At the end of the *Thebaid*, Statius enjoins his epic “not to compete with the divine *Aeneid* but rather to follow at a distance and always revere its footprints.” The nature of the *Thebaid*’s interaction with the *Aeneid* is, however, a matter of great debate. This book argues that the *Thebaid* reworks themes, scenes, and ideas from Virgil in order to show that the *Aeneid*’s representation of monarchy is inadequate. It also demonstrates how the *Thebaid*’s fascination with horror, spectacle, and unspeakable violence is tied to Statius’ critique of the moral and political virtues at the heart of the *Aeneid*. Professor Ganiban offers both a new way to interpret the *Thebaid* and a largely sequential reading of the poem.

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STATIUS AND VIRGIL

The Thebaid and the Reinterpretation of the Aeneid

RANDALL T. GANIBAN
MATRI
ET
MANIBUS PATRIS
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Preface

This book began as a dissertation on nefas in the *Thebaid* and has evolved into a monograph that interprets Statius’ epic as a political critique of the *Aeneid*. Along the way a number of institutions and individuals provided invaluable help. My dissertation work benefited from the support of the Princeton Classics Department, an assistant mastership (under Bob Hollander and Ted Champlin) at Princeton’s Butler College, a Ford Foundation dissertation fellowship, and the helpful counsel of those who at various times served on my dissertation committee: Elaine Fantham (director), Denis Feeney, Georgia Nugent, and Alessandro Schiesaro.

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Abbreviations


AJPh American Journal of Philology
ANRW Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt
CJ Classical Journal
ClAnt Classical Antiquity
CPh Classical Philology
CQ Classical Quarterly
EMC Echos du monde classique
GB Grazer Beiträge: Zeitschrift für die klassische Altertumswissenschaft
HSCPh Harvard Studies in Classical Philology
ICS Illinois Classical Studies
JRS Journal of Roman Studies
LCM Liverpool Classical Monthly
MD Materiali e discussioni per l’analisi dei testi classici
MH Museum Helveticum
PCPhS Proceeding of the Cambridge Philological Society
PVS Proceeding of the Virgil Society
REL Revue des études latines
RFIC Rivista di filologia e di istruzione classica
RIL Rendiconti dell’Istituto Lombardo, Classe di Lettere, Scienze morali e storiche
SO Symbolae Odenenses
TAPhA Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association
YclS Yale Classical Studies

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