

# Acknowledgements

This book should have come out much earlier, but now that it does, I have not only understood – I hope – but also experienced what *humanitas* is about. Three years of teaching at Scuola media (students aged 11 to 14) Don Bosco Cumiana, not far from Turin, two of which during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as four at the Università della Svizzera italiana have taught me that education (παιδεία) and philanthropy (φιλανθρωπία), two concepts that will be mentioned repeatedly throughout the course of this study, are, or should actually be, inseparable. As Seneca says, *homines dum docent discunt*, and what I have learnt from my former pupils in Cumiana and students in Lugano is incalculable and certainly worth a delay in publishing a book.

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Compared to the thesis, this book shows some new chapters and sections as well as clearer ideas – I hope – about several key issues concerning *humanitas*, as is the case with the relationship between the adjective *humanus* and the noun *humanitas*: I am grateful to my examiners, Matthew Leigh and Roger Rees, for recommending both these two kinds of improvements, and to Lucie Pultrová for sharing with me the results of her research on comparatives in Latin. On single chapters or sub-chapters I have benefited from the expertise of many scholars and colleagues whom I met at conferences in Athens, Coimbra, Edinburgh, Leicester, Lugano, Lisbon, Paris and Turin. A couple of lectures on Cicero's *Pro Archia* – one at the *Certamen Ciceronianum Arpinas* 2022 and another during the course of Latin Language and Literature held by Andrea Balbo at the University of Turin in Winter 2022 – have helped me understand to what a great extent this oration sums up the essence of *humanitas*. Michael Winterbottom gave me precious advice on improving the chapter on [Quintilian's] *Major* and *Minor Declamations*, and two anonymous reviewers induced me to rethink relevant parts of the general introduction and conclusion. While working in the Classics Library of the University of Turin during off-term times in Warwick and on a daily basis afterwards, I have been able to discuss research issues with Ermanno Malaspina and

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Part of the Apuleius section has already been published in S. Mollea, *Humanitas: a Double-edged Sword in Apuleius the Orator*, in: Andreas N. Michalopoulos, Andreas Serafim, Flaminia Beneventano Della Corte and Alessandro Vatri (eds.), *The Rhetoric of Unity and Division in Ancient Literature*, Trends in Classics – Supplementary Volumes, 108, De Gruyter, pp. 373–386.

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