CONTENTS

Frontispiece Amor and Psyche by Pierre Paul Prud’hon. British Museum, London. Reproduced by courtesy of the Trustees
Preface [page vii]
Abbreviations and references ix
Introduction 1
1 The author 1
2 The book 2
3 The ‘message’ of the Metamorphoses 6
4 The story of Cupid and Psyche 12
   (a) Significance 12
   (b) Sources and models 17
   (c) Narrative voices 22
   (d) The conduct of the story 24
   (e) A note on allegory 27
5 Style and language 28
6 The text 38

APVLEI METAMORPHOSEON LIBRI
IV 28 – VI 24: text and facing translation 39

Commentary 116
Works cited by short title 226
Indexes 238
1 Latin words 238
2 General 240
PREFACE

This edition was commissioned in 1983, but its *aetia initialis* is to be sought in lectures delivered as long ago as 1979. Ten years indeed is none too long for the task of writing a commentary on *Cupid & Psyche*. As I have repeatedly read and brooded over this short text, I have been made ever more keenly aware both of its richness and subtlety and of the impossibility of doing it anything like justice except at inordinate length and expenditure of time. From the first of these extravagances I am saved by the limitations imposed on this series; from the second by a cherished and comforting slogan of the late Sir Moses Finley: ‘If it’s more right than wrong, let it go.’ Here then it goes, hoping that the condition in that sentence will seem to competent critics to have been met.

In that event, a proper proportion of the credit must go to those friends and colleagues who have of their kindness contributed information and constructive criticism. The Introduction and Commentary have been read in draft by Professor Easterling and Dr R. L. Hunter; and the Translation by Professor Easterling. To their comments and suggestions I owe substantial improvements of both matter and presentation. I must also thank for helpful advice Professor W. S. Allen, Professor W. G. Arnott, Dr A. M. Bowie, Professor M. F. Burnyeat and Dr Paula James. Dr Klaus Kruse of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* has dealt patiently and comprehensively with my enquiries about Apuleius’ vocabulary. I am greatly obliged to Professor W. S. Watt for his generous permission to print a number of unpublished conjectures on the text. The debt which I owe to Mrs Hazel Dunn for typing the text and (twice) reducing the Commentary to order is one which can be appreciated to the full only by the other Fellows of Peterhouse who have made similar trial of her professional skill and unfailling good humour.


*January 1990*

E. J. K.
viii

PREFACE

As these pages pass through the press, I take the opportunity of recording my gratitude to Susan Moore for her expert and tactful sub-editing, to Roland Mayer for his care and vigilance in reading the proofs, and to Pauline Hire and Nancy-Jane Thompson for their encouragement and advice at all stages of the book’s history.

April 1990

E. J. K.
ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES


CIL Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. Berlin 1863– .


TLL Thesaurus Linguae Latinae. Munich 1900– .

ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES

References to the text of the Metamorphoses are by book, chapter and section as in Robertson’s edition.

In the Commentary certain words are distinguished according to their degree of rarity:

* = first attested in Apuleius
† = attested only in Apuleius
‡ = hapax legomenon.

See also list of Works cited by short title, below pp. 226–37.