

FOREWORD

Marcus Tullius Cicero is one of the most influential thinkers in Western culture. The breadth and depth of his influence on the West is so extensive as to be beyond precise measure. For example, almost single-handedly he was the initial inspiration behind the rise of Renaissance humanism after the decline of the high Middle Ages. This movement impacted on all the liberal and fine arts, not to mention Western ethics, law, politics, and science. Despite the enormous debt that the West owes to Cicero, contemporary neglect of Cicero resembles the condition of neglect of Lady Philosophy around the time of Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius. Robert T. Radford's present monograph is a small, but powerful, attempt to undo this unjustified contemporary intellectual neglect of Cicero.

Today, Western culture is mired in a sophistry that threatens to undermine all our cultural institutions. One way for the West to avert such a disaster is to rediscover its intellectual roots. As was the case several hundred years ago, such a recovery must pass through Cicero, especially through his moral and political philosophy, precisely the areas Radford has decided to make the principal focus of investigation in this work. In so doing, with superb scholarship, and in a beautiful way, Radford compresses into a handful of pages a magnificent introduction to Cicero the politician and philosopher. Radford's achievements and originality in this book are hard to duplicate. Scholars owe him a great debt for helping us recover the Ciceronian treasure that this book reveals.

Peter A. Redpath
Deputy Executive Editor
Value Inquiry Book Series (VIBS)
Editor
Studies in the History of Western Philosophy Special Series (SHWP)