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The purpose of this book is to seek a fuller understanding of how the characterization of Paul in Acts would have been perceived by those who first read or heard the Lucan narrative. As the author makes clear, the careful reader of Acts should be amazed at the way St. Paul is portrayed therein. Dr. Lentz demonstrates, through a careful examination of particular texts, the great improbability that a Jew of strict Pharisaic background would have held, let alone been proud of, Roman citizenship and citizenship of the city of Tarsus. By investigating the social and legal expectations of the first century, the author shows that Paul is seen to be deferred to in matters of legal minutiae by those in positions of authority. He is given high social status and abundant moral virtue in order to attract to Christianity the high-ranking citizen who would recognize in Paul the classical cardinal virtues.

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Luke's portrait of Paul

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To my brother Peter (1954–1986) who told me to keep writing, and to my wife Deanne who made sure that I did.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Unless otherwise noted all Latin and Greek references are taken from the Loeb Classical Library (London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1908–)

Unless otherwise noted all references from *The Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs* are taken from H. C. Kee's Translation.

<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> , 33 vols. ed. H. Temporini and W. Hasse (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1972–)
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>ASR</i>	<i>American Sociological Review</i>
<i>BASOR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research</i>
<i>Beginnings</i>	<i>Beginnings of Christianity, part 1, The Acts of the Apostles</i> , 5 vol, ed. F. Jackson and K. Lake (London: The Macmillan Co., 1920–1933)
<i>BGU</i>	<i>Aegyptische Urkunden aus den königlichen Museum zu Berlin: Griechische Urkunden</i> vol. IV (Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, 1912)
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>BThB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>Catacombs and the Colosseum</i>	<i>The Catacombs and the Colosseum: The Roman Empire as the Setting of Primitive Christianity</i> , ed. S. Benko and J. J. O'Rourke (Valley Forge, Pa: Judson Press, 1971)
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CIG</i>	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> , 38 vols, ed. J. Franzius (Berlin: Vendit G. Reimeri Libraria, 1853)

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- CPJ* *Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum*, 3 vols, ed. V. A. Tcherikover and A. Fuks (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1957)
- ET* *The Expository Times*
- EvTh* *Evangelische Theologie*
- HTR* *Harvard Theological Review*
- IESS* *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, ed. D. L. Sills, 17 vols. (New York: The Macmillan Co. and the Free Press, 1968)
- JAAR* *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- JAC* *Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum*
- JBL* *Journal of Biblical Literature*
- JHS* *Journal of Hellenistic Studies*
- JJS* *Journal of Jewish Studies*
- JR* *Journal of Religion*
- JRS* *Journal of Roman Studies*
- JSNT* *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*
- JST* *Journal for the Study of Judaism*
- JTS* *Journal of Theological Studies*
- NTS* *New Testament Studies*
- New Docs* *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity*, 4 vols., ed. G. H. R. Horsley (North Ryde, New South Wales: The Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University, 1981–)
- New Perspectives* *Luke–Acts: New Perspectives From the Society of Biblical Literature*, ed. C. H. Talbert (New York: Crossroads, 1984)
- NovT* *Novum Testamentum*
- OCD* *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, ed. N. G. L. Hammond and H. H. Scullard (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1970)
- OGIS* *Orientalis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae*, 2 vols., ed. W. Dittenberger (Lipsiae; Apud S. Hirzelium, 1903)
- PBSR Perspectives* *Papers of the British School at Rome Perspectives on Luke–Acts*, ed. C. H. Talbert (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1978).
- PLA* *Political Issues in Luke–Acts*, ed. R. J. Cassidy and P. J. Scharper (New York: Orbis Books, 1983)

List of abbreviations

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<i>PRE</i>	<i>Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der Classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> , 80 vols. (Stuttgart: J. B. Metzlerscher Verlag, 1894–1972).
<i>PRE Supp</i>	<i>Paulys Real-Encyclopädie Supplement</i>
<i>RAC</i>	<i>Reallexicon für Antike und Christentum. Sachwörterbuch zur Auseinandersetzung des Christentums mit der antiken Welt</i> (Stuttgart: Hiersemann, 1950–)
<i>SBLDS</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series</i>
<i>SBL Sem Pap</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
Schürer rev.	E. Schürer, <i>The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ</i> , rev. and ed. G. Vermes, F. Millar, and M. Black (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1973–87)
<i>SEHHW</i>	M. Rostovtzeff, <i>The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World</i> , 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1959)
<i>SIG</i>	<i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> , 4 vols., ed. W. Dittenberger, 3rd edn (Lipsiae: Apud S. Hirzelium, 1915)
<i>SLA</i>	<i>Studies on Luke–Acts</i> , ed. L. Keck and J. L. Martyn (New York: Abingdon Press, 1966).
Strack-Bill	H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , 6 vols., (Munich: Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1926–)
<i>Studies</i>	M. Dibelius, <i>Studies in the Acts of the Apostles</i> , ed. H. Greeven (London: S.C.M. Press Ltd., 1956)
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , ed. G. Kittel, trans. G. W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1964)
<i>TL</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>TRu</i>	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>