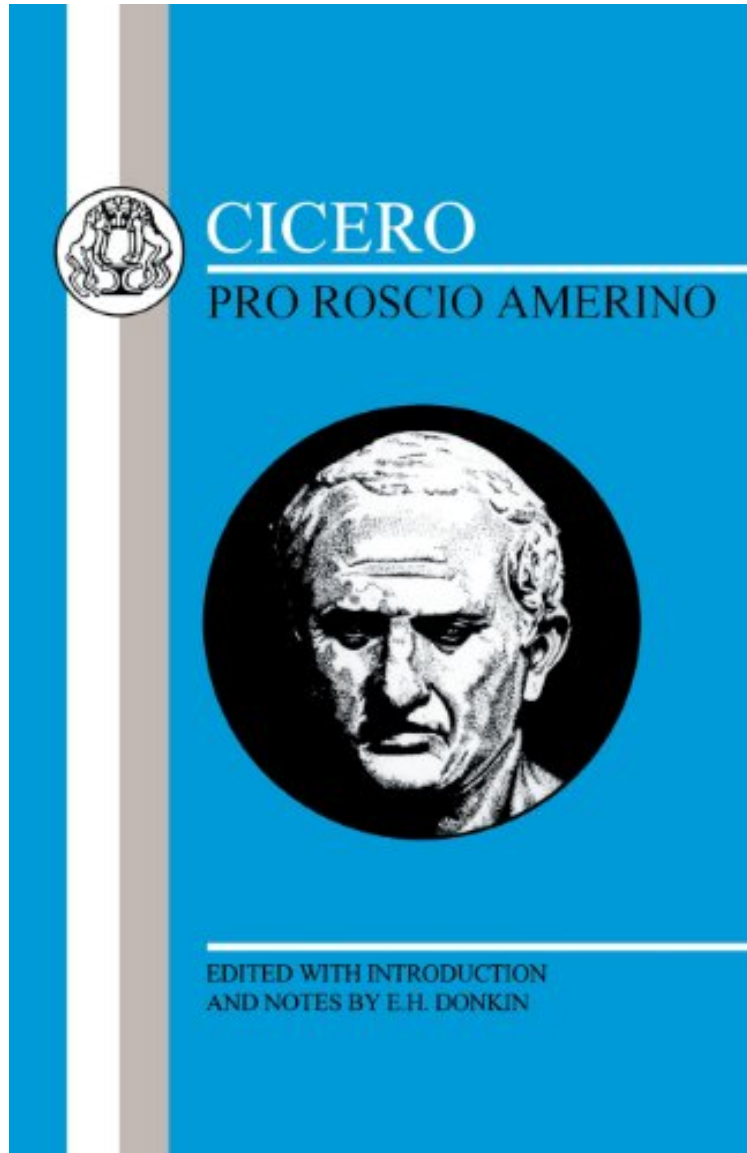


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## Cicero: Pro Roscio Amerino (Latin Texts)

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**Cicero : Cicero: Pro Roscio Amerino (Latin Texts)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cicero: Pro Roscio Amerino (Latin Texts):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. E.H. Donkin's commentary on Cicero's Pro Roscio Amerino By Eustathios This is a review of E.H. Donkin's commentary on Cicero's oration Pro Roscio Amerino. This commentary was originally published in 1915 and has been reprinted by the Bristol Classical Press. A brand new commentary by Andrew Dyck on this speech was published in 2010 in the Cambridge green and yellow series under the alternate title

Pro Sexto Roscio, so the question confronting a potential buyer of this much older commentary is whether there is anything to recommend it over the newer one other than a difference in cost. In most respects the answer is no. Among other things, the newer commentary provides a much more expansive and detailed treatment of the speech that builds upon the advances of scholarship that have been made in the intervening century on the historical context of the speech and on Cicero's oratorical aims and practices. Donkin's commentary is not necessarily obsolete, however. For the advanced reader whose goal is to read through the speech quickly and efficiently, Donkin's clear presentation and brief but targeted notes could potentially be more useful than the expansive notes of the newer commentary, which is often quite dense. In Donkin's commentary each section of the Latin text is prefaced by an English paraphrase of the main point Cicero will make in that section, an arrangement that allows for more rapid comprehension of the text and helps the reader more readily see the pronounced transitions between individual sections of the speech. Donkin's notes provide limited grammatical help that is more or less adequate for a reader with about 4 years or more experience studying Latin, but for a reader with less experience Donkin's grammatical help will perhaps be too infrequent and too allusive for him or her to use this commentary easily and profitably. The main purpose of the notes and the brief introduction to the speech is really to help the reader follow Cicero's line of argumentation and to clarify potentially obscure references to contemporary realities and the facts of the case. The speech itself was delivered by Cicero in 80 BC on behalf of a man, Sextus Roscius, who was on trial for killing his father, a crime that Cicero argues was actually perpetrated by two of the murdered man's relatives in collusion with a freedman of the dictator Sulla. The speech is thus an amazing piece of rhetoric in that it must perform the neat trick of placing the guilt for the crime on close associates of the current dictator without calling into question the legitimacy of Sulla's regime, and the speech is filled with discussions of aristocratic ideology, Sulla's proscriptions, traditional Roman morality, literary and historical precedents, and Roman views on parricide. This speech was also Cicero's big debut in public life in the Roman Forum and thus offers interesting points of comparison with his later forensic and political orations. On the whole then, Pro Roscio Amerino provides notable insights into an important historical period for which we have relatively little contemporary evidence and also into the early development of an orator who would later stand at the forefront of Roman politics and literary culture. For these reasons this speech is a must read for anyone interested in Roman history and literature regardless of which commentary one ultimately chooses to purchase. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good edition of Cicero's speech on behalf of Sextus Roscius By Geoffrey Lam If you're looking for an accurate transcription of Cicero's speech defending Sextus Roscius, then this is the text for you. The introduction and interspersed synopses are also very helpful. The only area of improvement needed is in the notes, where, at times, the explanation of a Latin term consists of other (sometimes more obscure) Latin terms. Otherwise, it's an excellent little book.

Cicero's speech on behalf of Roscius of Ameria in Umbria represents his first public 'cause celebre' in 80 BC when he was just twenty-six. It followed closely the notorious proscriptions made under the dictator Sulla. One of Sulla's freedman favourites, Chrysogonus, had criminally contrived to have Roscius' wealthy father's name added to the list of the proscribed after his death and after closure of the list, with the aim of depriving Roscius of his substantial inheritance. Cicero's speech, one of his most straightforward and yet powerful, brought him into immediate political danger but at the same time established him as a fearless forensic orator. Donkin's edition, first published as one of the history 'red Macmillan' series, has never been bettered for its concise, yet detailed, introduction and its annotation covering matters of language and content.

..."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 E. H. Donkin was Classical Professor at the Royal Holloway College.