

Sallust notes BC 3-4

III

(1) "Now he narrows the wide field of human endeavour to the specific field of government." (McGushin, ad loc.). Sallust shows his practice of *ingenium*, historiography, is a way of getting *virtus*.

pulchrum est: it is noble; takes (present) infinitive *facere* (used absolutely).

bene facere ... bene dicere: "the stock and conventional comparison which contrasts action with words. The chiasmic arrangement of the inf. and pred. adjs. is designed to strengthen the antithesis. The fact that *scripsere* is substituted for *dicere* when the comparison is restated below indicates that *dicere* is being used in a wider sense than simply public speaking. The dat. *rei publicae* is to be taken with both inf.: "to serve one's country well by means of deeds and words." (Ramsey)

haud absurdum: "i.e., *praeclarum*, an example of litotes (an assertion made by denying its contrary), which is common in S.; *absurdus* (lit., "out of tune"), which has an archaic ring, is used once elsewhere by S. (25.5), also in litotes, to mean "having merit." (Ramsey)

vel pace vel bello: *vel...vel*: either...or... "these nouns are usu. accompanied by the prep. *in* when temporal unless modified by an adj.; therefore best taken as instrumental standing for the deeds that are performed in peacetime or in war." (Ramsey)

multi: "modifying the subject of *laudantur*, which is supplied by the unexpressed antecedent of *qui fecere* and *qui ... scripsere*. When *multi* is thus added late in a sentence, it is usually to be taken in the predicate and means "in great numbers." (Ramsey)

qui fecēre (= *fēcērunt*, syncopated perfect. Like *scripsēre*) "those who have performed deeds." (Ramsey).

clārum fīrī: to be made famous (infinitive after impersonal licet).

et ... et: both ... and.

(2) *Ac mihi quidem*: "with *videtur*, whose subj. is *scribere*, a very common idiom in Cic. meaning "I think." (Ramsey).

par glōria: attributive adj. and subject.

haudquaquam par gloria: "another example of litotes; the man of action, esp. a military leader, commonly receives greater recognition than the man who devotes himself to intellectual pursuits." (Ramsey).

auctorem rerum: "the reading *actorem*, which is found in several MSS, would provide a stronger antithesis with *scriptorem*, since *auctor rerum* is frequently synonymous with *scriptor rerum* and means the author of historical works. *Auctor*, however, is perhaps deliberately selected by S. to convey the notion of responsibility or initiative for a deed as well as the actual performance, which would be the primary sense of *actor*—the mere "agent" or "doer." (Ramsey).

in prīmīs: especially, in particular.

arduum: neuter nom. sg. ("difficult thing"). "construe with *scribere*, which in this context means "to write appropriately" (cf. *vivere* above 2.9)." (Ramsey). Krebs *American Journal of Philology* 2008 looks at metaphorical language, seeing evocation of a steep height.

vidētur: it seems (+ infinitive); "to me" (*mihi*).

rēs gestās: things carried out, things done.

prīmum quod: first, because (picked up by "dehinc quia").

dictis = ablative of instrument/means.

exaequanda sunt: must be...; 'are going to be..., 'a passive periphrastic (gerundive + sum) expressing obligation or necessity

dictis exaequanda: "'must be matched with words" (abl. of means). This reading, rather than the less well attested *ex(s)equenda*, better suits the context and the *topos* that it is difficult to

find words that are adequate or appropriate to the subject matter (e.g., Isoc. *Paneg.* 13).” (Ramsey).

dehinc, quia: “*dehinc* is rare in enumerations in place of the more usu. *deinde*, which has crept into several MSS as a correction; *quia* is deliberately substituted for a second *quod* for the sake of variation.” (Ramsey).

plērīque: many; i.e. many readers, with verb *putant* “think that” (which leads to indirect statement: perfect passive infinitive *dicta (esse)*).

quae...: what offences you have criticized.

delicta: “standing in apposition with *quae*, the object of *reprehenderis*: “those things that you censure as faults.” The potential subj. is used because the subject is the indefinite 2nd pers. sing., and the clause is virtually conditional (cf. *memores* below). *Delicta* are acts falling short of perfection, not outright wicked deeds (*malefacta*), as can be seen from the contrast drawn at 52.8.” (Ramsey).

reprehenderis: s perfect subjunctive in relative clause of characteristic.

malevolentia...: because of...; ablative of cause (like *invidia*).

dicta: sc. *esse*, “= “mentioned”; the acc. subj. of the inf. in this indirect statement is supplied by the unexpressed antecedent of *quae*.” (Ramsey).

ubi...memorēs: when(ever)...; 2s pres.subj. in an indef. temporal clause

ubi ... ducit: “in asyndeton; an adversative conj. has been suppressed here and below after *accipit*.” (Ramsey). *ducit*: he considers.

