

FOREWORD

This book is a corrected version of my doctoral dissertation that was defended in 2019 at Universität Hamburg. Since then, I have revised it and checked again all the readings in the manuscripts.

I want to express my gratitude to the following persons and institutions. I have greatly benefited from the help I received from Prof. Dr Christian Brockmann who stimulated and supervised the progress of my research and made many valuable remarks. I also thank my second supervisor Prof. Dr Klaus Lennartz, Dr Alexandra Trachsel and Dr José Maksimczuk for their helpful comments on different sections of this book. The research for this book was generously sponsored by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) at SFB 950 “Manuskriptkulturen in Asien, Afrika und Europa”, and undertaken within the scope of the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC) at Universität Hamburg. I am thankful to the whole team of the CSMC and, in particular, Prof. Dr. Michael Friedrich. My English was corrected by Mrs Anna Yeadell-Moore. My wife Mrs Oksana Kulyba helped me solve lay-out and further computer problems.

My thanks are also due to the following libraries where I was allowed to work and have an access to all the manuscripts I needed: Real Biblioteca de El Escorial, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana and Biblioteca Riccardiana in Florence, Universiteitsbibliotheek in Leiden, British Museum in London, Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid, Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, Biblioteca Nazionale in Naples, Corpus Christi College in Oxford, Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, Biblioteca Angelica in Rome, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice and Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna.

Finally, I am grateful to the Editorial Board of *Serta Graeca* for accepting my book as well as Dr Ludwig Reichert Verlag, in particular, Mrs Ursula Reichert and Mrs Thea Kraus, for the editorial supervision.