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Academica: Cicero s Academic Scepticism

By Marcus Tullius Cicero

Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 252 x 190 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Cicero 106-43 adopted the philosophical view of the Academic skeptics as a young man. In 89, Philo of Larissa, the head of Plato s Academy, fled from Athens to Rome for political reasons. While at Rome, Cicero attended Philo s public lectures and began to study philosophy with him. Cicero also studied with the most prominent representatives of other Hellenistic philosophical schools: Posidonius (a Stoic), Zeno of Citium and Phaedrus (Epicureans), and Cratippus. Although the Academy probably ceased to exist as an institution after Philo s death in 84, Cicero continued to champion its methodology in his philosophical dialogues. The Academic position appealed to Cicero for a variety of reasons (Section 1). The Academics argued on both sides of every issue in order to undermine the dogmatic confidence of their interlocutors. Cicero s teacher Philo also applied this method in order to determine which position enjoyed the most rational support. Given his rhetorical and forensic skills, Cicero likely found this method attractive. It was also ideal for his project of inducing the ruling class Romans to take up...



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