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CICERO
LETTERS TO HIS FRIENDS
BOOKS XIII–XVI



Translated by
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CICERO

LETTERS TO FRIENDS

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**CICERO'S
LETTERS TO FRIENDS**

Scr. Romae an. 46

CICERO BRUTO S.

- 1 L. Titio¹ Strabone, equite Romano in primis honesto et ornato, familiarissime utor. omnia mihi cum eo intercedunt iura summae necessitudinis. huic in tua provincia pecuniam debet P. Cornelius. ea res a Volcacio, qui Romae ius dicit, reiecta in Galliam est.
- 2 Peto a te, hoc diligentius quam si mea res esset quo est honestius de amicorum pecunia laborare quam de sua, ut negotium conficiendum cures, ipse suscipias transigas, operamque des, quoad tibi aequum et rectum videbitur, ut quam commodissima condicione libertus Strabonis, qui eius rei causa missus est, negotium conficiat ad nummosque perveniat. id et mihi gratissimum erit et tu ipse L. Titium cognosces amicitia tua dignissimum. quod ut tibi curae sit, ut omnia solent esse quae me velle scis, te vehementer etiam atque etiam rogo.

¹ Tidio et Tidium *infra conl.* SB

281 (XIII.14)

CICERO TO M. BRUTUS

Rome, 46

From Cicero to Brutus greetings.

L. Titius¹ Strabo, one of our most respected and distinguished Roman Knights, is on intimate terms with me, and we can claim from one another all that belongs to the closest of connections. He is owed money in your province by P. Cornelius. Volcacijs, as City Praetor, has remitted the matter for adjudication in Gaul.

May I request you particularly (more so than if the case were mine, in so far as one is more respectably concerned about a friend's money than about one's own) to see that the affair is settled? Take it up personally and put it through. Try to arrange, so far as seems to you right and fair, that Strabo's freedman, who has been dispatched for the purpose, settles the business on the most favourable terms and collects the cash. I shall be deeply beholden, and you yourself will find L. Titius well worthy of your friendship. Let me once more earnestly beg of you to attend to this, as you habitually do to any wish of mine within your knowledge.

¹ Perhaps 'Tidius'; he may have been the father of the person mentioned in Letter 376.

Scr. Romae c. in. an. 46, ut vid.

M. CICERO L. PLANCO S.

- 1 Non dubito quin scias in iis necessariis qui tibi a patre relictis sint me tibi esse vel coniunctissimum, non iis modo causis quae speciem habeant magnae coniunctionis sed iis *etiam quae familiaritate et consuetudine tenentur, quam* scis mihi iucundissimam cum patre tuo et summam fuisse. ab his initiis noster in te amor profectus auxit paternam necessitudinem, et eo magis quod intellexi, ut primum per aetatem iudicium facere potueris quanti quisque tibi faciendus esset, me a te in primis coeptum esse observari, coli, diligi. accedebat non mediocre vinculum cum studiorum, quod ipsum est per se grave, tum eorum studiorum earumque artium quae per se ipsae eos qui voluntate eadem sunt etiam familiaritate devinciunt.
- 2 Expectare te arbitror haec tam longe repetita principia quo spectent. id primum ergo habeto, non sine magna iustaque causa hanc a me commemorationem esse factam.
C. Ateio Capitone utor familiarissime. notae tibi sunt varietates meorum temporum. in omni genere et honorum et laborum meorum et animus et opera et auctoritas et gratia, etiam res familiaris C. Capitonis praesto fuit et patuit¹ et temporibus et fortunae meae.
- 3 Huius propinquus fuit T. Antistius. qui cum sorte quaestor Macedoniam obtineret neque ei successum es-

¹ paruit (*Man.*)*

¹ In Africa with Caesar.

LETTER 282 (XIII.29)

282 (XIII.29)

CICERO TO L. PLANCUS

Rome, ca. beginning of 46 (?)

From M. Cicero to L. Plancus¹ greetings.

