

*Libanius: Selected Works.* With an English translation, introduction and notes by A.F. Norman. Vol. II: Selected orations. The Loeb Classical Library No. 452. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass. - William Heinemann Ltd, London 1977. XIV, 542 p. £ 3.40.

The second volume of Libanius' Selected Works contains orations from the Theodosian age and they are, as the editor points out, arranged as far as possible in chronological order. With his selection A.F. Norman appropriately gives the selections published by P. Wolf and J. Festugière, the criterion of the selection being to give translations of the orations which are not easily accessible elsewhere. The grounds for a selection from the great body of Libanius' orations is always debatable and the editor is fully conscious of the individual character of his choice. Nevertheless, the philologist and historian of the Theodosian age should be grateful for the clear and reliable translations. The orations are preceded by useful introductions and short notes on manuscripts and bibliography. The general bibliography supplies the main up-to-date information of the editions, translations, sources, and modern literature on the orations included in the volume.

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*Cicero.* Vol. X: In Catilinam I-IV. Pro Murena. Pro Sulla. Pro Flacco. With an English translation by C. Macdonald. The Loeb Classical Library No. 324. Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass. - William Heinemann Ltd, London 1977. XXXIX, 596 p. £ 3.40.

Apart from the text itself together with its relevant translation, this volume contains a general introduction, which deals with the years 60 to 50, a joint introduction to the Catiline speeches and separate introductions to the other three speeches. The work is designed to replace the 1937 L.E. Lord edition, which it does creditably. As far as the text is concerned, the work has nothing new to offer. For the most part it follows the Clark edition; there is no critical apparatus; and even the few textual remarks of a critical nature often seem redundant (for example, p. 40 and p. 64).

The real value of the work lies in its introductions - and, of course, in the new English rendering, an aspect the assessment of which does not properly belong here. As regards the speeches of the years 63-59, the general introduction to the 60's provides essential background information. At the same time it shows quite clearly (as the writer himself also points out) that our knowledge of the events of the 60's is in many respects not completely sound. The introduction to the Catiline speeches is extensive and is based on the most recent scholarly findings. This work contains a larger number of references to more recent literature than can be found in the earlier volumes of this series. Macdonald attempts to do justice to Catiline, mentioning, among other things, the stalwart support that the latter enjoyed in consular circles and Cicero's intention to defend Catiline in the mid 60's. On page 9, the writer states that it can be shown that many things were charged to Catiline's account that were in all probability quite false. Justifiably, Macdonald asks whether our sources do not give an exaggerated picture of the significance of the conspiracy.