To Frédérique

κάλλος μόνον ταύτην ἐσχε μοῖραν, ὡςτ’ ἐκφανέστατον εἶναι καὶ ἐρασμιώτατον
## CONTENTS

**Preface**  page ix  
**Abbreviations**  x  
*Map 1* Approximate route of Socrates and Phaedrus  xii  
*Map 2* Athens  xii  

### Introduction
1. Approaching the Phaedrus  1  
2. Design, complexity, and the plot  2  
3. Phaedrus, Lysias, and the dramatic date  7  
4. The art of psychagogic rhetoric  10  
5. Erôs  14  
6. Plato’s lively style  18  
7. The Phaedrus’ date of composition and place in the Platonic corpus  22  
8. Reception  25  
9. The text and apparatus in this edition  30  

ΠΛΑΤΩΝΟΣ ΦΑΙΔΡΟΣ  35  

### Commentary  85  

**Appendix: Synopsis of the Phaedrus**  250  
**Bibliography**  252  
**Indexes**  266  
*Greek words*  266  
*General*  267
Like other great works of Greek literature, the Phaedrus comes to us laden with established views and previous interpretations. The dialogue has acquired the additional burden of being considered important, and interpreted accordingly, in accounts of Plato’s thought, of the intellectual debates of fourth-century Greece, and of the development of Greek culture and Western metaphysics. There is no better remedy, it seems to me, than an encounter with the dialogue itself. I have attempted to loosen up a bit the constraints of received wisdom and to take a fresh look at what Plato says in this dialogue to his contemporary audience and how he chooses to say it. Furthermore, in the ongoing process of reading and interpreting the Phaedrus, an approach that returns to the dialogue itself would make a timely contribution.

Of the vast secondary literature on the Phaedrus, I cite only those items that seem most useful for understanding whatever point is at issue; this is an economy that should benefit readers of this edition. For questions of syntax, I refer to Guy Cooper’s Attic Greek prose syntax (AGPS) because it contains a wealth of informative examples and recognizes significant subtleties that go unremarked in other reference grammars. A new edition of Hermias’ commentary on the Phaedrus by C. Lucarini and C. Moreschini (De Gruyter) is still forthcoming as of this writing, and thus could not be used in this edition.

Doing this work, I have benefited from a great deal of criticism, learning, advice, and assistance generously bestowed. My debt to Pat Easterling and Richard Hunter is enormous, and surpassed only by the pleasure I have been afforded in working with them. I am deeply indebted to Jefferds Huyck, whose critical reading of various drafts has been instrumental. I am grateful to Christian Brockmann, Frédérique Woerther, and Paul Cartledge for criticism and advice on particular questions; to Helen Van Noorden and Jenny Bryan for including me in their April 2009 colloquium on the Phaedrus; to the students of Hunter Rawlings at Cornell University for feedback on a draft of the commentary; to Michael Sharp, Elizabeth Hanlon, and Elizabeth Davey for their work at the press; and to Iveta Adams for excellent copy-editing. Finally, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge friends and colleagues, old and new, of Jesus College and the Faculty of Classics of Cambridge University, who made an old student feel at home and contributed materially to the progress of this project.

Houston, Texas
31 July 2010

H. Y.
ABBREVIATIONS

DIALOGUES OF PLATO CITED IN THE INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY

Alc.  Alcibiades
Ap.  Apology
Chrm.  Charmides
Cra.  Cratylus
Cri.  Crito
Epist.  Épistles
Euthd.  Euthydemus
Euthphr.  Euthyphro
Grg.  Gorgias
Hp. mi.  Hippias minor
Ion  Laches
Laws
Lys.  Lysis
Menex.  Menexenus
Meno
Phd.  Phaedo
Phdr.  Phaedrus
Phlb.  Philebus
Plt.  Politicus (Statesman)
Prm.  Parmenides
Prt.  Protagoras
Rep.  Republic
Smp.  Symposium
Sph.  Sophist
Tht.  Theaetetus
Ti.  Timaeus

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

Alcid.  Alcidamas
AS  L. Radermacher, ed. Artium scriptores (Reste der voraristotelischen Rhetorik) (Vienna 1951). Cited by author number and paragraph number.
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS xi

CPF F. Adorno et al., eds. Corpus dei papiri filosofici greci e latini (Florence 1989–). Cited by author number and papyrus number.


PCG R. Kassel and C. Austin, eds. Poetae comicci Graeci (Berlin 1983–). Cited by author name and fragment number.

Ph. Phaedrus


S. Socrates


Abbreviations of authors, texts, and reference works not listed above follow the Oxford Classical Dictionary, 3rd edn. For works of modern scholarship cited by author’s name and date of publication, full references are given in the bibliography.
Map 1 Approximate route of Socrates and Phaedrus

Map 2 Athens