I am sure you know that among the connections you inherited from your father I stand preeminently close to you, not only on such grounds as present the façade of an intimate association, but on those of familiar intercourse—for, as you are aware, I had such a relationship, most valid and most delightful, with your father. Such were the origins of my affection for yourself. It strengthened my association with your father, the more so because I observed that, from the time when you were old enough to discriminate in your regard for this person or that, I was the object of your special notice and fond attention. Add to this the strong attachment of common pursuits, important in itself, and of such pursuits and accomplishments as automatically link those who share the love of them in the bonds of familiar friendship.

I expect you are wondering where this long-drawn exordium may be tending. Well, let me begin by assuring you that I have not mentioned these points without good and ample reason.

I am on the closest terms with C. Ateius Capito. You know the vicissitudes of my career. In all the various advancements and tribulations which have come my way C. Capito has been mine to command. His spirit and his time, his public and personal influence, even his private fortune, have been at my service in good times and bad.

Capito had a relative, T. Antistius. As Quaestor he was appointed by lot to Macedonia, and was in charge of that

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- set, Pompeius in eam provinciam cum exercitu venit. facere Antistius nihil potuit; nam si potuisset, nihil ei fuisset antiquius quam ad Capitonem, quem ut parentem diligebat, reverti, praesertim <cum> sciret quanti is Caesarem faceret semperque fecisset. sed oppressus tantum attigit
- 4 negoti quantum recusare non potuit. cum signaretur argentum Apolloniae, non possum dicere eum non prae-fuisse neque possum negare adfuisse, sed non plus duobus an tribus mensibus. deinde afuit a castris, fugit omne negotium. hoc mihi ut testi velim credas; meam enim ille maestitiam in illo bello videbat, mecum omnia communicabat. itaque abdidit se in intimam Macedoniam quo potuit longissime a castris, non modo ut non praeesset ulli negotio sed etiam ut ne interesset quidem. is post proelium se ad hominem necessarium, A. Plautium, in Bithyniam contulit. ibi eum Caesar cum vidisset, nihil aspere, nihil acerbe dixit, Romam iussit venire. ille in morbum continuo incidit, ex quo non convaluit; aeger Corcyram venit, ibi est mortuus. testamento, quod Romae Paullo et Marcello consulibus fecerat, heres ex parte dimidia et tertia est Capito; in sextante sunt ii quorum pars sine ulla cuiusquam querela publica potest esse. ea est ad HS [XXX]. sed de hoc Caesar viderit.
- 5 Te, mi Plance, pro paterna necessitudine, pro nostro amore, pro studiis et omni cursu nostro totius vitae similimo rogo et a te ita peto ut maiore cura, maiore studio

LETTER 282 (XIII.29)

province, no one having come to replace him, when Pompey and his army arrived. There was nothing Antistius could do. Given the opportunity, he would have preferred above all things to rejoin Capito, whom he loved as a father, especially as he knew how strongly attached Capito was and has always been to Caesar. But taken as he was by surprise, he touched only such employment as he could not refuse. When money was minted at Apollonia, I cannot assert that he was not in charge, and I cannot deny that he was present, but for no more than two or perhaps three months. After that he kept away from the army and shunned all activity. I hope you will take my word for this as an eyewitness. He saw my despondency in that war, and shared all his thoughts with me. So he hid himself in a corner of Macedonia as far away as possible from the army, so as not to be present at any activity, let alone in command. After the battle he went to Bithynia, to a person with whom he had connections, A. Plautius. There Caesar saw him, and without a word of harshness or reproof told him to return to Rome. Directly afterwards he fell ill, and never recovered. He arrived in Corcyra a sick man, and there died. Under his will, made in Rome in the Consulship of Paullus and Marcellus, he left Capito five-sixths of his estate. The remaining sixth is left to persons whose portion may be confiscated to the state without exciting any complaint. It amounts to HS3,000,000. But this is Caesar's business.

Now, my dear Plancus, I appeal to you in the name of my friendship with your father and our mutual affection, of our studies and the whole tenor of our lives in which we are so much alike: I beg you with all possible earnestness and urgency to take this matter up and regard it as mine.

CICERO'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS

nullam possim, ut hanc rem suscipias, meam putes esse, enitare, contendas, efficias ut mea commendatione, tuo studio, Caesaris beneficio hereditatem propinqui sui C. Capito obtineat. omnia quae potui in hac summa tua gratia ac potentia a te impetrare, si petivissem,² ultro te ad me detulisse putabo si hanc rem impetravero.

