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Seneca's plays, which include *Hercules Furens*, *Phaedra*, *Medea* and *Oedipus*, were widely read during the Elizabethan era, and had an important influence on the dramatists of the time, including Shakespeare, Kyd, Marlowe and Marston. This study examines Seneca's Greek predecessors, his character, life and times, and the nature and extent of his influence and legacy. Divided into five sections, the book addresses in turn: the rise of Greek drama before Seneca; Seneca's character and temperament; Seneca's tragedies; the different dramatic forms in the centuries after Seneca; and the important influence of Seneca on Elizabethan dramatists. Lucas provides close readings of a wide range of plays, including *Macbeth* and *The Spanish Tragedy*, and places the works in their historical context – Greek, Roman and Elizabethan.

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FRANK LAURENCE LUCAS



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108003582

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1922

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00358-2

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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C. F. CLAY, MANAGER

LONDON : FETTER LANE, E.C. 4



NEW YORK : THE MACMILLAN CO.

BOMBAY

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MADRAS

} MACMILLAN AND CO., LTD.

TORONTO : THE MACMILLAN CO. OF

CANADA, LTD.

TOKYO : MARUZEN-KABUSHIKI-KAISHA

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AND
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BY
F. L. LUCAS, B.A.
FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE
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TO
MY MOTHER

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PREFATORY NOTE

So short a work hardly needs preface or preamble. I wish only to express my indebtedness to Mr J. T. Sheppard for his reading and invaluable criticism of the proofs, and my hope that the book may be both of some definite use to students of the Drama and of some general interest to a wider circle of readers—in the Roman phrase of Lucilius—“neque indoctissimis neque doctissimis.”

F. L. L.

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.
18 *November* 1921.