



Cato's Letters or Essays on Liberty, Civil and Religious, and Other Important Subjects : Four Volumes in Two

By John Trenchard, Thomas Gordon

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Almost a generation before Washington, Henry, and Jefferson were even born, two Englishmen, concealing their identities with the honored ancient name of Cato, wrote newspaper articles condemning tyranny and advancing principles of liberty that immensely influenced American colonists. The Englishmen were John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon. Their prototype was Cato the Younger (95–46 B.C.), the implacable foe of Julius Caesar and a champion of liberty and republican principles. Their 144 essays were published from 1720 to 1723, originally in the *London Journal*, later in the *British Journal*. Subsequently collected as *Cato's Letters*, these "Essays on Liberty, Civil and Religious" became, as Clinton Rossiter has remarked, "the most popular, quotable, esteemed source of political ideas in the colonial period."

This new two-volume edition offers minimally modernized versions of the letters from the four-volume sixth edition printed in London in 1755.

Ronald Hamowy is Professor of History at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

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Cato's Letters or Essays on Liberty, Civil and Religious, and Other Important Subjects : Four Volumes in Two By John Trenchard, Thomas Gordon Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #474045 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Liberty Fund
- Published on: 1995-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 2
- Dimensions: 9.10" h x 2.50" w x 6.10" l, 3.55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 1064 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Trenchard and Gordon's arrangement of the Roman statesman's epistles was first published in four volumes in 1755. In addition to the text of the letters, this edition contains a publishing history and notes on the text. For scholarly collections.

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About the Author

John Trenchard C.Ss.R. is a Redemptorist with wide pastoral experience. He was ordained priest in 1971 and has led Parish Missions and Retreats throughout his priestly life. He worked with Redemptorist Publications for a number of years before being appointed their Publishing Director in 1981. During that time he wrote or co-wrote some of Redemptorist Publications outstanding titles. In 1987 he became a Parish Priest in the Westminster Diocese. He was elected as Redemptorist Provincial in England in 1997. Having served for nine years as Provincial he now returns to the role of Parish Priest, in London.

THOMAS GORDON, Ph.D., is president of Effectiveness Training, Inc., Solana Beach, California.

Ronald Hamowy is a Fellow in Social Thought at the Cato Institute. He is professor of history emeritus at the University of Alberta and previously was assistant director of the History of Western Civilization Program at Stanford University. He received his Ph.D. in social thought under F. A. Hayek at the University of Chicago. He is the author of books on the Scottish Enlightenment and on health care and the editor of a book on drug prohibition and the Liberty Press edition of Cato's Letters. He is a member of the Mont Pelerin Society, an international society of scholars founded in 1947 by Hayek, Friedman, and other luminaries of the libertarian movement.

Dr. Thomas Gordon, who died in 2002, was a licensed psychologist, and the recipient of the 1999 American Psychological Foundation's Gold Medal Award for Enduring Contribution to Psychology, as well as other awards. Gordon Training International, based in Solana Beach, California, continues Dr. Gordon's work around the world.

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