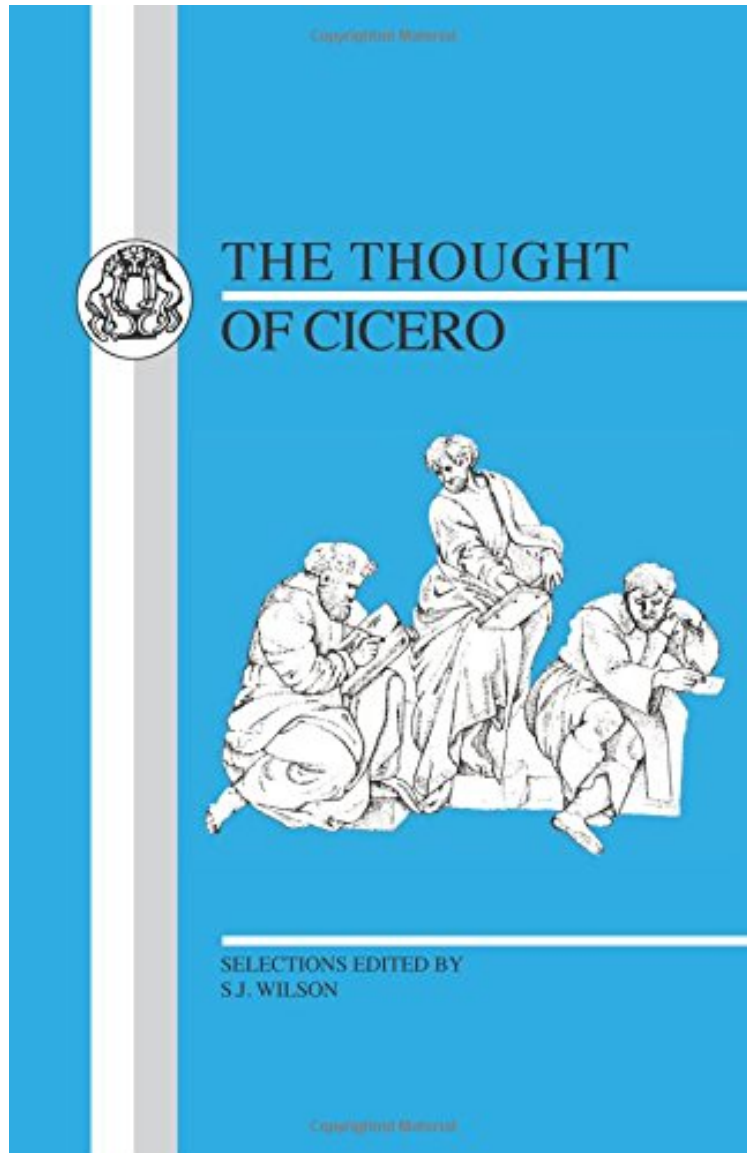


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## The Thought of Cicero: Philosophical Selections (Latin and English Edition)

*Cicero*

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**Cicero : The Thought of Cicero: Philosophical Selections (Latin and English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Thought of Cicero: Philosophical Selections (Latin and English Edition):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cicero the philosophy tutor, for students of LatinBy (((Marco

Buendia)))[How is the author's writing? Poor Okay Good Great]\*These are brief selections from Cicero's philosophical writings, such as the Tusculan Disputations, Amicitia, and the like. There are a couple of extracts from the Speeches that could be construed as philosophy, as well. To my taste the philosophical essays, or diatribes, are the most pleasant and, more often than not, the easiest writings of Cicero for the intermediate student. They are brief extracts, and the more abstruse bits are left out. The student will not have to listen to Cicero's tiresome *rodomontades*, delivered in courtrooms, often with devious intent against political enemies, sometimes more than just the defendant. The extracts from the Speeches mentioned above are not examples of that stuff. Life is brief, so moderns should concentrate on Greek oratory, such as that of Lysias and Demosthenes. The Letters of Cicero, of great value in many ways but not included here, as they are only occasionally "philosophical", are very difficult for anything less than accomplished Latinists, and should be undertaken later. I recommend the Cambridge edition edited by Shackleton-Bailey and commented upon by him. Ancillary materials: 1) There is a brief Introduction by the compiler and editor, S. J. Wilson, at one time a professor of Classics in the Methodist College of Belfast, that land of so much brain power, not all of it raw, that has nonetheless caused so much *h---* to Great Britain. It would have been hard for the old master to have written a better epitome of where Cicero's philosophy came from and how it related to the Roman culture of which he was a part, for better or worse. 2) Notes are many and useful for those whose Latin is in the late beginning to intermediate stage. There is a bit under a hundred pages of Notes, in a book of about two hundred pages. 3) There is a small "Select Vocabulary" which is useless. It doesn't cover all the words that those for whom the book would otherwise be useful are likely to need, nor does it explore in depth the usages and resonances of the words, which in Cicero can be not only useful but are interesting in their own right, as Cicero himself was sometimes the writer who beat them into the shape necessary for translating philosophical Greek, and, by extension, becoming integral tools in the Latin that would, for a time, be the educated *lingua franca* of Western Europe. 4) There is a short section, "Notes on some points of Ciceronian style", which *is* of some use to intermediate students. 5) There is a brief series of plates, poorly reproduced and of little edification for readers of any kind. They depict Cicero, Marcus Aurelius, St. Jerome, and some manuscripts. The book was originally published by Bell in London, in 1964, and this was around the time that some people in publishing thought that everybody needed to find pictures when they opened a book. Why they thought this was necessary when the typical reader was a schoolboy who knew he would be beaten if he didn't attend to the book I can't imagine. The boys found their pictures in the adventure magazines they read surreptitiously in class, and in the pornographic magazines they scrutinized when in safer quarters. Very pleasant reading. This is what Cicero liked doing, it was what he was good at, and no matter what some dons may have said about it, the pieces are intelligent discussions of things that mattered to the Greeks and which Cicero thought should matter to the Romans. He succeeded in persuading some of them. \* randomly jumps in my face with these sorts of questions when I attempt to post a review. I had to answer this one, at least, before I could proceed to writing the review.

First published in 1964 and aimed at advanced school students, this useful collection contains forty passages, coherent in themselves, illustrating Cicero's thinking on government, religion, law and ethics. An introduction gives the essential background, including a brief outline of Greek philosophy. There are practical notes on the texts, observations on Cicero's style and a select vocabulary.

..."the book is well indexed and organized; its introduction is for all readers, and the volume is well worth acquiring by any College library." Elaine Fantham, *Classical World* About the Author S.J. Wilson