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# **The Oedipus Tyrannus of Sophocles**

**Earle Mortimer Lamson**

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**Author: Earle Mortimer Lamson**

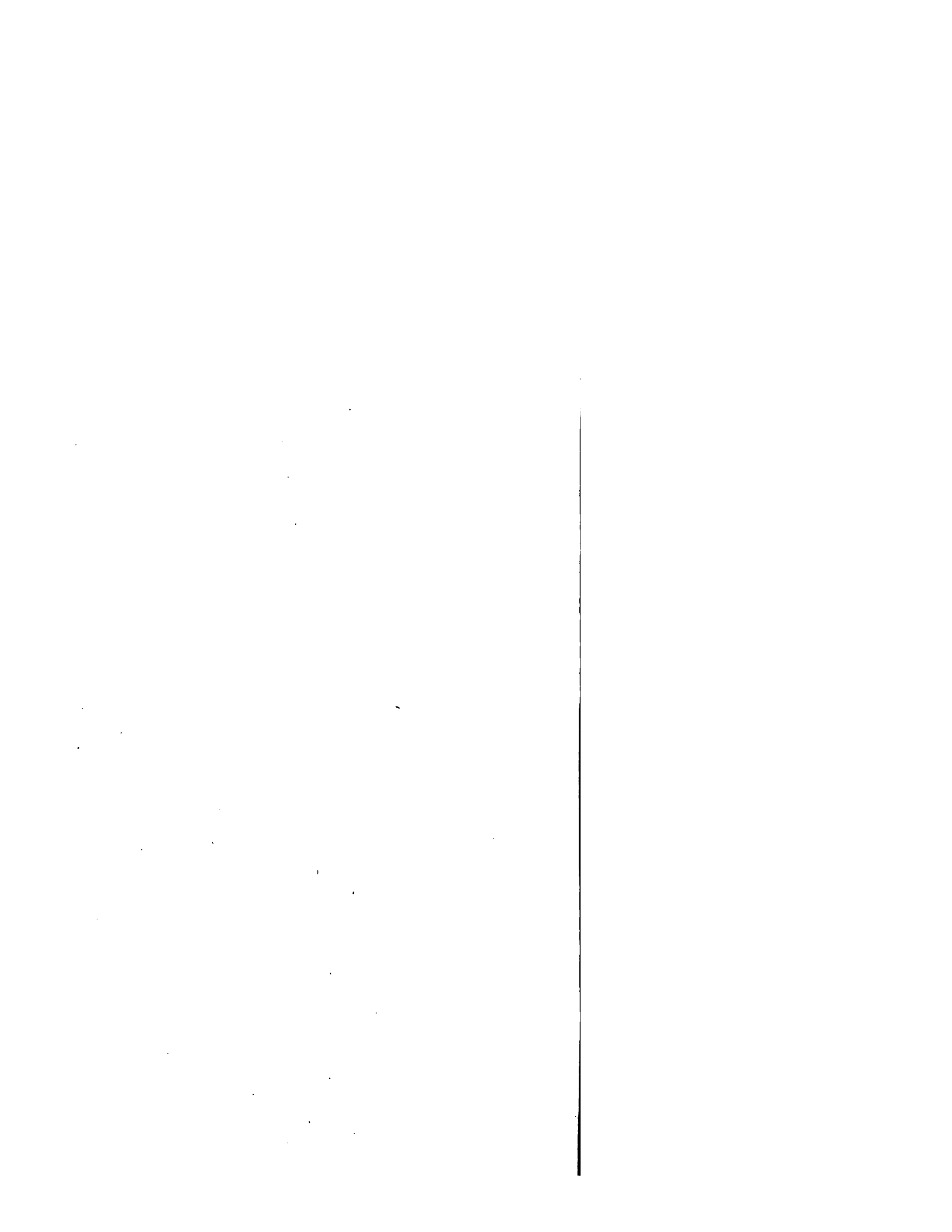
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THE

OEDIPUS TYRANNUS

OF

SOPHOCLES

EDITED BY

MORTIMER LAMSON EARLE

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OEDIPUS TYRANNUS.

M. P. 2

## PREFACE

IN trying to add another to the already long list of editions of the *Oedipus Tyrannus* I have had two chief aims: to set forth the text in Sophocles's own words as nearly as I knew how to and to explain that text fairly, clearly and in due measure. What I have been able to produce must be my justification for editing again a much edited Greek classic. Had I not believed I could say some new things, as well as some *παλαιὰ καινῶς*, I should not have set head and hand to the task.

That in a considerable part of the Introduction I have followed in the wake of Schneidewin needs, I apprehend, little or no justification, albeit the interesting character of the legend of Oedipus has led me to give more space to its discussion than I had meant to.

In regard to conjectural restorations of the text I have tried always *suum cuique reddere*. My own conjectures will be found to be few. I have found in more than one case that I had been anticipated in conjectures that I had already published, in all good faith, as my own. It is indeed hard to make new—and plausible—conjectures in the *Oedipus Tyrannus*. It may be noted here that two brilliant and, in my opinion at least, certain restorations of the text, Hermann's *τάδ'* v. 99 and Mr. Blaydes's *τήνδε* v. 307, have never received their due recognition.



In the matter of spelling I have tried to walk in the light. That I do not write *εἶργειν*, *ἀνύειν*, *ἀγηλατεύειν* may give offence to some; but *ἀπείργειν* and *κατανύειν* are against the two former, *ἄγος* against the latter. Had I aspirated these verbs, I ought also logically to have written *ἐφ' Ἴσμήνου* v. 21. In general I cannot but feel that the Ionic associations of the dialogue of Attic tragedy are against the aspiration.

