An Anthology of Informal Latin, 200 BC – AD 900
Fifty Texts with Translations and Linguistic Commentary

This book contains over fifty passages of Latin from 200 BC to AD 900, each with translation and linguistic commentary. It is not intended as an elementary reader (though suitable for university courses), but as an illustrative history of Latin covering more than a millennium, with almost every century represented. Conventional histories cite constructions out of context, whereas this work gives a sense of the period, genre, stylistic aims and idiosyncrasies of specific passages. ‘Informal’ texts, particularly if they portray talk, reflect linguistic variety and change better than texts adhering to classicising norms. Some of the texts are of recent discovery or little known. Writing tablets are well represented, as are literary and technical texts down to the early medieval period, when striking changes appear. The Commentaries identify innovations, discontinuities and phenomena of long duration. Readers will learn much about the diversity and development of Latin.

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AN ANTHOLOGY OF INFORMAL LATIN,
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J. N. ADAMS
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PREFACE

I originally intended to put a selection of texts at the end of my last book (Adams 2013), but there was not space, certainly for translations and commentaries or for the range of texts in this volume.

I have as ever consulted and learned from many people, to all of whom I am extremely grateful: Iveta Adams, Philip Alexander, Jose Miguel Baños, John Briscoe, Philip Burton, Brian Campbell, Anna Chahoud, James Clackson, Kathleen Coleman, Wolfgang de Melo, Eleanor Dickey, Katherine Dunbabin, Trevor Evans, Panagiotis Filos, Patrick Finglass, Michèle Fruyt, Jan Felix Gaertner, Giovanbattista Galdi, Jane Gardner, Roy Gibson, Christa Gray, Hilla Halla-aho, Gerd Haverling, Simon Hornblower, Bob Kaster, David Langslow, Michael Lapidge, Adam Ledgeway, John Lee, Alex Mullen, Marijke Ottink, Costas Panayotakis, Stelios Panayotakis, Tim Parkin, Mair Parry, Giuseppe Pezzini, Harm Pinkster (who generously let me see in advance some parts of his work The Oxford Latin Syntax, which was published after the present book was sent to the press), Philomen Probert, Joseph Reisdoerfer, Danuta Shanzer, Richard Sharpe, William Slater, Olga Spevak, John Trumper, Nigel Vincent, Tony Woodman and George Woudhuysen. It is not unlikely that I have forgotten some names, in which case I offer apologies (and thanks) to those persons omitted.

Again I have to acknowledge a great debt to All Souls College, which bestows its generous academic support even on Emeritus Fellows. I have continued to use the incomparable resources of the Oxford libraries. I have also had a (renewed) attachment to the University of Manchester, and profited from the University Library and also the John Rylands Library.

Finally, I would like to give warm thanks to Michael Sharp, Emma Collison and their colleagues at Cambridge University Press for ongoing support and efficiency, to Iveta Adams for saving the book from many inconsistencies and inadequacies by her exacting copy-editing, and to the very efficient proof reader Anthony Hippisley.
**ABBREVIATIONS**

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<tr>
<td><strong>CC</strong></td>
<td><em>Corpus Christianorum, series Latina</em> (Turnholt, 1954–).</td>
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<td><strong>CEL</strong></td>
<td>See Cugusi (1992), (2002).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ChLA</strong></td>
<td>A. Bruckner, R. Marichal <em>et al.</em>, <em>Chartae Latinae antiquiores</em> (Olten, Lausanne etc., 1954).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIL</strong></td>
<td><em>Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum</em> (Berlin, 1862–).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CSEL</strong></td>
<td><em>Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</em> (Vienna, 1866).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEW</strong></td>
<td>W. von Wartburg, <em>Französisches etymologisches Wörterbuch</em> (Bonn, 1928–).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEI</strong></td>
<td>M. Pfister and W. Schweickard, <em>LEI: Lessico etimologico italiano</em> (Wiesbaden, 1979–).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>O. Claud.</strong></td>
<td>See Bingen <em>et al.</em> (1992), (1997).</td>
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List of abbreviations

OLD


ORF


P. Rainer Cent.

Festschrift zum 100-jährigen Bestehen der Papyrussammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek, Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer (Vienna, 1983).

REW


Tab. Sulis


Tab. Vindol.


Tab. Vindon.

M. A. Speidel, Die römischen Schreibtafeln von Vindonissa (Baden-Dättwil).

Tablettes Albertini

See Courtois et al. (1952).

TLL

Thesaurus linguae Latinae (Leipzig, 1900–).

TPSulp.


Abbreviations of editions of papyri and ostraca not given in this list may be found in J. F. Oates et al., Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets, available online at: http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/scriptorium/papyrus/texts/clist.html. Abbreviations of biblical texts used in this book are those found in R. Weber and R. Gryson eds., Biblia sacra iuxta vulgatam versionem, 5th edn (Stuttgart, 2007).