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978-1-107-03898-1 - The Platonic Art of Philosophy

Edited by George Boys-Stones, Dimitri El Murr and Christopher Gill

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THE PLATONIC ART OF PHILOSOPHY

This is a collection of essays written by leading experts in honour of Christopher Rowe, and inspired by his groundbreaking work in the exegesis of Plato. The authors represent scholarly traditions which are very different in their approaches and interests, and rarely brought into dialogue with each other. This volume, by contrast, aims to explore synergies between them. Key topics include: the literary and philosophical unity of Plato's works; the presence and role of his contemporaries in his dialogues; the function of myth (especially the Atlantis myth); Plato's Socratic heritage, especially as played out in his discussions of psychology; his views on truth and being. Prominent among the dialogues discussed are *Euthydemus*, *Phaedo*, *Phaedrus*, *Republic*, *Theaetetus*, *Timaeus*, *Sophist* and *Laws*.

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Professor Christopher Rowe, OBE

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Preface

In 2009 Christopher Rowe retired from his last full-time academic post, the Chair of Greek in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University, which he had held since 1995. In 2010 the Northern Association for Ancient Philosophy (an association of which Christopher has been a keen and loyal supporter) dedicated its annual meeting to his work, in recognition of his groundbreaking contributions to ancient philosophy, notably in the field of Plato studies. The meeting was held over two days in April, in University College, Durham (Christopher's college), with eight papers given by friends, colleagues and former students. Between them, they represented both the variety of themes addressed in Christopher's work, and his international network of collaborations and conversation partners. Their work was the basis for this volume, which was compiled in a similar spirit: with the aim, that is, of engaging with and building upon themes and approaches to understanding Plato developed in Christopher's work, and in doing so to bring into conversation voices from a wide variety of perspectives and traditions, traditions which too often seem reluctant to acknowledge how much they have to learn from one another.

We would like to thank all those who took part in the original conference, and the institutions that gave it financial support: the Aristotelian Society, the Classical Association, Durham University, the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. We would also like to thank all those who made the timely appearance of this volume not only possible but a pleasant experience: all of the contributors, and Michael Sharp and his team at Cambridge University Press. And, as Christopher shows no signs of retiring from the conversation himself, we hope that this volume will serve for him not just as a heartfelt gift, but as a tool and spur for his (and others') future work.

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Abbreviations and conventions

Abbreviations for ancient authors and works (including Plato) are those of LSJ or the OLD. All Greek and Latin is translated into English, and unless otherwise specified, the translation is by the contributor. All secondary works cited by author and date are included in the Bibliography at the end of the volume.

The following abbreviations for modern works are used:

- DK H. Diels and W. Kranz, *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*. 6th edn. 3 vols. Dublin / Zurich, 1954.
- LSJ H. G. Liddell, R. Scott, and H. S. Jones, *A Greek-English Lexicon*, 9th edn., Oxford, 1940.
- ML Meiggs and Lewis 1988.
- OED *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd edn. 20 vols. Oxford, 1989.
- OLD P. Glare (ed.), *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, Oxford, 1982.
- SSR Giannantoni 1990.