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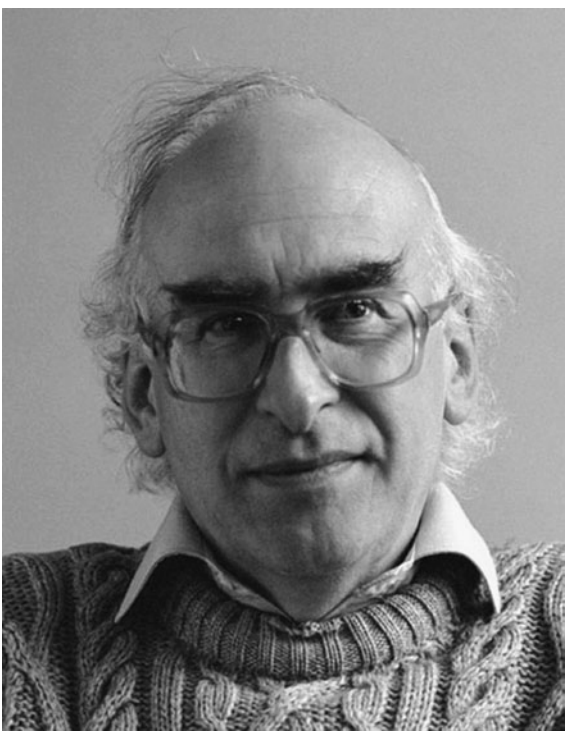

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107116276

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First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data
Names: Hunter, R. L. (Richard L.) editor. | Oakley, S. P. (Stephen P.) editor. | Reeve, Michael D.
Title: Latin literature and its transmission : papers in honour of Michael Reeve / edited by Richard Hunter and S. P. Oakley.
Description: Cambridge, UK ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2015. | 2016 | Series: Cambridge classical studies | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2015022584 | ISBN 9781107116276 (hb : alk. paper)
Subjects: LCSH: Latin literature–History and criticism. | Transmission of texts. | Manuscripts–Editing.
Classification: LCC PA6004 .L28 2015 | DDC 870.9/001–dc23
LC record available at http://lccn.loc.gov/2015022584

ISBN 978-1-107-11627-6 Hardback

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PREFACE

This volume contains revised versions of papers given at a conference in Cambridge in January 2013, to mark the seventieth birthday of Michael Reeve, who was born on 11 January 1943. Our wish had been not just to honour an old friend but to mark an outstanding tenure of the Kennedy Professorship of Latin, of which as Cambridge colleagues RH (also for many years a colleague at Pembroke College) had witnessed all, SPO the first fourteen years. When Michael came to our Faculty of Classics, great changes were afoot in the classical world, many pioneered in Cambridge. Although in some respects a traditional scholar, at least as the phrase is often understood, Michael's remarkable appreciation and encouragement of those whose interests are different from his own fostered between 1984 and 2007 an environment in which Latin studies in Cambridge flourished in many and diverse ways, while no one doubted that at the helm was a commanding scholar of the highest repute. The conference, at which papers were given by former pupils and friends of Michael, was a very happy affair, marked by the attendance of many who taught in the University of Oxford, Michael's own *alma mater*. We are grateful to the Faculty of Classics and Pembroke College in the University of Cambridge, and to Cambridge University Press, for their sponsorship. All who spoke at the conference have published in this volume, with the exception of William Fitzgerald and Gareth Williams, who regret that their papers were not suitable for publication in this format. We have added a bibliography of Michael's writings, which we hope will aid the appreciation of his scholarly achievement. We regret that we could not have asked more people to speak at the

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conference and that our decision to make Michael's interest in Latin literature its central theme meant that full justice has not been done in our volume to his extraordinary achievements as a student of manuscript traditions. This too cries out for proper honour, and we encourage others to enter the field.

The photograph on the jacket of this book is part of MS. Oxford, Balliol College, 248B, folio 135 verso, reproduced with kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Balliol College, and with the assistance of its Archivist, Anna Sander. This manuscript contains Cicero's *Verrines* and *Philippics* and was produced in Florence in 1447 for William Gray († 1478), a Balliol man who, like Michael Reeve, held a post in what is now Cambridgeshire, becoming Bishop of Ely in 1454. While we have been editing this collection, Michael has been at work on a major study of the manuscripts of the *Verrines*. He kindly drew our attention to Cicero's words in II.2.187 of those speeches, which are to be found in the photograph and which aptly evoke the experience of a textual critic and student of manuscripts:

> Cum haec maxime cognosceremus et in manibus tabulas haberemus, repente aspicimus lituras eius modi quasi quaedam uulnera tabularum recentia. Statim suspicione offensi ad ea ipsa nomina oculos animumque transtulimus. Erant acceptae pecuniae C. VERRVCIO C. F., sic tamen ut usque ad alterum R litterae constarent integrae, reliquae omnes essent in litura; alterum, tertium, quartum, permulta erant eiusdem modi nomina.

> Just when we were scrutinising these matters and had the account books in our hands, we suddenly noticed erasures of the kind that looked like fresh injuries inflicted on the books. Struck at once with suspicion, we shifted our gaze and attention to the entries themselves. Money had been received for Gaius Verrucius, the son of Gaius, recorded in such a way that down to the second letter 'r' the letters remained intact but all the others were written over an erasure. The second, third, fourth and many other entries were of the same kind.

Trinity College, Cambridge, RH
Emmanuel College, Cambridge, SPO
February 2015

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