

Prologue

The year 2021 marked 2100 years since Cicero's first trip to Greece in 79 BCE, a significant factor in moulding him as an orator, philosopher and politician. This provided the opportunity to bring together new and unpublished material on Cicero's presence in Greece literally, namely for the years he spent in nowadays Modern Greek territory, including his aforementioned travel in 79–78 BCE and the period of his exile in 58–57 BCE, and metaphorically, that is the reception of Cicero in Late Roman, Byzantine, post-Byzantine, Early Modern, and Modern Greece through translations, studies, imitations, etc. It was also an opportunity to approach the presence of Greece in Cicero from a new point of view, namely how the Greek world, people, language, civilisation, history, philosophy, politics and political theory, religion, geography, etc. appear in his work. Although some parts of the aforementioned threefold approach have been extensively studied as parts of both individual works of his and more or less holistic studies, the reception of Cicero and his work in Modern Greece (from the early nineteenth century up to date) has not as yet been given any special attention.

The contributions to the volume cover a wide range of subjects and periods: from Cicero's times in Greece, both as a student and as an exile, as well as his son's period in Greece just before his father's death, as depicted in Cicero's works, and certain aspects of the reception of Greece and its world by Cicero (the idealistic depiction of Athens, the effect of Greek philosophy on Cicero, etc.), to the reception of Cicero in the Eastern European World from the period of Late Antiquity to Middle, Later and post-Byzantine times, up to the revival of the Greeks' interest in Cicero in the nineteenth century and his *fortuna* in Greece in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The material discussed derives from a variety of sources: Cicero's works and epistolography, bilingual papyri glossaries, Byzantine compendia and imitations of Cicero's works, manuscripts, early editions and translations of and commentaries on his texts, etc.

Every effort has been made to ensure that there is coherence in the content of the contributions and the two major thematic sections of the volume, that is certain aspects of Greece and its world as emerging from Cicero's works (places, people, ideology and philosophy) and aspects of the reception of Cicero in the Greek-speaking world. Their treatment in whole would be practically impossible, because each would require a sizable amount of material. Therefore, the volume is restricted to some illustrative and indicative contributions. There are certainly other fields and perspectives that were inevitably left out of the content or were paid less attention to, not because they were deemed less important, but because the contributions did not focus on them.

All the papers included in this volume were composed exclusively to address its research objectives and themes, which were then grouped under the relevant sections. Their order followed the thematic fields mentioned above and their content. In the case of the latter, contributions generally treating the theme of the corresponding section or subsection are followed by those dealing with more specific issues. So, a relevant coherence in the organisation and structure of their content, which leads gradually and chronologically from the more general to the more specific, has been achieved. Subsequently, the volume provides an image as illustrative as possible of various aspects of the presence of the Greek world in Cicero's works and of Cicero's presence in Greece from his own times to the present day.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this volume for their inspiring studies and their fullest collaboration. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Scientific Board of De Gruyter's series "CICERO – Studies on Roman Thought and Its Reception" for the immediate approval of the initial volume proposal, and the anonymous reviewers of the volume for their comments and corrections, which significantly improved its drafts and saved us from many errors.

Ioannis Deligiannis