Any study of Vergil is in constant peril of being smothered with too much citation; accordingly, I have tried to limit myself to citing work crucial to my own argument, and I am conscious of having omitted much. My general debts to other scholars are set out in the Introduction; in the notes I have mostly signaled specific debts or disagreements that might be useful to readers. The nature of the present study would also have allowed constant citation not only of primary sources for the period from 48 to 27 BCE but also of numerous authoritative and worthwhile modern discussions of all aspects of the political, social, military, and cultural history of the time. This would have made the book less readable and perhaps no more useful, and I have tried to give details on historical events in notes only when they seemed particularly necessary or helpful. In general, however, I have relied, sometimes tacitly, on the narrative histories and biographies by Jones, Pelling, Southern, and Syme; I have not always reproduced the citations of the sources that they cite. All dates are BCE unless otherwise indicated.

For the most part, I have followed the 1969 Oxford text of Vergil by R. A. B. Mynors; differences are signaled in the notes. All translations are my own unless otherwise noted. I have borrowed some of the language, especially in translations, from three of my previously published articles: “Cold-Blooded Virgil: Bilingual Wordplay at Georgics 2.483–9,” originally published in Classical Quarterly 52 (2002): 617–20; “Experiens laborum: Ovid Reads the Georgics,” originally published in Vergilius 48 (2002): 71–87; and “Fire and

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