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CICERO
LETTERS TO FRIENDS
VOLUME II



Edited and Translated by
D. R. SHACKLETON BAILEY

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VOLUME

藏书章

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**CICERO'S
LETTERS TO FRIENDS**

Scr. Laodiceae fort. med. m. Mart. an. 50

CICERO IMP. PAETO

- 1 Summum me ducem litterae tuae reddiderunt. plane nesciebam te tam peritum esse rei militaris; Pyrrhi te libros et Cineae video lectitasse. itaque obtemperare cogito praeceptis tuis; hoc amplius, navicularum habere aliquid in ora maritima. contra equitem Parthum negant ullam armaturam meliorem inveniri posse. sed quid ludimus? nescis quo cum imperatore tibi negotium sit. Παιδείαν Κύρου, quam contrieram legendo, totam in hoc imperio
2 explicavi. sed iocabimur alias coram, ut spero, brevi tempore.

- Nunc ades ad imperandum, vel ad parendum potius; sic enim antiqui loquebantur. cum M. Fabio, quod scire te arbitror, mihi summus usus est valdeque eum diligo cum propter summam probitatem eius ac singularem modestiam tum quod in iis controversiis quas habeo cum tuis
3 combibonibus Epicuri¹ optima opera eius uti soleo. is, cum ad me Laodiceam venisset mecumque ego eum esse vellem, repente percussus est atrocissimis litteris, in qui-

¹ King Pyrrhus of Epirus wrote a treatise on tactics, and his minister Cineas epitomized a work on strategy by one Aelian.

² Xenophon's work on the Ideal Ruler (cf. *Letters to Atticus* 23 (II.3).2), much of which is concerned with the Ruler as General.

114 (IX.25)

CICERO TO PAPIRIUS PAETUS

Laodicea, mid March (?) 50

From Cicero, Imperator, to Paetus.

Your letter has made a first-rate general out of me. I had no idea you were such a military expert—evidently you have thumbed the treatises of Pyrrhus and Cineas.¹ So I intend to follow your precepts, with one addition—I mean to keep a few boats handy on the coast. They say there's no better weapon against Parthian cavalry! But why this frivolity? You don't know what sort of Commander-in-Chief you have to deal with. In my command here I have put into practice the whole *Education of Cyrus*,² a work which I read so often that I wore out the book. But we'll joke another time when we meet, as soon I hope we shall.

Now stand by for orders (or rather to obey them), to use the ancient expression. I have a great deal to do with M. Fabius, as I think you know, and a great regard for him as a man of the highest integrity and unusual modesty, also because he helps me very effectively in my controversies³ with your Epicurean boozing partners. After he joined me at Laodicea and I asked him to stay with me, he received a quite appalling letter, a bolt from the blue, informing him

³ Perhaps with reference to the *De Republica*. M. Fabius Gallus was an Epicurean and a *littérateur*.

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bus scriptum erat fundum Herculensem a Q. Fabio fratre proscriptum esse, qui fundus cum eo communis esset. id M. Fabius pergraviter tulit existimavitque fratrem suum, hominem non sapientem, impulsu inimicorum suorum eo progressum esse.

Nunc, si me amas, mi Paete, negotium totum suscipe, molestia Fabium libera. auctoritate tua nobis opus est et consilio et etiam gratia. noli pati litigare fratres et iudiciis turpibus conflictari. Matonem et Pollionem inimicos habet Fabius. quid multa? non mehercule tam¹ perscribere possum quam mihi gratum feceris si otiosum Fabium reddideris. id ille in te positum esse putat mihi que persuadet.

115 (II.18)

Scr. Laodiceae in. m. Mai. an. 50

M. CICERO IMP. S. D. Q. THERMO PRO PR.

- 1 Officium meum erga Rhodonem ceteraque mea studia quae tibi ac tuis praestiti tibi, homini gratissimo, grata esse vehementer gaudeo, mihi que scito in dies maiori curae esse dignitatem tuam; quae quidem a te ipso integritate et clementia tua sic amplificata est ut nihil addi posse videatur.
- 2 sed mihi magis magisque cottidie de rationibus tuis cogitanti placet illud meum consilium quod initio Aristoni

¹ tantum *coni.* SB

⁴ Unknowns, unless Pollio is the famous Asinius Pollio.

that a farm near Herculaneum, which he owns jointly with his brother, Q. Fabius, had been put up for sale by the latter. M. Fabius has taken this very much to heart. He believed that his brother, who is not remarkable for good sense, had been instigated by his (Marcus') enemies to take this extraordinary step.

