

This paper explores Roman attitudes towards the Greek intellectual heritage as represented in Cicero's works by analyzing his choice and employment of Roman historical *exempla* versus Greek historical *exempla*. Recent scholarship on Cicero's speeches, letters and theoretical treatises has addressed the question of Cicero's position - public and private - on the cultural products of Greece. To date there is no consensus on Cicero's views; instead recent scholarship has focused on Cicero's ambivalence to Greek culture (J. Wisse [2002]; E. Fantham [2004]). J. E. G. Zetzel has recently challenged the view that Cicero's attitude reflected an attempt to suit an audience suspicious to Greek culture. Instead, he argued that Cicero attempted to show that Greek learning 'could only be rescued, or even understood, by anchoring it once more in a social and moral context - in the service of Roman tradition and Roman values.' (Zetzel [2003], 137).

Zetzel and other scholars have developed their views on Cicero's attitudes by focusing on the *de Oratore* and a select group of Cicero's speeches. In this paper, I discuss this question of Cicero's attitude towards Greek culture from the viewpoint of Cicero's use of Roman and Greek historical *exempla* in all of his works. I argue here that audience does, in fact, seem to have played a significant part in Cicero's choice of historical *exempla*, but so do other factors such as the genre and his rhetorical strategy for the individual works. My analysis of Cicero's choice and employment of Roman and Greek *exempla* will provide further insights into Cicero's attitude towards the Roman reception of the Greek intellectual heritage. This focus on Cicero's attitude towards Greek culture provides an excellent gateway into his rhetorical and philosophical works, which are often neglected in school and university curricula. Moreover, this discussion of Cicero's position on Greek culture and the Roman past is crucial for our understanding of Roman society during the late Republic and Cicero's place in it.

Bibliography

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