memores: “also found with *de*+abl. at 26.3, 52.13, but often construed with a direct object acc., e.g., 5.7, 20.1” (Ramsey).

dē magnā virtūte ... glōriā: ablatives after *de*.

quae...: each accepts (*accipit*) ... (those things) which..

sibi: for himself; dative of interest with *facilia*.

sibi quisque: “as usu., the distributive *quisque* stands immediately after the reflexive and is placed in the subordinate clause, although it must be taken as the subj. of *accipit* and *ducit* as well as *putat*.” (Ramsey).

factū: to do; ‘in doing’ a supine as an abl. of respect qualifying *facilia*

facilia factu: “the alliteration here and below (*ficta pro falsis*) adds forcefulness to the assertion.” (Ramsey).

supra ea: = “*quae supra ea sunt*; the prepositional phrase imitates the Greek usage of forming a substantive by means of the definite article plus a prepositional phrase; it supplies the direct object of *ducit*.” (Ramsey).

aequō animō: i.e. a calm spirit; ablative of manner.

supra ea: the things over these things (i.e. what one thinks easy)

pro falsis: “to be taken with *ducit* as the predicate complementing *supra ea*: “<those things that are> beyond that (i.e., the realm of his own capability), like made-up stories, he regards as unhistorical.” (Ramsey)

(3) *Sed*: “introduces a digression to explain why S. turned to the writing of history late in life. S.’s description of his youthful attraction to politics closely resembles a similar confession in Plato (*Ep.* 7.324B). (Ramsey)

adulēscētulus: as a very young man (in apposition to ego). “S.’s use of [the diminutive] *adulēscētulus* here probably also carried the connotation of the innocent, the naive, the stupid, conveying the feelings of a mature and disillusioned man looking back to the beginning of his career.” (McGushin, *ad loc.*). “the diminutive is perhaps intended to suggest the naive simplicity of youth (cf. 3.4*imbecilla aetas*) in contrast with mature reflection based upon experience, but the word is extremely flexible and applied elsewhere by S. (49.2) to Julius Caesar at a time when he was 37 years old. Possibly S. has in mind the period around his 30th birthday when he became eligible under the *lex Cornelia* to stand for

the quaestorship, the first office in the *cursus honorum* leading to the consulship. S.'s earliest attested office is his tribunate in 52 B.C. at the age of about 34" (Ramsey)

initio: at the beginning.

sicuti plerique: "an exaggeration, since political affairs remained almost exclusively in the hands of a relatively small number of well-established families, and it was not very common, or easy, for an outsider, whose ancestors had never held office, to play an important role in government. To the members of this governing class, however, and to men like Cic. (vid. 23.6) and S. himself who wished to distinguish themselves, few careers outside of politics were regarded as acceptable." (Ramsey)

studio: an abl. of manner with *latus sum*, which although passive, expresses what is essentially an active idea: "I threw myself eagerly into politics." (Ramsey)

lātus sum: "was carried along"; perfect passive of *ferō*.

ibique: ="in eaque, lit., "there," i.e., in the pursuit of his career; -que has the force of an adversative. S. is fond of substituting a demonstrative or relative adv. for a prepositional phrase (a colloquial usage, found also in poetry) and employs parataxis here in preference to subordination (i.e., *in qua*)." (Ramsey)

advorsa: = archaism for *adversa*. "the first attested major setback in S.'s career is his expulsion from the senate in 50 B.C. Later, after serving with distinction in Caesar's African campaign as praetor in 46, he seems to have been forced to retire from politics owing to a scandal arising from his governorship of Africa Nova" (Ramsey)

fuēre = *fuerunt*: syncopated perfect.

prō: in place of..., instead of... (+ abl). Note the use of antithesis. Anaphora.

audacia, *largitio*, *avaritia*: "a triad in asyndeton consisting of three vices. Each is paired with one of the preceding virtues, which are emphasized by the anaphora of *pro*. The first members in the two series correspond as opposites, while *largitio* and *avaritia* are contrasted with *virtute* and *abstinentia* respectively so that the arrangement is chiasmic. Bribery (*largitio*) was employed by men who lacked merit (*virtus*) to gain advancement (cf. 11.2), and conduct in office was characterized by a desire for personal enrichment (*avaritia*) rather than restraint in refusing graft (*abstinentia*). The sound rather than sense probably led S. to bracket the first series with *pudore* and *virtute* and the second with *audacia* and *avaritia*." (Ramsey)

(4) *quae*: these things; i.e. previous vices; neut. acc. obj. (of *aspermābatur*).

malarum artium: "gen. supplying the object of reference for the adj." (Ramsey); objective genitive *artium*.

insolens: "unaccustomed to evil practices." (Ramsey)

corrupta tenebatur: "the participle is best taken as nom. agreeing with

aetas: "was seduced and held prisoner." According to S.'s analysis (cf. 10.3-

5), *ambitio* ("the desire for power") is one of the two evils that corrupted the state. It closely resembles *virtus* because it aims at the same ends (*gloria*, *honor*, and *imperium*), but it leads men to adopt any means at their disposal to satisfy their desire for advancement." (Ramsey)

imbēcilla: goes with nominative singular *aetās*.

corrupta: nominative, agreeing with *aetas*.

