At the end of his life the emperor Augustus wrote an account of his achievements in which he reviewed his rise to power, his conquest of the world, and his unparalleled generosity towards his subjects. This edition provides a new text, translation and detailed commentary – the first substantial one in English for more than four decades – which is suitable for use by students of all levels. The commentary deals with linguistic, stylistic, and historical matters. It elucidates how Augustus understood his role in Roman society, and how he wished to be remembered by posterity; and it sets this picture that emerges from the *Res Gestae* into the context of the emergence both of a new visual language and of an official set of expressions. The book also includes illustrations in order to demonstrate how the Augustan era witnessed the rise of a whole new visual language.

ALISON E. COOLEY is Senior Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick. Recent books include *Becoming Roman, Writing Latin? Literacy and Epigraphy in the Roman West* (2002, edited), and *Pompeii* (2004).
For Paul
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Preface

I’m glad to be able to take this opportunity to thank Graham Oliver, whose enthusiastic and congenial collaboration over a paper for the Triennial Conference on the RGDA initially inspired the idea of undertaking this project. I’d also like to acknowledge the role played by my students at Warwick, notably the three cohorts who have grappled the Augustan age with me, who often make me clarify my ideas, and generally help inspire me by their enthusiasm for the subject. Michael Sharp has been supportive of the book from start to finish, offering invaluable practical help. Three Cambridge University Press assessors made helpful suggestions in planning the shape of the book in its infancy; Stephen Mitchell and the other Cambridge University Press reader provided copious suggestions for guiding the original typescript towards maturity; I hope that they like what they find now. Any faults in the book remain the result of my oversight or stubbornness. For help in compiling the illustrations I’m indebted to Michael Sharp, Stephen Mitchell, and my father. I’m grateful to Richard Abdy of the British Museum for permission to reproduce some of the images of coins already to be found in the LACTOR sourcebook, *The Age of Augustus*, ed. M. G. L. Cooley. Family support has been crucial, and I’m incredibly fortunate to have such tolerant children, husband, parents, and mother-in-law. Among other things, I’d single out the constructive criticism and practical help from Melvin and my parents, and the innumerable hours of childcare undertaken by my mother-in-law. The children have been wonderfully patient when I disappear, so I thank Emma for letting me get on with ‘pretend work’ whilst at home. Finally, I dedicate the book to Paul; if he hadn’t been such a good baby and toddler, it simply would not have been possible to write this book.

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Abbreviations

AE  Année Epigraphique
BM Coins, Rom. Emp. I Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum = Mattingly (1923)
BM Coins, Rom. Emp. II Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum = Mattingly (1930)
CIL Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum
EJ Ehrenberg and Jones (1976, 2nd edn.)
FGrH F. Jacoby, Fragmenta der griechischen Historiker
FIRA Fontes Iuris Romani Antejustiniani = Riccobono (1941)
HRRel Historicorum Romanorum Reliquiae = Peter (1906)
IGRom Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes
ILLRP Inscriptiones Latinae Liberae Rei Publicae = Degrassi (1957)
ILS Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae
Inscr. Ital. Inscriptiones Italiae XIII.i = Degrassi (1947); XIII.ii = Degrassi (1963); XIII.iii = Degrassi (1937)
LTUR IV Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae IV. P–S = Steinby (1999a)
### List of Abbreviations

- **LTUR V**: *Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae V.*
  - **T–Z** = Steinby (1999b)
- **MAMA IV**: *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua IV*
  - = Buckler, Calder, and Guthrie (1933)
- **OCD**: *Oxford Classical Dictionary*
  - = Hornblower and Spawforth (1996, 3rd edn.)
- **OGI**: *Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae*
- **PECS**: *Princeton Encyclopaedia of Classical Sites*
  - = Stillwell (1976)
- **PIR**: *Prosopographia Imperii Romani*
  - = Klebs *et al.* (1897/8)
- **PIR²**: *Prosopographia Imperii Romani*
  - = Groag *et al.* (1933–)
- **RE**: *Real-Encyclopädie d. klassischen Altertumswissenschaft*, eds. A. Pauly, G. Wissowa, and W. Kroll (1893–)
- **RDGE**: *Roman Documents from the Greek East*
  - = Sherk (1969)
- **RGE**: *Rome and the Greek East*
  - = Sherk (1984)
- **RIC I²**: *Roman Imperial Coinage*
  - = Sutherland (1984, 2nd rev. ed.)
- **RIC II**: *Roman Imperial Coinage*
  - = Mattingly and Sydenham (1926)
- **RRC**: *Roman Republican Coinage I*
  - = Crawford (1974)
- **SCPP**: *Senatus consultum de Cn. Pisone patre*
  - = Eck *et al.* (1996)
- **SEG**: *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*
- **Suppl. It.**: *Supplementa Italica*
- **Syll.³**: *Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum*

Journal abbreviations follow those in *Année Philologique*; abbreviated references to classical authors follow the conventions in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd edn.)
Map 1 City of Rome.
Map 2 Roman forum.
Map 3 Asia Minor.