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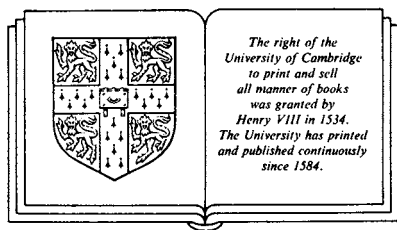
CICERO
CATO MAIOR
DE SENECTUTE

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION
AND COMMENTARY

BY

J. G. F. POWELL

University of Newcastle upon Tyne



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PREFACE

Cicero's *Cato Maior de senectute* has been edited many times, but an edition and commentary on the present scale has not previously been attempted. In justification of the size of the present work, I say only that in the course of working on the *Cato* I have found it to raise a surprising number of particular problems, which have not been satisfactorily resolved by existing studies; and that, while I do not believe that a commentator has a duty to reproduce everything that has ever been written about the text under consideration, nevertheless some extra length was necessary in order to do justice to the volume of previous scholarship devoted to this work. Although it is a short and unassuming piece of writing, the *Cato* touches on a wide range of aspects of life and thought in the ancient world, which must be elucidated if the reader is to appreciate it fully.

This edition is a converted doctoral thesis, which has taken longer in the conversion than in the original writing. Begun in 1979 at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, under the guidance and at the suggestion of Professor R. G. M. Nisbet, it was submitted for the D.Phil. in October 1982. Since then, it has been substantially revised and rewritten. Between starting work on this edition and delivering it to Cambridge University Press in 1986, I have benefited from much help and advice from teachers, friends and colleagues. The thesis was supervised by Professor Nisbet, Mr (now Professor) D. A. F. M. Russell, and Mr L. D. Reynolds, the last especially concerned with the section on the manuscripts; my debt to them is very great. My examiners, Professor A. E. Douglas and Dr M. Winterbottom, made many helpful suggestions. A nearly final version of the work was read and criticised, after my move from Oxford to Newcastle, by

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Professor D. A. West. For help on individual points at various times, I am grateful to Dr B. C. Barker-Benfield, Dr A. S. Gratwick, Dr D. Krömer, Miss H. K. Lomas, Mr P. J. Parsons, Mr J. J. Paterson, Miss E. D. Rawson, Professor M. D. Reeve, Dr D. R. Shanzer, Professor O. Skutsch, and Professor M. F. Smith.

I am grateful to the librarians of Lambeth Palace and Trinity College, Cambridge, and to the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich, for permission to consult manuscripts in person; to the following libraries for providing me with microfilms: Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; Bibliothèque Royale Albert I^{er}, Brussels; Bibliotheek der Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden; Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana; Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Florence; Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Venice; Zentralbibliothek, Zürich; to Dr G. Poethke, Papyrus-Sammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, for providing me with photographs of P. Berol. 13407; to the staff of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Munich, for their help during a two-week visit in September 1985, and to the staff of the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, Paris, who were similarly helpful when I visited them briefly in 1981; to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne for financial assistance for my visit to Munich; to Professor C. O. Brink, then an editor of the series, who made many useful comments on the draft typescript when I submitted it for publication; to Miss S. P. Moore, who undertook the sometimes provoking job of subediting the typescript, and to the rest of the staff of Cambridge University Press and to the typesetters; and to my mother, for help with the proofs and constant moral support.

I leave this book, not satisfied that the job has been done perfectly on my part, but with the reasonably certain assurance that further time and labour would not have made it much better than it is now. The help and criticism of those named above has contributed largely to whatever virtues it

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may have; I do not doubt that it still has many imperfections, for which nobody but myself must be held responsible. It is not easy to strike a balance that will please everyone between comment on text, language, interpretation and content; I have tried to give equal weight to all of these, and to cover all points that seemed to me to merit attention. My hope is that this edition will serve not only specialists, for whom it is naturally in the first place intended, but also readers of Cicero in general, and that it may perhaps encourage more sympathetic reading of Cicero's philosophical works than they have received in the past.

J. G. F. P.

Newcastle upon Tyne
July 1987