- 6 Illud fore tibi adiumento spero, cuius ipse Caesar optimus esse iudex potest: semper Caesarem Capito coluit et dilexit. sed ipse huius rei testis est; novi hominis memoriam. itaque nihil te doceo; tantum tibi sumito pro Capitone apud Caesarem quantum ipsum meminisse senties.
- 7 ego quod in me ipso experiri potui ad te deferam; in eo quantum sit ponderis tu videbis. quam partem in re publica causamque defenderim, per quos homines ordinesque steterim quibusque munitus³ fuerim non ignoras. hoc mihi velim credas, si quid fecerim hoc ipso in bello minus ex Caesaris voluntate (quod intellexi⁴ scire ipsum Caesarem me invitissimum fecisse), id feci<sse>⁵ aliorum consilio, hortatu, auctoritate; quo<d> fuerim moderatior temperatiorque quam in ea parte quisquam, id me fecisse maxime auctoritate Capitonis. cuius similis si reliquos necesarios habuissem, rei publicae fortasse non nihil, mihi certe plurimum profuissem.

- 8 Hanc rem, mi Plance, si effeceris, meam de tua erga

² potuissem (*Man.*)

³ inimicus *Man.**

⁴ -llexerim (*Man.*)

⁵ (*Lamb.*)

Press with all your strength. Bring it about that by dint of my recommendation, your active support, and Caesar's good favour C. Capito enjoys his relative's estate. If you grant me this, I shall feel that you have spontaneously laid in my lap all the advantages which, in your present plenitude of influence and power, I could have had of you for the asking.

There is a point which I hope will help you, one of which Caesar himself is in the best possible position to judge. Capito has always cultivated and regarded Caesar. But Caesar himself is witness to that. I know what an excellent memory he has, so I do not attempt to brief you. When you speak to Caesar, assume on Capito's behalf just so much as you find *his* recollection acknowledges. For my part, let me put before you what I have been able to test in personal experience—how much weight it should carry you must judge. You are not unaware what party and cause I championed in public life, and on what persons and classes I relied for support and protection. Please believe me when I say that in this very war any action of mine not in accordance with Caesar's wishes (and I know Caesar realizes that such action was very much contrary to my own inclination) was taken by the advice, instigation, and influence of others; whereas the fact that I was the most moderate and temperate member of that party was due above all to the influence of Capito. Had my other friends been similarly minded, I might have done something for the state and should certainly have greatly benefited myself.

If you put this matter through, my dear Plancus, you will confirm my hopes of your kindly disposition towards

CICERO'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS

me benevolentia spem confirmaveris, ipsum Capitonem, gratissimum, officiosissimum, optimum virum, ad tuam necessitudinem tuo summo beneficio adiunxeris.

283 (XIII.17)

Scr. Romae an. 46 vel 45

CICERO S. D. SER. SULPICIO

- 1 M'. Curius, qui Patris negotiatur, multis et magnis de causis a me diligitur. nam et amicitia pervetus mihi cum eo est, ut primum in forum veni¹ instituta, et Patris cum aliquotiens antea tum proxime hoc miserrimo bello domus eius tota mihi patuit; qua, si opus fuisset, tam essem usus quam mea. maximum autem mihi vinculum cum eo est quasi sanctionis cuiusdam necessitudinis quod est Attici nostri familiarissimus eumque unum praeter ceteros observat ac diligit.
- 2 Quem si tu iam forte cognosti, puto me hoc quod facio facere serius. ea est enim humanitate et observantia ut eum tibi iam ipsum per se commendatum putem. quod tamen si ita est, magno opere a te quaeso ut ad eam voluntatem, si quam in illum ante has meas litteras contulisti, quam maximus potest ^{<m>}ea² commendatione cumulus
- 3 accedat. sin autem propter verecundiam suam minus se tibi obtulit aut nondum eum satis habes cognitum aut quae causa est cur maioris commendationis indigeat, sic tibi eum commendo ut neque maiore studio quemquam

¹ venit χ (cf. *Beaujeu ad loc.*)

² (*Man.*)

LETTER 283 (XIII.17)

me, and in Capito himself you will add to your connection a most appreciative, serviceable, and excellent person by conferring upon him so eminent a favour.

