12 May 45

CICERO TO ATTICUS

It had occurred to me to suggest that you should do just what you are doing, having in mind that you could transact the same business more comfortably at home, without interruptions.

As I have already told you, I have decided to stay at Lanuvium on the 16th, and from there either in Rome or at Tusculum. You shall know beforehand which.

It is good of you to say that you know this project of mine will be a comfort to me. Yes, believe me this is so, more than you can imagine. The very fact that I dare to confess as much to you, suspecting as I do that you don't very warmly approve of the plan, shows how my heart is set on it. But in this matter you must bear with my waywardness, or I should rather say, assist it. I have not much hope about Otho, perhaps because I want it so badly. But there is also the fact that the thing is too big for my resources, especially with a rich and eager opponent¹ who is heir to the estate. Next in my order of preference comes Clodia's place. But if these are too difficult, then get *anything*. I consider myself as bound by the most sacred of

CICERO

quisquam fuit ullius voti obstrictum puto. videbis etiam Trebonianos, etsi absunt domini. sed, ut ad te heri scripsi, considerabis etiam de Tusculano, ne aestas effluat; quod certe non est committendum.

285 (XII.44)

Scr. Asturae III Id. Mai. an. 45

<CICERO ATTICO SAL.>

- 1 Et Hirtium aliquid ad te συμπανθῶς de me scripsisse facile patior (fecit enim humane) et te eius epistulam ad me non misisse multo facilius; tu enim etiam humanius. illius librum quem ad me misit de Catone propterea volo divulgari a tuis ut ex istorum vituperatione sit illius maior laudatio.
- 2 Quod per Mustelam agis, habes hominem valde idoneum meique sane studiosum iam inde a Pontiano. perfice igitur aliquid. quid autem aliud nisi ut aditus sit emptori? quod per quemvis heredem potest effici. sed Mustelam id perfecturum, si rogaris, puto. mihi vero et locum quem opto ad id quod volumus dederis et praeterea ἐγγήραμα. nam illa Sili et Drusi non satis οἰκοδεσποτικὰ mihi videntur. quid enim? sedere totos dies in villa? ista igitur malim, primum Othonis, deinde Clodiae. si nihil fiet, aut Druso ludus est suggerendus aut utendum Tusculano.
- 3 Quod domi te inclusisti ratione fecisti; sed, quaeso, confice et te vacuum redde nobis. ego hinc, ut scripsi an-

¹ Mustela, Crispus (see Letter 307), Vergilius (see Letter 286.1), and Otho were joint heirs to the Scapula estate. Nothing is known of the Pontianus (or Pontius) business.

LETTER 285 (XII.44)

vows. You will look into Trebonius' place too, though the owners are away. But as I wrote to you yesterday, think about Tusculum also, so as not to let the summer slip by. That we really must not allow to happen.

285 (XII.44)

Astura, 13 May 45

CICERO TO ATTICUS

It is nice that Hirtius has written sympathetically to you *à mon égard* (it was kind of him), and much nicer that you did not send me his letter—that was even kinder of *you*. The reason I want the pamphlet he sent me about Cato disseminated by your staff is to let these people's abuse win *him* greater eulogy.

You say you are working through Mustela. You will find him a highly suitable person and very well disposed to me ever since the Pontianus business.¹ So do put something through. 'Something' can only mean making an opening for a buyer, and that can be managed through any one of the heirs. But I think Mustela will put it through if you ask him. You will be giving me an ideal site for my purpose and a '*retreat pour ma vieillesse*' into the bargain. Those places of Silius and Drusus don't seem to be quite the thing for a paterfamilias. One does not want to spend all day long stuck in a villa. So I should prefer these others, first Otho's, then Clodia's. If nothing emerges, then we must either give Drusus a game or make do with Tusculum.

You were well advised to shut yourself up in your house. But do pray get your business over and put yourself at my disposal again with your hands free. As for me, as I wrote

CICERO

tea, postridie Idus Lanuvi,¹ deinde postridie in Tusculano. contudi enim animum et fortasse vici, si modo perman- sero. scies igitur fortasse cras, summum perendie.

Sed quid est, quaeso? Philotimus nec Carteia² Pom- peium teneri (qua de re litterarum ad Clodium Patavinum missarum exemplum mihi Oppius et Balbus miserant, se id factum arbitrari) bellumque narrat reliquum satis mag- num. solet omnino esse Favoniaster.³ sed tamen, si quid habes. volo etiam de naufragio Can<in>iano⁴ scire quid sit.

4 Ego hic duo magna συντάγματα absolvi; nullo enim
(45. 1) alio modo a miseria quasi aberrare possum. tu mihi, etiam si nihil erit quod scribas, quod fore ita video, tamen id ipsum scribas velim te nihil habuisse quod scriberes, dum modo ne his verbis.

