SINCE THIS BOOK has taken shape at three different institutions it has benefited from my consultations with a great number of people. Among the members of the Princeton Comparative Literature and Classics Departments who saw its genesis, I would especially like to thank the following for their advice and support: Froma Zeitlin, Charles Segal, Alban Forcione, Richard Martin, Bill Levitan, David Quint, and Tony Grafton. The anonymous readers of Princeton University Press helped to reveal the problems of this original version, while Joanna Hitchcock generously encouraged me to revise; my colleagues at Cornell then contributed to the process of revision, in particular Jeff Rusten, Fred Ahl, Piero Pucci, Bill Kennedy, Phil Mitsis, and Jim Tyler of the Olin Rare Book Room. Most recently Bill Mullen of Bard College and Rob Brown of Vassar have given advice and have lent much-needed computer equipment, while Valerie Jablow and Bill Laznovsky of Princeton University Press have aided in the final preparation of the manuscript.

My parents, my family, and friends have helped in ways that I cannot even begin to acknowledge; and my grandmothers, to whom the book is dedicated, made the task worthwhile simply by being interested.

As a final note I would like to thank those who taught me at Yale and at Princeton, without whose guidance I might never have discovered the *alii orbes* lying beyond my own horizons of expectation. Among those from whom I, and many others, have gained much, let me mention four: Jack Winkler, Art Hanson, John Herington, and Bob Fagles. It is a source of great sadness to me that neither Jack nor Art lived to see the completion of this book; I can only hope they would have been pleased to see how much they contributed to it.