

Foreword

A year or so before his death, Professor Leo Strauss requested that the writings contained in this book be gathered together and published in their present order and under the title that now appears at their head. He did not live to write a projected paper on Plato's *Gorgias* that was to have been placed after the paper on the *Euthydemus* and that would have brought to three the number of essays on Platonic dialogues; nor did he live to write the introduction that would, I believe, have explained his choice of this title for a book that, however suffused with the influence of Plato, devotes many pages to other authors. Rather than abandon the unexpected title, the decision was taken to retain it as being the authentic even if puzzling indication of the author's intention in forming this collection, and also to obtain an introduction that would, so far as possible, replace the statement that the author was prevented from writing. Professor Thomas Pangle's brilliant essay does that as well, I believe, as anything written by any living author could do.

Grateful acknowledgment is made for permission to reprint the pieces that have already been published (chapters 1–9 and 12–15). For details, see the unnumbered footnotes on the opening pages of those chapters.

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