

Preface

Since 1989, when I accepted an invitation by Heinrich Krämer, the Head of B. G. Teubner (Stuttgart) to undertake a new edition of Valerius Maximus, replacing that of Carl Kempf, published in 1888, Valerius has been my second author (I was aware that friends on the Continent regarded me as the supreme example of the British one author scholar). The edition was published in 1998, but my publications on Valerius since then have been limited to two reviews and an article in *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, published by the OUP New York office. In 2016, however, when I was waiting for the final stages of the production of my *Oxford Classical Texts* edition of Livy books 21–25, I decided to embark on a commentary on Book 8 of Valerius, though with little confidence that it was a viable project. It grew, however, and by the time that *Liviana*, the companion volume to my OCT, was published in August 2018, it was almost complete.

My commentaries on Livy Books 31–45 were all published by OUP and my initial instinct was to offer the work to them. It soon occurred to me, however, that since my only previous major publication on Valerius was the Teubner edition and in 2006 De Gruyter had purchased the firm of K. G. Saur and their entire publishing range, including the Bibliotheca Teubneriana, De Gruyter would be an appropriate home; in addition, since De Gruyter own the copyright to the Bibliotheca Teubneriana, including a text and apparatus largely identical with that of my edition would be unproblematic. I therefore approached Marcus Deufert, with whom I had had many enjoyable conversations at conferences of the Academia Europaea, to which we were both elected in 2014, and he encouraged me to offer the work to *Untersuchungen zur antiken Literatur und Geschichte*, of which he is one of the Editors. I am most grateful to Marcus and his colleagues for accepting it for publication and for their helpful comments on the typescript, which eliminated a number of errors.

My edition was published at a time of renewed interest in Valerius, once an extremely popular author but largely ignored for most of the twentieth century. In particular, it saw the first modern commentaries on his work, on book 1 by David Wardle, in 1998, on book 2 by Andrea Themann-Steinke, ten years later: the former is part of the *Clarendon Ancient History* series and therefore deals only with matters of content, with the lemmata in English; the latter, a doctoral dissertation submitted to the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, is more ambitious but naturally constrained by the requirements of a thesis. Since it is unlikely that any one scholar will contemplate writing a commentary on the whole of Valerius' work, progress will consist of further volumes dealing with individual books. I chose Book 8 largely because of the interest of its variegated subject matter, the first five chapters dealing with different aspects of trials but also

containing long series of non-Roman *exempla*. All commentaries are second-hand to some extent but *non omnia possumus omnes*, and this is particularly the case with the Greek artists in chapter 11 (I lack visual imagination). As in my Livy commentaries, my aim is to give equal attention to content, textual criticism, language and style, and literary matters.

As in the Preface to *Liviana*, I must thank Jim Adams for much expert advice on matters of Latinity, the staff of both the main University of Manchester Library, where the book was written, and the John Rylands Library for their friendly help, and the Library based members of the University of Manchester IT services for assistance with computer problems. I would also like to thank everyone at De Gruyter who has contributed to the publication of the book, particularly Classics Editor Torben Behm and Production Editor Karola Seitz.

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J. B.