

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i>	ix
1 Author and text		I
1 Plato and the dialogue		I
2 An outline		3
3 Date		6
4 Late features		14
5 Cratylus		16
6 Plato's name		21
7 Cratylus' etymological legacy		23
2 Plato the etymologist		25
1 Etymology in the <i>Philebus</i>		25
2 Taking etymology seriously		28
3 The anthropological basis		30
4 The skill of decoding		34
5 <i>Eudaimonia</i>		38
6 Not a joke		39
7 Etymology as an expertise		41
3 Linguistic science		51
1 Conventionalism		51
2 Against Protagoras		54
3 Names as instruments of instruction		59
4 The dialectical function of names		62
5 The variable quality of names		64
6 The function of a name		65
7 Linguistic lawmaking		66
4 Etymology at work		75
1 Tradition and innovation		75
2 Degrees of correctness		78
3 Some principles of codification		80

4	A Platonic semantics	81
5	The limitations of personal names	86
6	Cosmological etymologies	89
7	Cosmic intelligence	90
8	Soul and body	96
9	Interim conclusion	97
5	The dominance of flux	99
1	Flux and being	99
2	Plato and flux	101
3	Flux etymologies	103
4	Dizziness over values	108
5	Flux and relativity	109
6	The ethical agenda	113
7	Change as a force for the good	114
8	Understanding as tracking change	119
9	The instability of values	121
10	Motion and rest	122
11	Retrospect	122
6	The limits of etymology	123
1	Introduction	123
2	Halting the regress	123
3	The taxonomy of sounds	128
4	Cratylus and falsity	131
5	Interim findings	138
6	The need for convention	138
7	Breaking the deadlock	143
8	Resemblance vindicated	145
7	A Platonic outcome	147
1	The principles of etymology	147
2	Moral semantics	151
3	Words and things	153
4	Personal and foreign names	154
5	The philosophical curriculum	156
6	No knowledge through names	159
7	Names and descriptions	162
8	Forms and flux	164
9	The parting of ways	171
	<i>References</i>	174
	<i>Index locorum</i>	179
	<i>General index</i>	188