283 (XIII.17)

CICERO TO SERVIUS SULPICIUS RUFUS

Rome, 46 or 45

From Cicero to Servius Sulpicius greetings.

There are many good reasons for the regard I have for Manius Curius, who is in business in Patrae. My friendship with him is of very long standing, begun when I first entered public life; and at Patrae his whole house was open to me in this recent terrible war, as well as on several earlier occasions. Had I needed, I should have used it like my own. But my principal link with Curius has, if I may so put it, a more sacred character; for he is a great intimate of our friend Atticus, whom he cultivates and regards more than anybody in the world.

If you happen to have made Curius' acquaintance already, I imagine that this letter comes too late; for he is so agreeable and attentive that I expect he will have recommended himself to you by now. If that is so, I would none the less earnestly request of you that any measure of good will you have bestowed upon him prior to this letter of mine may be supplemented as largely as possible by my recommendation. If, on the other hand, his modesty has deterred him from putting himself in your way, or if you do not yet know him sufficiently, or if for some particular reason he requires a recommendation out of the common, then there is no man whom I could recommend to you

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neque iustioribus de causis commendare possim, faciamque id quod debent facere ii qui religiose et sine ambitione commendant: spondebo enim tibi, vel potius spondeo in meque recipio, eos esse M'. Curi mores eamque cum probitatem tum etiam humanitatem ut eum et amicitia tua et tam accurata commendatione, si tibi sit cognitus, dignum sis existimaturus. mihi certe gratissimum feceris si intellexero has litteras tantum quantum scribens confidebam apud te pondus habuisse.

284 (XIII.18)

Scr. Romae an. 46 vel 45

CICERO SERVIO S.

- 1 Non concedam ut Attico nostro, quem elatum laetitia vidi, iucundiores tuae suavissime ad eum et humanissime scriptae litterae fuerint, quam mihi. nam etsi utrique nostrum prope aequae gratae erant, tamen ego admirabar magis te, qui si rogatus aut certe admonitus liberaliter Attico respondisses <gratum mihi fecisses>,¹ quod tamen dubium nobis quin ita futurum fuerit non erat, ultro ad eum scripsisse eique nec opinanti voluntatem tuam tantam per litteras detulisse. de quo non modo rogare te ut eo studiosius mea quoque causa facias non debeo (nihil enim cumulatius fieri potest quam polliceris) sed ne gratias quidem
- 2 agere, quod tu et ipsius causa et tua sponte feceris. illud tamen dicam, mihi id quod fecisti esse gratissimum. tale enim tuum iudicium de homine eo quem ego unice diligo

¹ (SB, auct. Lehmann)

LETTER 284 (XIII.18)

more cordially or on better grounds. I will do what those who recommend a friend in conscience and simplicity ought to do—I will give you, or rather I do give you, my pledge and personal guarantee that Manius Curius' personality, character, and manners are such as will make you deem him, once you get to know him, worthy both of your friendship and of so studied a recommendation. Certainly I shall be deeply grateful if I find that my letter has carried as much weight with you as at the moment of writing I am confident it will.

284 (XIII.18)

CICERO TO SERVIUS SULPICIUS RUFUS

Rome, 46 or 45

From Cicero to Servius greetings.

I won't acknowledge that your kind and charming letter gave more pleasure to our friend Atticus, whose delight I witnessed, than to myself. Our gratification was about equal, but I was the more amazed. Had you *answered* Atticus handsomely, after a request or at any rate a hint (not that we had any doubt but that you would), I should have been beholden; but you have actually written to him of your own accord, and shown him by letter such a wealth of good will when he was not expecting it! I ought not to make a request of you in order to make you the more zealous on *my* account, for your promises go to the limit of liberality. I ought not even to thank you for what you have done for Atticus' sake and of your own volition. But this I will say, that I am deeply grateful for it. Such an expression of your esteem for my dearest friend cannot but give me