Now, my dear Paetus, be a friend and take the whole affair upon yourself, and relieve Fabius of the worry. We need your name and sound judgement, and your personal influence too. Don't let the brothers get into litigation and become embroiled in discreditable lawsuits. Mato and Pollio⁴ are Fabius' enemies. Briefly, I assure you that I cannot write down in full how much you will oblige me if you put Fabius' mind at ease. He thinks, and persuades me, that it all depends on you.

115 (II.18)

CICERO TO Q. THERMUS

Laodicea, early May 50

From M. Cicero, Imperator, to Q. Thermus, Proprætor, greetings.

I am very happy to find you appreciative of the service I rendered Rhodo and of my other acts of good will towards you and yours—gratitude is a great point with you. Please rest assured that my solicitude for your credit increases every day, though your own integrity and clemency have so enhanced it that any addition seems impossible. But constantly thinking of your interests as I do, I grow more and more convinced of the soundness of the view I originally intimated to our friend Aristo when he came to see me,

- nostro, ut ad me venit, ostendi, gravis te suscepturum inimicitias si adulescens potens et nobilis a te ignominia adfectus esset. et hercule sine dubio erit ignominia. habes enim neminem honoris gradu superiorem; ille autem, ut omittam nobilitatem, hoc ipso vincit viros optimos hominesque innocentissimos legatos tuos, quod et quaestor est et quaestor tuus. nocere tibi iratum neminem posse perspicio, sed tamen tris fratres summo loco natos, promptos, non indisertos, te nolo habere iratos, iure praesertim; quos
- 3 video deinceps tribunos pl. per triennium fore. tempora autem rei publicae qualia futura sint quis scit? mihi quidem turbulenta videntur fore. cur ego te velim incidere in terrores tribunicios, praesertim cum sine cuiusquam reprehensione quaestori*<i>s* legatis quaestorem possis anteferre? qui si *<se>*¹ dignum maioribus suis praebuerit, ut spero et opto, tua laus ex aliqua parte fuerit; sin quid offenderit, sibi totum, nihil tibi offenderit.

Quae mihi veniebant in mentem quae ad te pertinere arbitrabar, quod in Ciliciam proficiscebar, existimavi me ad te oportere scribere. tu quod egeris, id velim di approbent. sed si me audies, vitabis inimicitias et posteritatis otio consules.

¹ (*Graevius*)

¹ L. Antonius, Thermus' Quaestor. Cicero advises that he be left in charge of the province of Asia after Thermus' departure.

that you would make formidable enemies if you put a slight upon a powerful young nobleman.¹ And it will be a slight, make no mistake. You have nobody of superior official rank available, and the young man in question has a better claim than your excellent and irreproachable Legates from the very fact (to say nothing of family) that he is Quaestor and *your* Quaestor. I am well aware that nobody's grudge can hurt you, but I should none the less be sorry to see you an object of resentment to three brothers of the highest birth and no mean qualities of enterprise and eloquence, especially if their resentment was justified. It is apparent that they will become Tribunes of the Plebs in three successive years.² Who can tell what sort of political conditions lie ahead? To me they seem likely to be disturbed. So why should I want you to fall in the way of tribunician menaces, especially when you can give a Quaestor preference to quaestorian Legates without a word of criticism from anybody? If he proves himself worthy of his forbears, as I expect and hope he will, some part of the credit will go to you. If he stumbles, the damage will be entirely his, not yours at all.

I feel it right to let you know such thoughts as cross my mind and seem to concern you, because I am leaving for Cilicia. Whatever you do, the Gods be with it! But if you listen to me, you will keep clear of feuds and take thought for a quiet future.

² Apparently an inference from the fact (not otherwise established) that L. Antonius' two elder brothers, Marcus (Mark Antony) and Gaius, had been Quaestors in 52 and 51 (or, more probably, both in 51). Marcus stood successfully for the Tribunate in 50.

