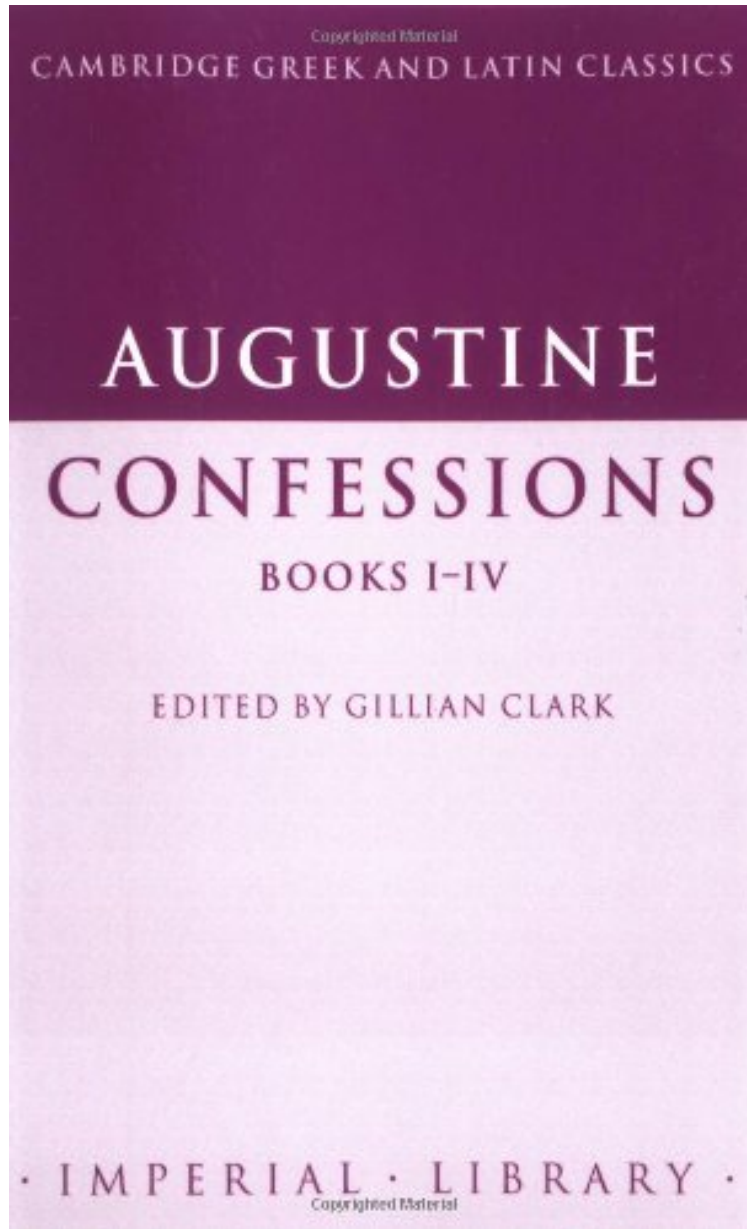


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Augustine

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Augustine : Augustine: Confessions Books I-IV (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics - Imperial Library) (Latin and English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all

praised Augustine: Confessions Books I-IV (Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics - Imperial Library) (Latin and English Edition):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Latin text and commentary that fills a great gap in later Latin literature. By Sarah Ursus I am surprised that the reviews here appear to be for another edition, particularly an English translation. This is not an English translation!!! This is the Latin text of books 1-4 of Confessions, with some notes and commentary. What kept me from giving this 5 stars is the text reflects classical orthography, "u" in place of "v" and other things. In the 4th century the spoken language had already changed to reflect what today is often called "ecclesiastical pronunciation" or more correctly, "later Latin pronunciation". If one is good with classical orthography it is not too much of a challenge, nevertheless it is not accurate to how Augustine would have spoken in the 4th century AD. Apart from that, the text is very readable and the notes are very helpful in breaking down complex constructions that Augustine uses as well as explaining obscure vocabula. This is great to fill in a gap for Latin students, namely moving from classical Latin to ecclesiastical writers. Augustine's Latin is very important for reading medieval and scholastic Latin, since apart from the Vulgate, Augustine is the writer, more than any other, around whom later writers would base their composition and style. Augustine is the last gasp of major intellectual thought in the Roman Empire, and his rhetoric and argument is as strong for us today as it was in his own day. There are a few drawbacks, depending on one's level of Latin. There is no facing vocabulary or a vocabulary in the back, which is not a handicap for someone who knows Latin well but can be for an intermediate student looking to move to better reading fluency. The pain of having to look up certain words can affect the enjoyment of the work, but on the other hand the student should be doing/already have done this work. For an instructor it merely creates the headache of having to make a worksheet or emphasize vocabulary based on what kind of instruction the student has received in the past. My attitude to facing vocabulary is that it is basically like training wheels and may even make the student lazy rather than force him to appropriate necessary vocabulary. Be that as it may, another shortcoming is the fact that the notes are not next to the text but are in the back. This means that you have to keep your finger in two places, or after reading a bit you must flip to the back for certain explanations which interrupts the flow of the reading, rather than glancing quickly to the next page before continuing. Again, for someone at an advanced or instructional level, this is not so difficult, but again, for an intermediate student it can become a handicap. On the whole, however, this text is very good for filling the gap of reading early and medieval Church Latin. The primacy on classics is unfortunate given that Latin continued as a language for 2 thousand years after the age of Augustus, and a lot of texts and instruction would leave one at a loss to read for example, legal Latin of the middle ages and early modern period, theological Latin whether of the Church Fathers or medieval scholastic theologians, or early Latin writings of protestant writers like Calvin and Luther, etc. Given that at the least 1/3rd of those studying Latin are doing so out of an interest in the tradition of the Latin Church, this is a major gap that eventually needs to be filled.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. one of my favorite books. By Savannah Hulsopple absolutely beautifully written. he is a complicated person and does not try to hide that (as the title states, this is a book of his confessions). he struggles through many situations and his relationship with his mother in ways that are extremely applicable to anyone's life nowadays. an absolute must read to help you think about who you are.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... chose this book as our current selection and we love the size of the book. By B. Fries Our Book Club chose this book as our current selection and we love the size of the book, the clarity of the print and especially the translation. Saint Augustine wrote his own "tell all" biography which also includes the story of his mother, St. Monica. They lived incredible lives!

This volume presents the Latin text of one of the great classics of Christian literature, accompanied by a commentary. Confessions is concerned with one human life as an example of what it is to be human and in search of God. In books I-IV, Augustine reflects on his infancy and childhood, adolescent rebellion and student days, and his early teaching career. The commentary, which can be used by those new to Augustine and his world, concentrates on his brilliant Latin and on his theology and philosophy.

"...Clark's notes concentrate upon the subtle nuances and peculiarities of Augustine's use of language, focusing upon the significant rhetorical feature of the text. Highly recommended." The Reader's "It is an excellent addition to the resources available for students and teachers of the Confessions and of Christian Latin generally." John C. Cavadini, Anglican Theological Language Notes

Text: Latin, English

About the Author Augustine was born in AD 354. He lived a wild, self-destructive life as a young man in Italy and was the subject of many prayers by his worried mother, Monica. After a life-changing conversion, he lived on to become a tremendous influence on Christian thinking. He died in AD 430.