To punctuation I have given very careful attention. It is almost surprising how many passages in the classic authors have had their meaning obscured or falsified by the mistaken pointing of modern editors. Eur. *Alc.* 204 sq. (on which see Hayley's notes) is a striking instance.

In illustrative citations and quotations in the Commentary I have relied primarily on my own collections; but I have drawn freely from the common stock of such material, when it went beyond the range of my own examples. Ewald Bruhn's *Anhang* to the Schneidewin-Nauck Sophocles (Berlin, 1899) I note here with special gratitude.

Of living editors of the *Oedipus Tyrannus* I gladly own my debts to Mr. Blaydes, Professor Campbell and Sir R. C. Jebb among English-speaking scholars; to Dr. Wecklein, whose edition is truly a *multum in parvo*, and Dr. Ewald Bruhn among Germans. Their great predecessors are beyond these voices.

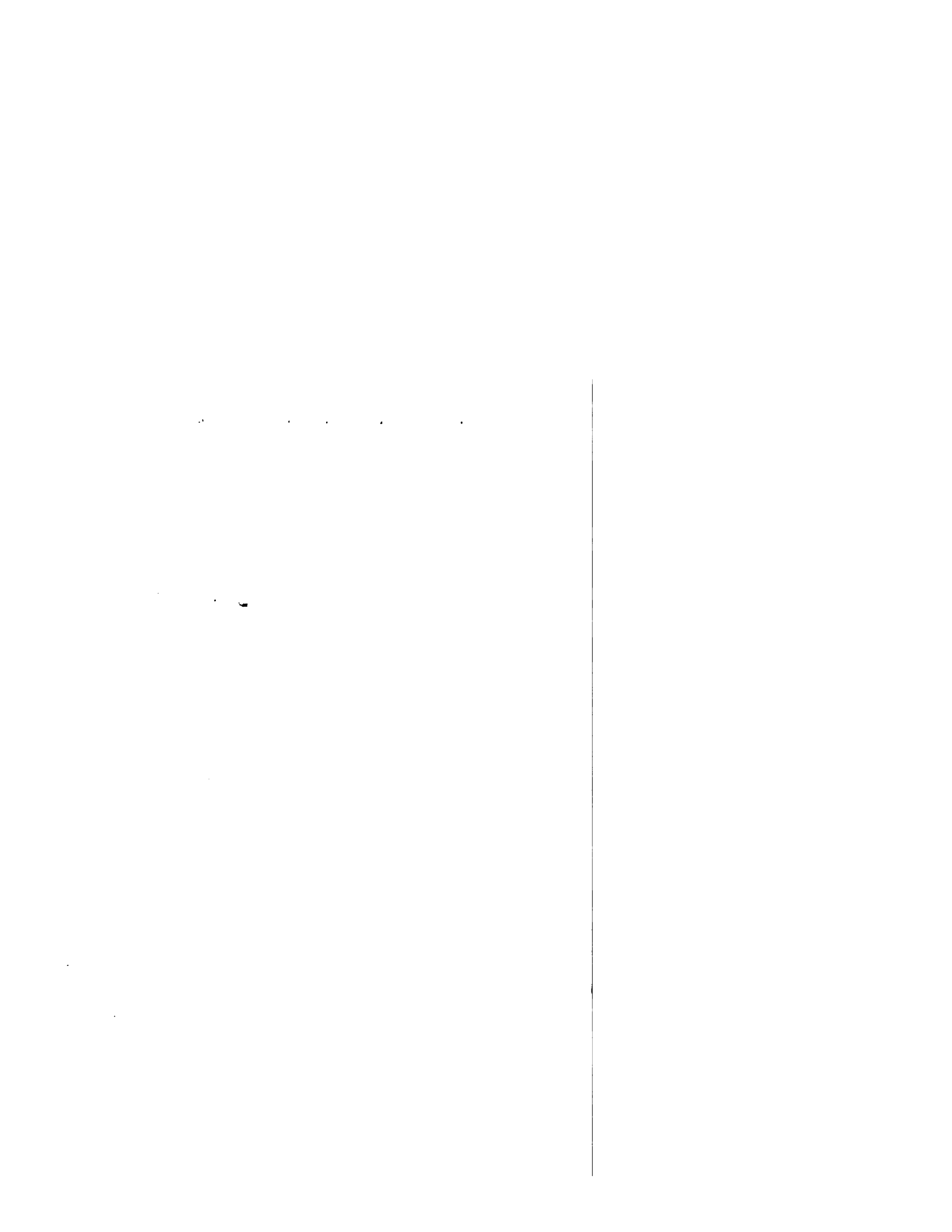
To my former pupil Miss C. G. Brombacher, B.A., my grateful thanks are due for the pains she has taken and the intelligent and valuable aid she has given in reading the proofs of this book.

To the man to whose suggestion this book in part owes

its existence and whose keen and generous interest in my critical studies was of the greatest value to me I deeply regret that I cannot make direct acknowledgment. I am glad to know that he approved my conjectures in vv. 20 and 55, how severely soever he might have disapproved of other things in the book. In his death American classical scholarship has suffered a heavy blow. Did I believe in dedicating text-books, I should venture to dedicate this one to the memory of the accomplished editor of the *Alcestis* and — better far — the man to whom his former colleagues could apply the closing words of the *Phaedo* — Herman Wadsworth Hayley.

MORTIMER LAMSON EARLE.

BARNARD COLLEGE.



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