

**CLARENDON PRESS  
SERIES.  
CORNELIUS NEPOS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649556250

Clarendon Press Series. Cornelius Nepos by Cornelius Nepos & Oscar Browning

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**CORNELIUS NEPOS & OSCAR BROWNING**

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SERIES.  
CORNELIUS NEPOS**



Clarendon Press Series

CORNELIUS NEPOS

*OSCAR BROWNING*

London  
MACMILLAN AND CO.



*PUBLISHERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF*

**Oxford**

Clarendon Press Series

CORNELIUS NEPOS

WITH ENGLISH NOTES

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Second Edition

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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## PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH Cornelius Nepos has often been edited as a classic of the Augustan age, the present edition does not pretend to be anything more than a school-book. The notes are intended for two classes of persons—learners and teachers. For the first I have thought it necessary to give such help as would enable them to learn the lesson with the assistance of a grammar and a dictionary. I may seem to some to have translated too many words into English, but experience has convinced me that a boy slowly learns the art of picking the right word out of a number given in a dictionary, and that translation into idiomatic English cannot be too much insisted upon from the first. For the teacher I have done my best to correct the mistakes of Nepos in history, and to notice his departure in language from classical usage. I have constantly referred to two books which are sure to be within the reach of every teacher, Madvig's Latin Grammar and Grote's History of Greece.

I must express my obligations to the edition of Nepos by Nipperdey with German notes, which leaves nothing to be desired as a school-book.

*ERON, May, 1868.*

The second edition of this work has been carefully revised with the assistance of Mr. G. W. Douton, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge.

*KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
January, 1878.*





## INTRODUCTION.

CORNELIUS NEPOS was a friend and contemporary of Cicero, Catullus, and Atticus. Cicero writes to Atticus (Epist. ad Attic. 16. 5) 'Nepotis Epistolam exspecto. Cupidus ille meorum ? qui ea, quibus maxime γαυριῶ legenda non putet ? Et ais, μετ' ἀμίμωσα. Tu vero ἀμίμωσ. Ille quidem δμβρορος.' The meaning of the last clause evidently is that Atticus had praised Nepos, but said that he came after the blameless one, i.e. Cicero himself. Cicero replies that Atticus is the blameless one, that is, the best of mortals, but that Nepos is divine. This will seem exaggerated praise to those who regard him merely as the writer of a dull school-book. Lactantius (Instit. 3. 15, 13) quotes a passage from the first book of the letters of Nepos to Cicero, and Macrobius (Sat. 2. 1) quotes another passage from the second book of the letters of Cicero to Nepos—

The first epigram of Catullus runs thus—

'Quoi dono lepidum novum libellum  
Arida modo pumice expositum ?  
Corneli, tibi : Namque tu solebas  
Meas esse aliquid putare nugas ;  
Jam tum, quum ausus es unus Italorum  
Omne aevum tribus explicare chartis  
Doctis, Juppiter, et laboriosis.  
Quare habe tibi, quidquid hoc libelli est  
Qualecumque ; quod o Patrona Virgo  
Plus uno maneat perenne saeclo.'

We know that this is addressed to Nepos from an imitation of Ausonius—

'Cui dono lepidum novum libellum?  
Veronensis ait poeta quondam  
Inventoque dedit statim Nepoti.  
Inveni (trepidæ silete nugæ)  
Nec doctum magis, et magis benignum,  
Quam quem *Gallia* præbuit Catullo?'

The last line shews that Nepos was born in Gallia Cisalpina; and Pliny, *Hist. Nat.* 3. 22, calls him 'Padi accola.'

He is reported by various ancient writers to have written the following works:—

1. *Chronica*; quoted by A. Gellius and Solinus, and referred to by Catullus in the lines quoted above.
2. *Exemplorum Libri*; quoted by Charisius and A. Gellius.
3. *De Viris Illustribus*; mentioned by Gellius, Macrobius, and Servius.
4. *Lives of Cato and Cicero*.

He thus appears to have been a literary man of considerable knowledge and attainments; and if we had nothing of him remaining we might now be lamenting the loss of a great author. But the judgment of posterity is wiser than that of contemporaries and friends.

The first edition of the book which we possess under the name of Nepos was published at Venice in 1477, under the title of *Aemilii Probi de Vita Excellentium*: it was attributed to him on the strength of a dedication addressed to Theodosius, ending thus—

'Si rogat auctorem paullatim detege nostrum  
Tum domino nomen, me sciat esse Probum.'