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READING ROMAN FRIENDSHIP

This book invites us to approach friendship not as something that simply *is*, but as something performed in and through language. Roman friendship is read across a wide spectrum of Latin texts, from Catullus' poetry to Petronius' *Satyricon* to the philosophical writings of Cicero and Seneca; from letters exchanged by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius and his beloved teacher Fronto, to those written by men and women at an outpost in northern Britain. One of the most innovative features of this study is the equal attention it pays to Latin literature and to inscriptions carved in stone across the Roman Empire. What emerges is a richly varied and perhaps surprising picture. Hundreds of epitaphs, commissioned by men and women, citizens and slaves, record the commemoration of friends, a phenomenon as important to the understanding of Roman friendship as Cicero's influential essay *De amicitia*.

CRAIG A. WILLIAMS is Professor of Classics at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and in 2006 he was awarded Brooklyn College's Leonard and Claire Tow Endowed Professorship. He is the author of the acclaimed *Roman Homosexuality* (second edition, 2010) as well as a commentary on the second book of Martial's *Epigrams* (2004), and numerous articles and reviews on Latin literature and Roman culture.

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Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	viii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	ix
Introduction	I
1 Men and women	63
2 Love and friendship: questions and themes	116
3 Love and friendship: authors and texts	174
4 Friendship and the grave: the culture of commemoration	259
<i>Works cited</i>	355
<i>Index of passages discussed</i>	374
<i>General index</i>	377

Illustrations

1	Fresco depicting Orestes and Pylades before King Thoas, with Iphigenia in the background. From the Casa del Citarista in Pompeii, c. AD 65. Naples, Museo Nazionale Archeologico. Inv. 9111. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	page 6
2	Stele with an inscription commissioned by Annia Quintula in memory of her friend Viria Severa (<i>CIL</i> 5.6391, first–second century AD). Lodi, Museo Civico. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	78
3	Altar with inscription commissioned by the freedwoman Clodia Mneme for her spouse Marcus Rustius Severus, her son Titus Octavius Severus, and her friend Gaius Rantulanus Mionides (<i>CIL</i> 5.4409, first–second century AD). Brescia, Civici Musei d’Arte e Storia. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	98
4	Stele with an inscription commissioned by the freedwoman Appia Faventina for herself, her husband, six of her freedmen and freedwomen, and her friends Gaius Atilius Prosdocimus and Litanis Secunda (<i>CIL</i> 5.6516, first century AD). Novara, Museo Civico. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	103
5	Altar with an inscription commissioned by Quintus Etuvius Felix, Cassia Nice, and Lucius Oivus Privatianus for their friends Marcus Claudius Nicostratus and Ovia Primula (<i>CIL</i> 5.1197, first–second century AD). Aquileia, Museo Archeologico Nazionale.	104
6	“The Sarcophagus of the Two Brothers,” fourth century AD. Vatican, Museo Pio Cristiano 31543, Lat. 183A. Courtesy of the Cologne Digital Archaeological Laboratory.	172

List of illustrations vii

7	The tomb commissioned by the freedman Publius Vesonius Phileros for himself, his former owner Vesonina, and his friend Marcus Orfellius Faustus. Tomb 23OS of the Porta Nocera necropolis at Pompeii, first century AD. Photograph by Craig Williams.	261
8	Tombs 75 and 76 of the Isola Sacra necropolis, second century AD. Photograph by Craig Williams.	269
9	Epitaph in tomb 75 of the Isola Sacra necropolis, commissioned by Cocceia Tyche for her friend Sextus Julius Armenius, second century AD. Photograph by Craig Williams.	273
10	Columbarium plaque from the <i>monumentum familiae Statiliorum</i> in Rome, commissioned for the slave Optata by unnamed friends (<i>CIL</i> 6.6326, late first century BC – early first century AD). Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma, Neg. Sopr. 366322L, Inv. 33258. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	303
11	Columbarium plaque from the <i>monumentum familiae Statiliorum</i> in Rome, commissioned by the under-slave Faustus for his master, the slave Eros (<i>CIL</i> 6.6275, late first century BC – early first century AD). Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma, Neg. Sopr. 366427L, Inv. 72490. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	304
12	Epitaph commissioned by Gaius Lucretius Genialis for his 18-year-old friend Gaius Catius Martialis; Martialis' father, grandfather, and grandmother; and Genialis himself along with his wife Valeria (<i>CIL</i> 5.7430, first–second century AD). Novi Ligure, sede della Società Filarmonica. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	318
13	Epitaph commissioned by Publius Alfius Serenus for himself and his friend Titus Calventius Firmus (first–second century AD). Este, Museo Nazionale Atestino. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	350
14	Epitaph commissioned by Quintus Pompeius Lucio for himself and his friend Gaius Novellius Crescens (<i>CIL</i> 5.3704, first–second century AD). Verona, Museo Maffeiiano, Inv. 28302. Courtesy of the Institute of Classical Studies Library and Ken Walton.	351

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Abbreviations

Unless otherwise specified, abbreviations of ancient texts used in this book are those found in *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, ed. Simon Hornblower and Anthony Spawforth, 3rd rev. edn. (2003), and *The Oxford Latin Dictionary*, 2nd edn. (1982).

The following abbreviations are used in the citations of Latin inscriptions in this book.

AE:	<i>L'année épigraphique</i> (year and item number)
CIL:	<i>Corpus inscriptionum latinarum</i> (volume and item number)
CLE:	Franz Bücheler and Ernst Lommatzsch, <i>Carmina latina epigraphica</i> , Leipzig 1930 (item number)
Helittula:	Anne Helittula, ed., <i>Le iscrizioni sepolcrali latine nell'Isola Sacra</i> , Rome 2007 (item number)
ILCV:	Ernst Diehl, <i>Inscriptiones latinae christianae veteres</i> , Berlin 1925–1967 (item number)
ILS:	Hermann Dessau, <i>Inscriptiones latinae selectae</i> , Berlin 1892–1916 (item number)
Inscr. Aq.:	J. B. Brusin, ed., <i>Inscriptiones Aquileiae</i> , 3 vols., Udine 1991–1993 (item number)
ISOstiense:	B. E. Thomasson, ed., <i>Iscrizioni del sepolcreto di via Ostiense. Opuscula Romana</i> 1, Rome 1954 (item number)
Reali:	Mauro Reali, <i>Il contributo dell'epigrafia latina allo studio dell'amicitia. Il caso della Cisalpina</i> , Florence 1997 (item number)

The following standard notation is used in transcriptions:

/	end of line in the text as carved on the stone
//	end of a column or side of the stone

[abc]	reconstruction of text which is missing or illegible on the stone
[---]	missing or illegible letters which cannot be reconstructed
(abc)	expansion by modern editors of text abbreviated on the stone
<abc>	modern editorial additions or corrections to text on the stone
{abc}	modern editorial deletion of text on the stone
[[abc]]	stone carver’s deletion of text on the stone

For the dating of Latin inscriptions, most often a matter of approximation, see Chapter 4. If no date can be assigned in a specific case, readers should bear in mind that the great majority of Latin inscriptions were produced between the late first century AD and the beginning of the third century AD; hence the frequency of the label “first–second century AD.”