

INTRODUCTION	6
I. THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF ROMAN CATACOMBS	9
1. THE TERM "CATACOMB"	9
2. THE HISTORY OF SCHOLARSHIP	9
3. THE ORIGIN OF THE CATACOMBS	13
4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERGROUND CEMETERIES IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE THIRD CENTURY	30
5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CATACOMBS DURING THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE AND THE PONTIFICATES OF JULIUS (337-352) AND LIBERIUS (352-366)	45
6. THE PONTIFICATE OF DAMASUS AND THE CULT OF THE SAINTS	58
7. LATEST USE AND SUBSEQUENT ABANDONMENT OF THE CATACOMBS	70
II. THE DECORATION OF ROMAN CATACOMBS	91
1. THE ATMOSPHERE	91
2. THE CONTEXTS	106
3. THE THEMES	127
4. THE HISTORY OF SCHOLARSHIP	163
III. INSCRIPTIONS IN ROMAN CATACOMBS	181
1. CHRISTIAN INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CATACOMBS	181
2. THE ORIGINS OF CHRISTIAN EPIGRAPHY. THE EVOLUTION OF FORMULAE	183
3. CHRISTIAN NAMES	192
4. CHRISTIAN SOCIETY AND FUNERARY INSCRIPTIONS	199
5. THE CLERGY	205
6. THE TRANSFORMATION OF LANGUAGE	207
7. AFFECTION AND SENTIMENTS	210
8. FAITH AND RELIGIOUS PIETY	212
9. THE CULT OF THE MARTYRS IN FUNERARY INSCRIPTIONS	217
BIBLIOGRAPHY	232
PHOTO CREDITS	254