

bility of many masterpieces, the lack of surveys, and our tendency to focus on the fantastic rather than the mundane grant undue credence to the propaganda of Flavio Biondo, Giorgio Vasari, and other publicists of the “Italian Renaissance.” As a result, most scholars and lay readers continue to view developments between 500 and 1600 as occurring in leaps and bounds rather than continuously.

I do not mean to suggest that something as arcane as a manuscript catalog will change this. Rather, this catalog should underscore the richness of information that remains unmined, let alone to be unearthed.



Whoever wishes to understand Statius’ poems owes a debt of gratitude to the small number of individuals who hunted down their manuscripts. In the age of limited travel, where individuals examined a small number of manuscripts *in situ* and spent much more time collecting collations and soliciting readings from librarians, these include Richard Bentley, Friedrich Menke, John Mitford, Nicolaus Lemaire, Philipp Kohlmann, Alfred Klotz, and Jacques Bousard. In more recent times, after travel to a large number of libraries became feasible, they include a handful of scholars whose names are scattered throughout these volumes, as well as the tireless efforts of the late Paul Kristeller. Much of the work presented here is lifted from their labors and would not have been possible without them.

This leviathan was begun in 1994 when I chanced upon a *vita* of Statius in a manuscript in the old British Library and wondered why it was wrong. In the ensuing years of travel, research, and writing, I have amassed debts of gratitude to a large number of individuals, some of whom the intervening years have robbed me of the opportunity to thank personally. My foremost thanks are to Frank T. Coulson, to whose wisdom and inspiring diligence this catalog is a monument, and to the late Virginia Brown, whose guidance, encouragement, and pruning helped transform this project from its beginnings as a *rudis indigestaque moles*.

I am humbly indebted to the directors, curators and above all the staff of the libraries and universities whose treasures I consulted. From them I received not only access to beautiful works of art in their collections, permission to print my findings here, and leads to other manuscripts, but also friendliness, kindnesses, and stimulating conversation about a shared passion. I cannot express enough my gratitude to the staff of the Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes in Paris for their services, assistance, and collegiality, as well as to Wendy Watkins, curator of the Center for Palaeographical and Epigraphical Studies at The Ohio State University, and the staffs of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and its library, particularly [the late](#) Caroline Suma and Fred Unwalla. I am very grateful to the faculty and staff of the Seminar für klassische Philologie and the then Mittellateinisches Seminar in Bonn for granting me access to their invaluable collections during and after the period that I was an exchange student there, and to the staff of the Handschriftenlesesaal of the Bonn Universitätsbibliothek, especially Christine Weidlich, who provided guidance and access to invaluable resources.

I am grateful to four organizations for financial support: the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies of The Ohio State University, for providing me with a travel grant in 1994; The Ohio State University, for an exchange fellowship that allowed me to study at the Universität Bonn in 1996–97; the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, for a Flahiff Fellowship in 1998–99, during which time I first drafted the catalogs and indices; and the Mellon Foundation, for a fellowship to work at the Vatican Film Library at St. Louis University in the summer of 1999 and for the purchase of microfilms in the context of the *Catalogus translationum et commentariorum* project. The sections on *accessus* and *vitae* (Volume III) originally appeared [reding](#) in my PhD dissertation, *Medieval Accessus to Statius* (The Ohio State University, 1997), while the catalogs and indices (Volumes I and II) were first presented as *Statius in the Middle Ages: A Sourcebook* to the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in 1999 as part of a Licentiate in