(5) *me*: "emphasized by being placed so early in the sentence and so far from *vexabat* of which it is the direct object." (Ramsey)

cum...dissentīrem: although...: concessive *cum* clause (hence subjunctive).

ab...malīs mōribus: ablative of separation.

reliquōrum: i.e. of other ambitious men. "'the rest" in contrast with S. who set himself apart by refusing to adopt the corrupt practices of his age, while *ceteros* below ="the others" who resembled S. in so far as they were motivated by *honoris cupido*." (Ramsey)

nihilō minus: no less; 'none the less,' a comparative adv.; abl. degree of difference.

nihilo: “in origin an abl. of degree of difference with the comparative adv. *minus*; sometimes written as one word and used like *tamen* to introduce the main statement after a concessive or conditional clause.” (Ramsey)

cupido: “never used by Cic. or Caes. who prefer *cupiditas*, which is found only three times in S. (2.1, 5.4, 21.4) as opposed to twenty instances of *cupido*. In general, S. shows a tendency to avoid the frequent use of abstracts in *-tas* (e.g., *saevitia* 8 times as opposed to *crudelitas* 4 times), and may have borrowed *cupido* from Cato (e.g., 47.14J) as being more archaic.” (Ramsey)

fāmā et invidiā: “with rumour and envy” (ablative)

eadem qua: “if *eadem* is to be construed with the instrumental abls. *fama* and *invidia*, the reading *qua*, which is found in only three MSS, is preferable to the nom. *quae*, which is offered by all the rest. Since S. invariably places *idem*, meaning “the same,” before the word it modifies, *eadem* is not likely to modify *cupido*. With *eadem qua* is understood *honoris cupido vexabat*: “troubled me with the same reputation and envy as the others.” (Ramsey)

fama atque invidia: *fama* in conjunction with *invidia* would ordinarily refer to the “fame” or “prominence” of a public figure, but in this context, the sense seems to be “ill repute,” while *invidia* describes the jealousy aroused by successfully advancing one’s political career in the face of opposition.” (Ramsey)

IV.

(1) *ubi*: temporal clause.

mihi: my; dat. of possession or dat. agent.

dēcrēvī: introduces indirect speech: *reliquam aetātem...habendam* (understand “esse”): that the rest of my life must be lived.

ex multis miseriis atque periculis: “the *multa advorsa* of 3.3; *ex* is used in the sense of “following,” “after.”” (Ramsey).

a re publica: with *procul*, which probably influences the choice of *habere* rather than *agere*: “at a distance from public life” (Ramsey).

habendum: “sc. *esse*, forming an indirect statement depending on *decrevi*; *mihi*, the dat. of agent with the pass. periphrastic, is made prominent by being put first in the clause.” (Ramsey).

nōn fuit cōsiliū: “it was not (my) plan”: takes infinitive *agere* (with *aetātem* i.e. spend my life; *intentum* agrees with this).

bonum otium: “acc. obj. of the inf. *conterere*, which, with *agere* below, supplies the subj. of the impersonal expression *non fuit consilium*. The adj. *bonum* (“felicitous”) is used to contrast *otium* with *ambitio mala* (“destructive”) below and to set it apart from *desidia* (“idleness”), with which *otium* is sometimes synonymous.” (Ramsey).

bonum otium: Sallust can withdraw from public affairs and get glory.

vērō: truly, in truth; abl. as adv.

agrum colundo aut venando: “abls. depending on *intentum* which agrees with *me*, the unexpressed acc. subject of *agere*. S. quite often retains the gerund with an acc. object in preference to the more common gerundive equivalent, esp. when it is accompanied by one or more gerunds used absolutely.” (Ramsey).

agrum colundō...vēnandō: on...on...; dative due to verb *intentum*; two gerunds (-ing); *colundo* = *colendo* (archaic).

servilibus officiis = in apposition to the gerunds. ““servile tasks,” in apposition with *colundo* and *venando*. By contrast, Cato (*Agr.*, praef.) and Cic. (*Off.* 1.151) single out agriculture as one of the most worthy occupations for a free man, and their judgment appears to reflect the conventional attitude of the Romans towards farming. Possibly S. rejects this traditional view because he is still thinking primarily in terms of the proper exercise of

one's *ingenium* and regards these two pursuits as involving the *corpus* rather than the *animus*. At the same time, he may be sneering at the vast pleasure parks and country estates that were maintained in his day by leading members of the aristocracy and staffed with slaves.