Scr. in castris ad Pyramum c. IX Kal. Quint. an. 50

M. TULLIUS M. F. <M. N.>¹ CICERO IMP. S. D. C. COELIO
L. F. C. N. CALDO Q.

- 1 Cum optatissimum nuntium accepiissem te mihi quaestorem obtigisse, eo iucundior mihi eam sortem sperabam fore quo diutius in provincia mecum fuisses. magni enim videbatur interesse ad eam necessitudinem quam nobis fors² tribuisset consuetudinem quoque accedere. postea, cum mihi nihil neque a te ipso neque ab ullo alio de adventu tuo scriberetur, verebar ne ita caderet, quod etiam nunc vereor, ne,³ ante quam tu in provinciam venisses, ego de provincia decederem. accepi autem a te missas litteras in Cilicia, cum essem in castris, a. d. x Kal. Quint., scriptas humanissime, quibus facile et officium et ingenium tuum perspicere posset; sed neque unde nec quo die datae essent aut quo tempore te exspectarem significabant, nec is qui attulerat a te acceperat, ut ex eo scirem quo ex loco aut quo tempore essent datae.
- 2 Quae cum essent incerta, existimavi tamen faciendum esse ut ad te statores meos et lictores cum litteris mitterem. quas si satis opportuno tempore acceperisti, gratissimum mihi feceris si ad me in Ciliciam quam primum veneris. nam quod ad me Curius, consobrinus tuus, mihi, ut scis, maxime necessarius, quod item C. Vergilius, propin-

¹ (*Or.*)

² sors R

³ ut *coni.* SB

LETTER 116 (II.19)

116 (II.19)

CICERO TO COELIUS CALDUS

Camp on the Pyramus, ca. 22 June 50

From M. Tullius, son of Marcus, grandson of Marcus, Imperator, to C. Coelius Caldus, son of Lucius, grandson of Gaius, Quaestor, greetings.

After I received the most welcome news of your appointment by lot as my Quaestor, it was my expectation that the more time you spent with me in the province the more pleasure I should derive from that event. I felt it very important that the close tie which chance had established between us should be supplemented by personal intercourse. But time passed, and no word of your arrival reached me either from yourself or any other person; so I began to fear, as I still do, lest it might turn out that I left the province before you entered it. I have received a letter from you while in camp in Cilicia on 21 June. It is most kindly expressed, clear evidence of a conscientious and talented writer; but it contains no indication of the place and date of dispatch or of when I may expect you; neither could the bearer, who did not receive it from your own hand, enlighten me as to where and when you sent it.

Despite my uncertainty on these points, I judge it proper to send you orderlies and lictors of mine with a letter. If you receive it in good enough time, you will greatly oblige me by joining me in Cilicia as soon as possible. Your cousin Curius,¹ who, as you know, is a close friend of mine, and your relative C. Vergilius, also one of my nearest inti-

¹ Usually but not very plausibly identified with M'. Curius of Patrae.

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quus tuus, familiarissimus noster, de te accuratissime scripsit, valet id quidem apud me multum, sicuti debet hominum amicissimorum diligens commendatio, sed tuae litterae de tua praesertim dignitate et de nostra coniunctione maximi sunt apud me ponderis. mihi quaestor optatior obtingere nemo potuit. quam ob rem quaecumque a me ornamenta ad te <proficisci poterunt>⁴ proficiscentur, ut omnes intellegant a me habitam esse rationem tuae maiorumque tuorum dignitatis. sed id facilius consequar si ad me in Ciliciam veneris. quod ego et mea et rei publicae et maxime tua interesse arbitror.

117 (II.17)

Scr. Tarsi c. xv Kal. Sext. an. 50

M. CICERO IMP. S. D. †CANINI SAL<L>USTIO†¹ PRO Q.

1 Litteras a te mihi <binas>² stator tuus reddidit Tarsi a. d. xvi Kal. Sext. his ego ordine, ut videris velle, respondebo.

