This is a series of innovative studies in the textual and literary criticism of Latin literature, exploring how these two branches of the discipline are mutually supportive. The contributors include many leading scholars in the field. Individual essays are devoted to Catullus, Cicero, Horace, Lucretius, Ovid, Tacitus and Virgil, and there are also essays on the Renaissance reception of Virgil and on principles of editorial practice. The collection celebrates the extraordinary contribution which Michael Reeve has made and continues to make to Latin studies.

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Michael Reeve
LATIN LITERATURE AND ITS TRANSMISSION
Papers in Honour of Michael Reeve

Edited by
RICHARD HUNTER
AND
S. P. OAKLEY

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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...
Preface

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 off ensi ad ea ipsa nomina oculos animunque 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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