

**CONTROVERSIES OVER THE
IMITATION OF CICERO AS A MODEL
FOR STYLE AND SOME PHASES OF
THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE SCHOOLS
OF THE RENAISSANCE**

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Controversies over the Imitation of Cicero as a Model for Style and Some Phases of Their
Influence on the Schools of the Renaissance by Izora Scott

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on the Schools of the Renaissance

BY
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PREFACE

Though the term Ciceronianism could be applied to Cicero's influence and teaching in the field of politics, philosophy, or rhetoric, it is limited in the present study to the technical department of rhetoric and represents the trend of literary opinion in regard to accepting Cicero as a model for imitation in composition.

The history of Ciceronianism, thus interpreted, has been written with more or less emphasis upon the controversial aspect of the subject in various languages. Jean Lévesque de Burigny wrote a short sketch *Sur la querelle qui s'éleva dans le XVII^e siècle au sujet de l'estime qui était due à Cicéron* in 1756; C. Lenient published a thesis *De Ciceroniano bello apud recentiores* at Paris in 1855; Professor Sabbadini in 1885 described the movement in his *Storia del Ciceronianismo*; and Professor Sandys has most recently (1905) told the story in a short lecture at Harvard, entitled "The History of Ciceronianism."

In view of these publications the only justification for the present study may be found in the statement of a somewhat different aim: to furnish to the English reader some of the controversial matter in direct translation or full analysis, and to connect the doctrine more particularly with the schools of the Renaissance. The major field of the study will lie after the middle of the fifteenth century and will deal with controversial writings on imitation, though the earlier period of the historical development, previous to 1450, will receive brief notice where it will be the purpose to show how the influence of Cicero manifested itself through various phases until it hardened and narrowed into that "pedantry and purism" of the sixteenth century which assumed the name of Ciceronianism as a doctrine of style advocated by a cult of servile imitators. The work, consequently, will fall into three divisions: (a) an introductory chapter on the influence of Cicero from his own time to that of Poggio and Valla (c. 1450) when men of letters began a series of contro-

versial writings on the merits of Cicero as a model of style; (b) a series of chapters treating of these controversies; (c) a study of the connection between the entire movement and the history of education. Translations of the controversial letters of Pico and Bembo along with the translation of Erasmus's *Ciceronianus* will be placed in a separate division of the volume, Part II, pp. 1-130.

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Latin.

There will be found some variation in the spelling of proper names, but in general I have adopted the plan of translating the Latin form into the language of the country of which the man was a native, varying from this only in cases where the Latin name has become fixed by familiar usage, as in the case of Erasmus. To secure uniformity in this throughout the volume I have added a note of corrections to the translation of the *Ciceronianus* which appears in this volume in the text of the edition of 1908.

Most grateful acknowledgment is rendered to those friends who have inspired and assisted me in my work: to Professor Paul Monroe for suggesting the theme, directing and criticising the scope and method of treatment; to Professor Nelson G. McCrea for most kindly assisting and advising in the translation of the *Ciceronianus*. Acknowledgment is also due to the officials of the British Museum and the Bodleian Library for courtesies and valuable assistance in rendering accessible much of the material used.

I. S.

New York, May, 1910.

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Part I
History of the Controversies