De successore meo nihil audiui ne<que> quemquam fore arbitror. quin ad diem decedam nulla causa est, praesertim sublato metu Parthico. commoraturum me nusquam sane arbitror. Rhodum Ciceronum causa puerorum

⁴ (*Madvig*: ita post poterunt add. *Watt*, duce *Purser*)

¹ CN. SALLUSTIO *Quartier*: C. ANNIO (*Huschke*) LUSCO *Earl*

² (*Lamb.*)

² In fact Coelius' nobility was of recent vintage, starting with his grandfather, Consul in 94.

mates, have written to me at length about you. Their words carry great weight with me, as a particular recommendation from such friends ought to do; but most of all I am impressed by your letter, especially by what you say of your own standing and our association. No Quaestor more welcome could have fallen to me. Therefore whatever I can do by way of compliment to you shall be done, and my sense of your personal and family status² shall be made plain to all. But this will be easier for me if you join me in Cilicia, which I believe will be in my and the public interest and most of all in your own.

117 (II.17)

CICERO TO CN. (?) SALLUSTIUS

Tarsus, ca. 18 July 50

From M. Cicero, Imperator, to Cn. (?) Sallustius,¹ Proquaestor,² greetings.

Your orderly delivered your two letters to me at Tarsus on 17 July. I shall reply point by point, as that seems to be what you wish.

I have heard nothing about my successor, and I am not expecting any appointment. There is no reason why I should not leave on the day fixed, especially now the Parthian danger is out of the way. I hardly expect to make any considerable halts. I think I shall touch at Rhodes for the

¹ Almost certainly not Cicero's friend of that name nor yet the historian C. Sallustius Crispus. The manuscripts have CANINI SALLUSTIO.

² In Syria.

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accessurum puto, neque id tamen certum. ad urbem volo quam primum venire; sed tamen iter meum rei publicae et rerum urbanarum ratio gubernabit. successor tuus non potest ita maturare ullo modo ut tu me in Asia possis convenire.

- 2 De rationibus referendis, non erat incommodum te nullas³ referre, quam tibi scribis a Bibulo fieri potestatem; sed id vix mihi videris per legem Iuliam facere posse, quam Bibulus certa quadam ratione non servat, tibi magno opere servandam censeo.
- 3 Quod scribis Apamea praesidium deduci non oportuisse, videbam item ceteros existimare molesteque ferebam de ea re minus commodos sermones malevolorum fuisse. <sed>⁴ Parthi transierint necne praeter te video dubitare neminem. itaque omnia praesidia, quae magna et firma paraveram, commotus hominum non dubio sermone dimisi.
- 4 Rationes mei quaestoris nec verum fuit me tibi mittere nec tamen erant confectae. eas nos Apameae⁵ deponere cogitabamus. de praeda mea praeter quaestores urbanos, id est populum Romanum, terruncium nec attigit nec tacturus est quisquam. Laodiceae me praedes accepturum arbitror omnis pecuniae publicae, ut et mihi et populo cautum sit sine vecturae periculo. quod scribis ad me de drach<m>um⁶ CCCIOOO, nihil est quod in isto genere cui-

³ nullam (*Ursinus*) ⁴ (*SB*)

⁵ Apameae <et Laodiceae> *T.-P.* ⁶ (*Wes.*)

³ Bibulus denied the validity of Caesar's legislation as Consul, since it had been passed in defiance of his own religious block.

⁴ Not the Phrygian city mentioned in the next paragraph, nor,

sake of our two boys, but that is not certain. I want to get back to Rome as soon as possible. However, the ordering of my journey will depend upon the political situation and the state of affairs in the capital. Your successor cannot possibly make such good time as to enable you to meet me in Asia.

As regards the rendering of accounts, there would have been some convenience in making no return, for which you say you have Bibulus' licence. But I hardly think you can take that course in view of the *lex Julia*. Bibulus has his own reasons for not observing that law,³ but I think you should be very careful to observe it.

You say that the garrison ought not to have been withdrawn from Apamea.⁴ I find that your opinion is generally shared, and I am sorry that this step has caused some untoward talk among the ill-disposed. But nobody except yourself seems to be in any doubt as to whether or not the Parthians have crossed the river. Accordingly, under the impression of the general, unambiguous report, I have dismissed all the defensive forces which I had prepared in great strength.

It would not have been correct for me to send you my Quaestor's accounts, and in any case they are not ready. I intend to deposit them at Apamea. Not a penny of my booty has been or will be touched by any person except the City Quaestors, which is to say the Roman People. I propose to take sureties at Laodicea for all public moneys, so that both the state and I myself may be insured against transport risks. As for the 100,000 drachmae you mention,

as usually supposed, Apamea on the Orontes, but another place of the same name on the east side of the Euphrates.