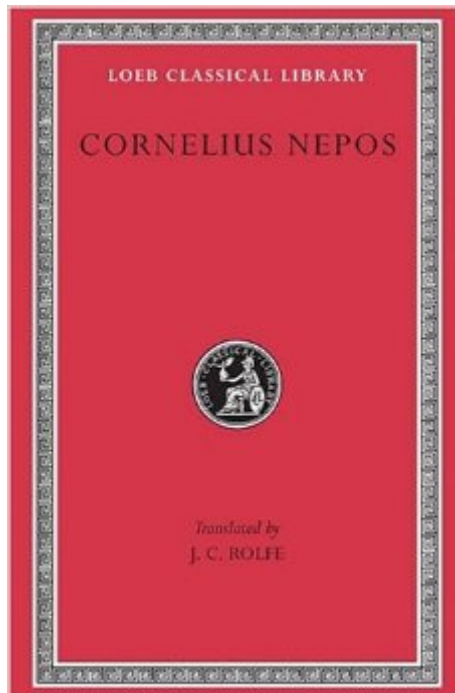


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Cornelius Nepos: On Great Generals. On Historians. (Loeb Classical Library No. 467)



Synopsis

Cornelius Nepos was born in Cisalpine Gaul but lived in Rome and was a friend of Cicero, Atticus, and Catullus. Most of his writings, which included poems, moral examples from history, a chronological sketch of general history, a geographical work, Lives of Cato the Elder and Cicero, and other biographies, are lost. Extant is a portion of his 'De Viris Illustribus': (i) part of his parallel lives of Roman and non-Roman famous men, namely the portion containing lives of non-Roman generals (all Greeks except three) and a chapter on kings; and (ii) two lives from the class of historians. The lives are short popular biographies of various kinds, written in a usually plain readable style, of value today because of Nepos's use of many good sources.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just to clarify: if you get the Loeb Classical Library edition, you will indeed get a translation along with the Latin original. The first reviewer was looking at a different edition of Nepos.

A superb and illuminating work in its own right with the added benefit of being perhaps the single greatest practical resource for learning the Latin language.

Cornelius Nepos produced a considerable literary output: history, geography, poetry, and other works including biographies of famous men. The only surviving examples of his work are a few biographies from his work "De Viris Illustribus," which he apparently modeled after Plutarch's

"Lives." The surviving pieces consist of an introduction, several biographies of non-Roman generals, and two biographies of Roman historians. The bios are brief, anecdotal, and entertaining. They probably have little in the way of historical value, but they are nonetheless worth reading.

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