PREFACE

On the completion of this thesis it is a privilege to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to, and also share in the joy of this occasion.

At Calvin College it was Dr. H.E. Runner who, with the study of Augustine, aroused my interest in Plotinus. Nor shall I soon forget the rigorous training in the classical authors at the University of Toronto; one of the important considerations for study there was the presence of Prof. J.M. Rist, at the time one of the few noted Plotinus scholars in North America. At the Vrije Universiteit I appreciated the contact with Dr. A.M. Wolters, who was then preparing his thesis on the Enneads III 5, but especially enjoyed also the opportunity to take the final course offered by Prof. G.J. de Vries, on Sappho.

It was Prof. de Vries who advised me to continue studies with the late Prof. M. van Straaten, of the University of Nijmegen; and so I began with the preparation of the thesis under his direction in 1973. His death in 1977 came as a shock to us, not only interrupting work on the thesis, but especially as a personal loss; for he was both a gentleman and scholar, ever helpful and encouraging, under conditions which were not ideal for scholarly work either for him, due to his illness, nor for us, as we had moved to the Philippines by that time. Dr. Th.G. Sinnige kindly took care of all the papers, and for approximately a year supervised work on the thesis; when it became clear that the work could not proceed to completion that way, another avenue of approach was opened.

I am sincerely grateful that Prof. Dr. A.P. Bos was willing to take over, helping me with his incisive
comments, showing me how to make clear distinctions among the problems dealt with by Plotinus in the *Enneads*. I am also happy that Dr. R. Ferwerda has been able to act as coreferent; the few discussions we have had were helpful in clarifying my understanding of some key issues in the *Enneads*.

Due to the itinerant nature of our life in the past few years, the completion of this study would have been much more difficult were it not for the aid of a number of doctoral students, both at the University of Toronto, and in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia; special thanks is due to Dr. B. Verstraete, presently at Acadia University (Nova Scotia), to Drs. P. Boot of the Centrale Interfaculteit, and further also to Prof. R. Todd of UBC who was willing to take out time otherwise devoted to Alexander of Aphrodisias, to help me in the research.

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Finally, and most important, my heartfelt thanks to my husband, Art. In many discussions he helped me clarify my thinking on difficult problems, encouraged me to keep going over the hurdles, and made sure the children did not suffer because of the other demands made on mother's time. I have dedicated this study to him. S. D. G.

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