CICERO

PHILIPPICS

I–II

EDITED BY

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PREFACE

This edition is the first since J. D. Denniston's of 1926 to present the Latin text and a commentary on the *First* and *Second Philippics*, two of the most polished orations in the Ciceronian corpus. Those speeches, which were composed less than six months after the murder of Julius Caesar in March of 44 BC, present a vivid picture of the early years and the rise to power of Mark Antony, Caesar's chief lieutenant. Cicero's extremely negative portrait of that dashing and colourful political figure has left an indelible impression on how later writers, both ancient and modern, present Antony as a youth and as a Roman leader.

The period covered by these speeches (roughly 63–44 BC) is an important one because the Roman state was in transition from Republic to Empire. In fact, no other speech of Cicero provides such a sweep of history as we find in the *Second Philippic*. In that oration we are given not only Cicero's personal critique of his political career and place in Roman history from a perspective late in his life, but we also find a vivid portrayal of Caesar's rise to power, the outbreak of the Civil War in January 49, and the defeat of Pompey the Great in 48. Perhaps most interesting of all, we gain a distinct sense of the charged atmosphere in the years 49 to 45 BC, during which contemporaries held their breath to learn which faction, Caesar's or the Pompeian, was destined to achieve the final victory and triumph.

Either of the two speeches in this edition can be read on its own. The first, which occupies just slightly over twelve pages, provides an opportunity for a brief study of Cicero during the course of an academic semester or term, while the second speech, which is one of the longest Ciceronian speeches extant, could occupy all or most of a term on Cicero. The two orations taken together form an ideal combination because they invite us to compare the way in which Cicero ventured to criticize Mark Antony's policies and administration of Rome after Caesar's murder. In the first speech Cicero goes out of his way to treat his adversary with an outward show of respect and even friendship, whereas in the *Second Philippic* Cicero lets loose an invective of monumental proportions. The resulting diatribe is one that has been so eloquently described by the late Sir Ronald

Syme (104) as 'an eternal monument of eloquence, of rancour, and of misrepresentation'.

It is the aim of this new edition of the *First* and *Second Philippic* to present these two masterpieces of Cicero's mature style in a way that will make them accessible to readers who may wish to study them either as works of literature or as historical sources. In other words, unlike Denniston's edition, which explicitly aimed at supplying mainly historical notes and so sometimes passes over lengthy stretches of the Latin text without any remark, this new edition tries to be as thorough as space permits. I have profited from studying the many previous commentaries on these speeches that are listed in the bibliography and are often referred to in my notes. From these earlier commentators I have tried to incorporate into this new edition whatever I considered useful for my audience, which I presume will be comprised chiefly of university students. I have also derived a great deal of help from the recent edition of all the *Philippics*, with English translation, by D. R. Shackleton Bailey and from the edition of the *Second Philippic*, with translation and commentary, by W. K. Lacey. In writing my own commentary I have tried to give the reader sufficient help with Latin grammar and syntax to ensure a correct understanding of the text. Where there are issues of style or of historical interpretation, I have covered these as succinctly as possible. My aim in the discussion of historical matters has always been to provide sufficient evidence in the form of references to the ancient sources both to show the grounding for my assertions and to permit the reader to test my interpretation by consulting the primary sources, if desired.

While preparing this commentary, I was fortunate to have two extended periods of research leave made possible by fellowships, which I gratefully acknowledge: from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1993–94 and from the UIC Institute for the Humanities in 2000–01. I fully expected to bring this book to a conclusion during the course of the first of those fellowships, and I must thank the patience of my editors and the press for permitting me to take years longer than I had intended to complete this commentary. The major delay was caused when I embarked upon an investigation of 'Caesar's Comet' (of 44 BC) in collaboration with a friend and colleague in the UIC Department of Physics, A. Lewis Licht. Our joint study of that great daylight comet occupied much of 1993–94