Ironically, S. himself may have been the owner of a very elegant pleasure park or garden (the *horti Sallustiani*) which was located on the outskirts of Rome between the Quirinal and Pincian Hills (vid. Introd. p.5)." (Ramsey)

intentum: accusative: understand "me".

(2) *ā quō inceptō studiōque*: from this beginning and pursuit; -que =explanatory, lit. "from the undertaking, that is the study". "the neut. substs. *incepto* (= "undertaking") and *studio* should logically form the antecedent of *quo*, but they have been attracted into the relative clause since it has been placed first to stress the contrast with the adv. *eodem* which stands for *ad idem inceptum studiumque*." (Ramsey)

eodem: adverb: "to the same place".

statuī: "I decided": plus infinitive.

carptim: "adv., lit., "in parts," "separately," i.e., in monographs or separate essays on a limited period rather than a continuous history of R. from the foundation. On the choice of this vehicle for writing history, vid. Introd. pp. 7-8. [S.'s fondness for adverbs in -tim may have been influenced by the practice of his predecessor Sisenna who was noted for employing a number of new and unusual adverbs ending in this suffix (Gell. 12.15).

... *carptim*, which is first attested here....] (Ramsey)

ut quaeque...vidēbantur: as each... seemed; *ut* + indicative ("as"): clause of comparison.

ut quaeque: "as elsewhere in S., virtually a periphrasis for *quaecumque*." (Ramsey)

perscribere: "the compound conveys the notions of completeness and accuracy." (Ramsey)

(*et*) *eō magis*: (and) all the more; 'more by this (much)' abl. of degree of difference.

eo magis: "sc. *statui res gestas p. R. perscribere*; *eo* is abl. of degree of diff.

a spe, metu, partibus rei publicae: a triad in asyndeton; *partibus r. p.* refers to the two factions within the government, which S. defines elsewhere (38.1–4) as the conservatives, who controlled the senate, and the reformers, who sought power by appealing to the popular assemblies. It was traditional for an historian to assert his objectivity near the beginning of his work, and often he explained the circumstances which made it possible for him to write without bias and from a detached point of view (cf. Hecateus, *FGrH* no. 1 fr. 1a; Thuc. 1.22.2ff.; Livy, *praef.* 5)." (Ramsey)

quod: causal.

mihi: dat. of possession (my) or interest.

ā spē (et) metū (et) partibus: from...; ablatives of separation following *liber*; the *partēs* refer to factions or partisans.

erat: "past rather than present because the statement is expressed as holding true with respect to the time of the main vb. *statui*." (Ramsey)

(3) *de Catilinae coniuratione*: "this phrase has supplied the modern title by which the work is commonly known rather than the *Bellum Catilinae* (vid. Introd. n. 9)." (Ramsey)

quam vērissime (=vērissimē) poterō: as... as I will be able; *quam* begins a clause of comparison; superlative adverb. *poterō*= future tense of *possum*.

paucis: "sc. *verbis*, a colloquial expression found chiefly in comedy before S. Brevity is a quality that S. greatly admired in his predecessor the Elder Cato, and it is one of the chief characteristics of his own style (vid. Introd. p. 12)." (Ramsey); *paucīs (verbīs)*: with...; abl. of means, i.e. with a brief account. "Brevity was a feature of his style remarked upon by ancient commentators. His admiration for Cato undoubtedly influenced him." (McGushin, *ad loc.*).

absolvam: 1st person singular future. "'set forth" (lit., "unbind," "set free"), possibly chosen to convey the notion of settling an account, after the promise made by *statui* in 4.2. S. is

apparently the first prose author to use this verb in the sense of *narrare*. Elsewhere in S., *absolvere* is construed with the acc. and is found only here with *de+abl.*” (Ramsey)
(4)

id: this; i.e. the conspiracy, a demonstrative adj. with *facinus*.

in prīmīs: especially, in particular.

exīstumō = *exīstimō*: I judge (x)(y); a double acc.

nouitate: ablative of cause.

(5) *cuius hominis* i.e. of Catiline; translate the connective relative (gen. sg.) as ‘of this’.

mōribus: character; ‘habits,’ gen. pl. *mōs*

prius...quam...faciam: before I may make a beginning...; ‘earlier than’ is often one word

priusquam (here tmesis), governs a 1s pres. anticipatory subj.

explānanda sunt: must be...; ‘is (going) to be...’ pass. periphrastic (gerundive + sum)

nārrandī: gen. sg., gerund (-ing).