AUTHORITY AND AUTHORITATIVE TEXTS IN THE PLATONIST TRADITION

All disciplines can count on a noble founder, and the representation of this founder as an authority is key in order to construe a discipline’s identity. This book sheds light on how Plato and other authorities were represented in one of the most long-lasting traditions of all time. It leads the reader through exegesis and polemics, recovery of the past and construction of a philosophical identity. From Xenocrates to Proclus, from the sceptical shift to the re-establishment of dogmatism, from the Mosaic of the Philosophers to the Neoplatonist Commentaries, the construction of authority emerges as a way of access to the core of the Platonist tradition.

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2.1 *The Mosaic of the Philosophers*. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli 124545. Photo by Giorgio Albana. Reproduced by permission of Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali – Museo Archeologico di Napoli.


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This volume is dedicated to the memory of Anna Maria Ioppolo (1943-2020)
Abbreviations


As a rule, references to ancient authors and works follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. 