

PREFACE

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As regards the text of the book itself I might mention that in quoting from Latin sources, including Secret's edition of the *Scechina*, I have with few exceptions standardized the spelling and modernized the punctuation. I have made no attempt to reproduce the spelling, abbreviations, etc. of the manuscript sources, for I felt I would do the reader a better service if I presented him with the most readable text possible. In referring to letters I name one version, printed or manuscript, and do not mention others which I know to exist unless this is for some reason significant. For all persons, except those from antiquity, whose names appear in the book I have tried, whenever possible, to provide the dates, and to do this the first time the name appears. For figures in public life, such as kings, emperors, and popes, I have given dates for the years spent in the highest public office they held. For all others I give the year of birth and the year of death.