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MACHON

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MACHON

THE FRAGMENTS

EDITED WITH AN
INTRODUCTION AND
COMMENTARY

BY

A. S. F. GOW

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CAMBRIDGE



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D. L. P.

COLLEGAE ADIVTORI AMICO

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PREFACE

The collection of anecdotes to which Machon attached the name Χρῆται and with which this book is primarily concerned has not received much attention from scholars, yet it is of considerable interest both as a document of social history and as representing a type of literature of which, though popular and extensive in antiquity, little has survived. Walter Headlam, a keen student of Athenaeus to whom we owe all of Machon that we possess, once told me that he thought of working on it, but he died in 1908, not many months after this conversation and before he had had time to embark on a project for which he was very much better equipped than I am. Perhaps because I was an undergraduate at the time and had probably never previously heard the name of Machon the remark lingered in my memory. Work on other Hellenistic poets kept Machon intermittently within my view, and when, more recently, I had leisure to consider him more attentively I found that though recent editors of Athenaeus, particularly Meineke and Kaibel, had done a good deal to improve the text of the Χρῆται, for a commentary one was driven back more than 150 years to Schweighäuser and a further 200 to Casaubon, that they had passed over many difficulties in silence, and that there were many problems which, if they defy solution, yet call for discussion. This short book is the outcome of that discovery. The fragments of the Comedies (here XIX and XX) were in somewhat better case than the Χρῆται since they had been included by Meineke, Kock, and Edmonds in their editions of the Comic Fragments, but one of them at least was in need of more detailed treatment than it had received there, and for that reason as well as for the sake of completeness they are included here.

My thanks are due to various scholars for assistance, and first

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PREFACE

to Professor D. L. Page who read my manuscript at an early stage and improved it by many acute and valuable suggestions, and to Mr F. H. Sandbach, from whose careful scrutiny of the typescript the book has profited in many ways and many places. All three editors of the series have helped with the proofs, and Mr P. M. Fraser, besides modernising some of the references in them, supplied me with several valuable new ones. I am indebted also to Dr W. G. Arnott, who has met from a microfilm in his possession my questions about the manuscript of Athenaeus; to Professor T. B. L. Webster, who has answered enquiries on the New Comedy; and to Professor R. P. Winnington-Ingram, who has enlightened my ignorance of Greek music. My other debts concern individual points and are all, I hope, acknowledged in the commentary.

A. S. F. G.

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