

## PREFACE

The aim of this work is to study from different perspectives the various Roman works of art which represent the Alcestis and Phaedra myths; this study is evidently not exhaustive. Moreover, it should be noted that an additional number of works were damaged, while others have disappeared or perished. The works of art studied here will be grouped in two main categories: funerary and non-funerary, and then will be classified by media, and finally into multi-figured, and bi-figured. An iconographic-compositional typology will be here proposed, based on the figures which in the various scenes accompany the two heroines. One perspective is the typological examination of these works of art; another is a discussion of their funerary or non-funerary character, and the comparative analysis of the

scenes within these two main groups so as to point out the differences in their iconography and meaning. A third perspective, is the analysis and comparison between the literary and iconographic sources which will widen the scope of the work in three main ways. First, the comparison of the secondary figures depicted in the works of art with those depicted in these sources, will enable one to propose new suggestions for their identification. A critical approach will be based on the analysis and comparison between the visual images and the literary sources. Secondly, it will reveal new insights of each work of art as a whole. Finally, the study of the philosophical beliefs of the Roman period, will contribute to a better understanding of the various aspects of these works, and especially the significance of Alcestis and Phaedra.