CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

A SURVEY OF SELECTED RECENT WORK ON CICERO’S RHETORICA AND SPEECHES

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Introduction

This is a very selective survey of recent work in two related areas of Cicero’s literary production, his speeches and his rhetorical works. It is beyond my scope, and my knowledge, to annotate in a meaningful way the more than twelve hundred contributions in these areas which have appeared over the last twenty-five years. After dutifully cataloguing texts and translations, this survey instead focuses upon works which have defined, advanced, or exemplified principal directions in the scholarship over the last quarter century, and attempts to extrapolate promising directions for work on Ciceronian oratory and rhetoric in the coming decade. One area specifically neglected is that of Cicero’s Nachleben, which George Kennedy’s chapter in this volume covers with typical thoroughness and conciseness.

As a convenient starting point, the present survey begins roughly where the more comprehensive selected survey of R. J. Rowland, Jr. (1978) left off, in 1975. For our period, the invaluable bibliographical resource is of course l’Année philologique, with the concomitant second edition of the Database of Classical Bibliography covering the years 1974–1989. Volume 69 covering the year 1998 was the most recent available while this survey was being compiled. Other freestanding bibliographies on Cicero’s speeches and rhetoric in our period include R. Valenti (1975) on De Oratore, S. M. Cerutti (1993) on “James May’s ‘Trials of Character’ and Current Trends in the Scholarship of Ciceronian Persuasion,” and H. Pinkster (1993) on Cicero’s language and style. The bibliography on the Catilinarians by Criniti (1971), which slightly pre-dates our period, was updated with typical thoroughness and precision by Classen (1985: 120 n. 1). Malaspina (1997) reviews work on the fragmentary speeches from
1984–1995. *L’Année philologique*, supplemented by these bibliographies, by bibliographies in the books and articles reviewed, by publishers' lists, by the *Beilagen* of *Gnomon* online (http://www.gnomon.kueichstaett.de/Gnomon), and by the generous communications of some authors, yields a collection of more than twelve hundred items on the speeches and the rhetorica in our period. All of these, along with the other works cited in the previous chapters, are listed in the bibliography.

The survey is organized in this way:

I. TEXTS, TRANSLATIONS, AND COMMENTARIES
   I.A. Texts
   I.B. Translations
   I.C. Commentaries
      I.C.i. Speeches
      I.C.ii. Rhetorica

II. INDIVIDUAL WORKS
   II.A. Rhetorica
   II.B. Speeches
      II.B.i. Spoken and Published Speeches
      II.B.ii. Persuasive-Process Criticism and Argument from Character
      II.B.iii. Cultural and Social History
      II.B.iv. Alternate Critical Models
         1. The Reader’s Experience of the Speech
         2. The Case of the *First Catilinarian*
      II.B.v. The Historical Context of Persuasion
      II.B.vi. Cicero’s Oratorical Styles

Looking to this survey chapter and to the accompanying bibliography for this volume, some of my fellow Ciceronians will inevitably feel that the selective topical treatment here employed (and the limitations of the author) distort the shape of our field or the value of their contributions. *Eorum humanitate fretus*, I can only hope that these colleagues will find more good in the collection of material than harm in my exposition of it.