286 (XIII.26)

Scr. Asturae prid. Id. Mai. an. 45

<CICERO ATTICO SAL.>

- 1 De Vergili parte, valde probo. sic ages igitur. et quidem id erit primum, proximum Clodiae. quod si neutrum, metuo ne turbem et irruam in Drusum. intemperans sum in eius

¹ iami vel ian (*Corradus*) ² cartini (-tivi) (*Corradus*)

³ fulvin- vel sim. (*SB*) ⁴ ganiano (*Manutius*)

² Scene of Tullia's death.

³ Favonius ('Cato's Sancho') being still alive, this expression has a similar implication to 'mock-Cato' in Letter 14.6. To Cicero's continuing annoyance Philotimus posed as a die-hard Republican.

⁴ The two Books of the original *Academica* (*Academic Questions*), on the basis of knowledge.

LETTER 286 (XIII.26)

earlier, from here I shall stay at Lanuvium on the 16th, and then the next night at Tusculum.² I have bludgeoned my feelings and perhaps conquered them, if only I stick to my resolution. So you shall know tomorrow, or at latest the day after.

But what is this pray? Philotimus says that Pompey is *not* shut up in Carteia (concerning which Oppius and Balbus had sent me a copy of a letter to Clodius Patavinus, adding that they thought it was so) and reports that a pretty considerable war has still to be fought. To be sure he is apt to be a Favonius *manqué*.³ Still, send me any news you have. I also want to know the truth about Caninius' shipwreck.

Here I have finished two large Sections.⁴ It is the only way I have of diverting myself after a fashion from my unhappiness. Even if you have nothing to say, which is evidently likely to be the case, I hope you will write just that, that you had nothing to say—only not in so many words.

286 (XIII.26)

Astura, 14 May 45

CICERO TO ATTICUS

About Vergilius' share,¹ I quite approve. So you will proceed accordingly. That then shall be first choice, Clodia's second. If neither materializes, I fear I shall run amok and plunge into Drusus. My desire for you know what is quite

¹ Vergilius will have been C. Vergilius Balbus, a former friend of Cicero's who fought against Caesar in Africa. His property was probably confiscated to the state.

CICERO

rei cupiditate quam nosti. itaque revolvor identidem in Tusculanum. quidvis enim potius quam ut non hac aestate absolvatur.

- 2 Ego, ut tempus est nostrum, locum habeo nullum ubi facilius esse possim quam Asturae. sed quia qui mecum sunt, credo quod maestitiam meam non ferunt, domum properant, etsi poteram remanere, tamen, ut scripsi tibi, proficiscar hinc, ne relictus videar. quo autem? Lanuvio conor equidem in Tusculanum. sed faciam te statim certiore. tu litteras conficies. equidem credibile non est quantum scribam, quin etiam noctibus; nihil enim somni. heri etiam effeci epistulam ad Caesarem; tibi enim placebat. quam non fuit malum scribi, si forte opus esse putares; ut quidem nunc est, nihil sane est necesse mittere. sed id quidem ut tibi videbitur. mittam tamen ad te exemplum fortasse Lanuvio, nisi forte Romam. sed cras scies.

287 (XII.46)

Scr. Asturae Id. Mai. an. 45

<CICERO ATTICO SAL.>

- 1 Vincam, opinor, animum et Lanuvio pergam in Tusculanum. aut enim mihi in perpetuum fundo illo carendum est (nam dolor idem manebit, tantum modo oc<cul>tius)¹ aut nescio quid intersit utrum illuc nunc veniam an ad

¹ *add. F. Schmidt*

LETTER 287 (XII.46)

ungovernable. So ever and anon I come back to Tusculum. Anything rather than no conclusion this summer.

As things stand with me I could be as comfortable at Astura as anywhere else I have to stay. But my companions are in a hurry to get home, finding my mourning irksome I suppose, so although I could well stay on I shall leave here as I wrote to you for fear of appearing forsaken. But where to? My *endeavour* is to go from Lanuvium to my house at Tusculum. But I shall inform you straight away. Please do the letter.² You would not believe how much I am writing, even at night, since I get no sleep. Yesterday I even drafted a letter to Caesar, since you thought it a good thing to do. There was no harm in writing it, in case you might think it useful; but as matters stand at present there is certainly no necessity to send it. However that shall be as you think proper. Anyway I shall send you a copy, perhaps from Lanuvium, unless by any chance I go to Rome. But you will know tomorrow.

287 (XII.46)

Astura, 15 May 45

CICERO TO ATTICUS

I think I shall conquer my feelings and go from Lanuvium to Tusculum. Either I must keep away from my place there for ever and a day (for my grief will remain unchanged, only less on the surface) or I don't know what difference it makes whether I go there now or in ten years' time. And

² Perhaps the letter (or letters) had to do with the property negotiations.