

The Letters of Marsilio Ficino: v. 2 (Hardback)



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Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd, United Kingdom, 1994. Hardback. Condition: New. Reissue. Language: English . Brand New Book. Chronologically, this translation comprises the third book of Ficino s letters (Liber III), as published during his lifetime, and dates from August 1476 to May 1477. They follow volume 1 and are therefore published as volume 2. Both book two and three of Ficino s Letters were dedicated to King Matthias of Hungary whom Ficino regarded as a model of the philosopher king referred to in Plato s Republic . Indeed, Matthias was no ordinary king. He became one of the very few Christian leaders to defeat the Ottoman Turks decisively during the period of their empire s almost continuous growth from the early 1300s to the death of Suleiman I in 1566. King Matthias was also a devotee of philosophy, keenly interested in the practical study of Plato. Members of Ficino s Academy dwelt at this court, and an invitation to visit his court was extended to Ficino himself. Ficino s Academy was consciously modelled on the philosophical schools of antiquity. It was not merely an institute of learning. The bond between Ficino and the other members of the Academy was their mutual love, based on the love of the Self in each, a love capable of expression in all fields of human activity. It was because such love was the basis of his School that Ficnio could write (letter 21) - the desire of him, who strives for anything other than love, is often totally frustrated by the event. But he alone who loves nothing more than love itself, by desiring immediately attains, and in always attaining continues to desire. It is the principle of unity to which Ficnio repeatedly returns in this volume. He returns to it not just...

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