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MALCOLM CAMERON LYONS
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FOREWORD

The object of this work is to re-examine and, where possible, to add to evidence for the career of Saladin in order to strengthen the frame of reference into which the judgements and conclusions of his modern biographers can be fitted. For this purpose, attention is concentrated on contemporary sources, and in particular on the extant correspondence, diplomatic and private, of the period. This adds little to our knowledge of Saladin's rise to power in Egypt or to the history of the Third Crusade, but it is of particular value for the central period of his career. The sources are, primarily, concerned with Saladin's own actions and their interpretation, but these, in turn, reflect the wider pattern of forces at work in his age.

It is hoped that this work may be of service to non-Arabists. In view of this, personal names have been arbitrarily distinguished for ease of identification. For instance, Saladin's brother al-Malik al-'Ādil Saif al-Dīn Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn Ayyūb is referred to throughout as al-'Ādil, while another brother, al-Malik al-Mu'azzam Shams al-Daula Tūrān-Shāh ibn Ayyūb is called Tūrān-Shāh. Extended forms, together with cross-references, are given in the Index. Place names are divided into three categories: (a) those which have common European forms, such as Acre and Jerusalem, which are retained; (b) less common names, transliterated from the Arabic sources; (c) names used for identification and derived not from the Arabic sources but from modern maps, etc., the forms of which have been left unaltered. In both personal and place names there are a number of variants of form and spelling. In some cases spellings have been taken from vocalised manuscripts but in general forms and transcriptions are based on a modification of the system used in the *Manuel de Généalogie et de Chronologie pour l'Histoire de l'Islam* of E. de Zambaur.

There are a number of problems of dating, including textual difficulties and variants in the identification of the first day of the

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x

lunar month. It is possible, however, in spite of mistakes made by individual authorities, to construct a calendar of events during Saladin's lifetime based on dates and days of the week that can be confirmed from eastern and western sources which shows an average discrepancy of no more than one day over a period of twenty years. As a result, the margin of error to be allowed for in the establishment of any individual date is generally small.

We owe many debts of thanks, principally to the Publications Committee of the Oriental Faculty of Cambridge University for their help in arranging for the publication of this book. We wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous grant from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland. For both advice and encouragement we are deeply grateful to Professor Jonathan Riley-Smith. Mrs Ursula Lyons, of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, has helped at all stages of the writing of the book through her valuable work on both Arabic and European sources. We must also acknowledge with gratitude the kindness and help of Mr J. Sullivan and Dr Hugh Kennedy, both of St Andrews University, as well as that of the staff of the Cambridge University Press.

May 1977