What Charybdis So Voracious?  
Ciceronian Hyperbole in the Second *Philippic*

1. Catalogue of hyperbole:
   * **1.1** (#2 below); 1.7; 4.9; 6.4; 7.17;.7.21; 8.25; 8.33; 9.4; 9.12; **12.5** (#3 below); 12.6; 12.12; 12.15; 13.20; 14.25; 15.34; 15.35; 15.36; 16.11; 16.14; 17.28; 20.28; 29.16; 32.26; 42.28; **44.20-46.5** (Antony as prostitute); 47.9; 49.31; 50.20; 51.31; 55.31; **55.33-4** (Antony as Helen of Troy; Antony as the cause of Caesar’s Civil War); 57.31; 58.2; 58.4; **63.10-21** (Antony’s vomit fills the tribunal (Polyphemus?)); 64.27; 65.35; 66.10; **67.16-30** (#4 below); 68.2; 69.8; 69.16; 76.22; 81.7; 85.15; 91.3; 92.20; 97.2; 99.17; 105.18-26; 112.32
2. *Quonam meo fato, patres conscripti, fieri dicam ut nemo his annis viginti rei publicae fuerit hostis, qui non bellum eodem tempore mihi quoque indixerit* (1.1).

* By what fate of mine am I to say, conscript fathers, that it has happened that no one in these twenty years has been an enemy of the republic who did not also, at the same time, declare war against me?

1. *Frequentissimo senatui sic placuit, ut esset nemo, qui mihi non ut parenti gratias ageret, qui mihi non vitam suam, fortunas, liberos, rem publicam referret acceptam* (12.15).

* My service was so pleasing to the most crowded Senate that there was no one who did not thank me as his father, no one who did not credit me with the presevation of his life, fortunes, children and the Republic.

1. ***Quae Charybdis tam vorax?*** *Charybdin dico? quae si fuit, animal unum fuit:* ***Oceanus****, me dius fidius, vix videtur* ***tot*** *res* ***tam dissipatas****,* ***tam distantibus*** *in locis positas* ***tam cito*** *absorbere potuisse.* ***nihil*** *erat clausum,* ***nihil*** *obsignatum,* ***nihil*** *scriptum.* ***apothecae******totae******nequissimis******hominibus*** *condonabantur; alia mimi rapiebant, alia mimae; domus* ***erat*** *aleatoribus* ***referta****,* ***plena*** *ebriorum;* ***totos dies*** *potabatur atque id* ***locis******pluribus****; suggerebantur etiam saepe—non enim* ***semper*** *iste felix—damna aleatoria; conchyliatis Cn. Pompei peristromatis servorum in cellis lectos stratos videres. quam ob rem desinite mirari haec* ***tam celeriter*** *esse consumpta. non modo unius patrimonium quamvis amplum, ut illud fuit,* ***sed urbis et regna celeriter tanta nequitia devorare potuisset****.* ***at idem aedis etiam et hortos****.* ***O audaciam immanem****!* (67.16-30).

* **What Charybdis so voracious?** Charybdis, I say? If it existed, it was only one creature. **The Ocean!** I swear, the ocean scarcely seemed able to have swallowed up **so quickly** **so many things** **so scattered**, spread about in **so many places** **so distant**. **Nothing** was locked up, **nothing** sealed, **nothing** catalogued. **Entire store rooms** were given up to the **vilest men**; actors of mimes snatched off some things, actresses others; the house was **stuffed full** of gamblers, **full** of drunks; **for entire days** there was drinking and **in so many places**; indeed there were often gambling losses—for that man is not **always** lucky. You would see in the cells of the slaves couches covered with mauve duvets of Cn. Pompey. Because of that, do not wonder that these things were consumed **so quickly**. **Such wickedness** could have devoured not only the inheritance of one man, however large, and it was**, but also cities, and entire kingdoms so quickly! And then also houses and gardens! What monstrous audacity!**

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