

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In memoriam

Paul Oskar Kristeller (1905-1999)

Sibi et post eum ascendere volentibus viam aperuit.

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I dedicate this book to the memory of Paul Oskar Kristeller, whose magisterial writings instilled in me the fundamental principle guiding

all my work: that an appreciation of the distinctiveness of the Italian Renaissance cannot be had apart from an understanding of the medieval culture out of which it developed. Mine is only one of many testimonies to Kristeller's enormous contribution to the study of medieval and Renaissance culture. Those of us in this field can fittingly attribute to his achievement the assessment Boccaccio rendered of Petrarch's in his letter to Jacopo Pizzinga in 1372: "He has opened the road for himself and for those who want to ascend after him."

R.W.

Durham, North Carolina

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