

**LIVY, BOOKS
I-X, BOOK 1**

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Livy, books I-X, Book 1 by J. R. Seeley

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J. R. SEELEY

**LIVY, BOOKS
I-X, BOOK 1**

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~~1888~~
(Clarendon Press Series)

LIVY
(BOOKS I-X)

With Introduction, Historical Examination, and Notes

BY

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BOOK I

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Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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PREFACE.

THE Edition of the first decad of Livy, of which I now publish the first instalment, is intended to put the reader in possession of the information necessary for forming a judgment not only about the meaning but also about the truth and value of what Livy says. In other words, it comprises a historical as well as a philological commentary.

The reader will, therefore, be prepared to find the quantity of annotation somewhat large, and may even not refuse to believe me when I assure him that I have studied compression throughout.

Nevertheless, it is the first book of the decad more than any later one that presents difficulties to the historical student, for it is the first book that suggests the principal questions which have occupied so many scholars since Niebuhr's time. I expect to be able to elucidate the rest of the decad as fully by means of a much shorter commentary.

I have found it possible to throw my historical elucidation of this book into the form of a continuous essay, which will bear to be read by itself. It will be

found, however, that I have not wandered from my author's text in order to do this, but that every section of the Historical Examination is a commentary upon some definite passage or passages of it.

Questions which the text does not suggest are, therefore, passed over, even such as I should have discussed at length had I been merely writing an essay on the regal period of Rome. For instance, the vexed question of the clients is reserved for the next volume. The patricians are discussed here because Livy discusses them ; but as the plebs remains quite in the background throughout the first book, I have refrained as much as possible from discussing it.

I have to acknowledge valuable help received from the Dean of Christ Church and from Mr. Max Cullinan, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.

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INTRODUCTION.

LIFE OF LIVY. Of the life of Titus Livius very few facts are known to us. It is important to recognize this and to guard against the temptation to which many critics have yielded of creating a detailed narrative by loose inferences or by pure imagination. The statements we find will therefore here be considered separately, no attempt being made to weave them together.

The Date of his Birth. In Jerome's Latin translation of the Chronicle of Eusebius there are many additions made by the translator himself referring to Latin literary history. Among these we find it stated that Livy was born in Ol. 180. 2 according to Scaliger's Edition, Ol. 180. 4 according to Mai's Armenian Version. Ritschl (Parerg. Appendix) has shown that the statements contained in these annotations of Jerome's are founded on Suetonius de Viris Illustribus (a work of which the lives of Grammatici Rhetores, &c., printed in Suetonius' works form a fragment) but that they are often exceedingly untrustworthy inferences from those statements. If therefore Suetonius wrote lives of historians (on which point there has been a controversy between Ritschl and Mommsen) and among these of Livy, and in the life of Livy mentioned in what consulate he was born, Jerome's statement is authoritative; but as we do not know these facts, we can only say that probably or possibly Livy was born in B. C. 59 or 57.

His Place of Birth. This is established on good authority. The poet Statius, in congratulating a contemporary historian, says, '*Orsa Sallusti brevis et Timavi Reddis alumnum,*' and we read (Quint. Inst. Orat. 1. 5, 56; 8. 1, 3) that Asinius Polio, Livy's contemporary, found a certain Patavinitas in his style. Martial, too, where he says, '*Censetur Apona Livio suo tellus*' (Ep. 1. 62, 3), seems to point to the same part of Italy. Later writers (Sid. Apoll. 2. 189, Symmachus, Ep. 4. 18, and Jerome, in the annotation above-mentioned) call him *Patavinus*.

Of the town of Patavium, now Padua, a brief history may be collected