## CONTENTS

Preface		хi
Abbreviations		
I	Alexandria "on the Edge" of Egypt	1
	Alexandria Yesterday, Alexandria Today	1
	The City of Alexander	4
	A Founder of Great Eminence	4
	A New Brand of Urbanism	6
	The Lighthouse and the Ports	8
	At the Heart of Hellenistic Civilisation	11
	The Museum	11
	The Library	13
	The Gymnasium	15
	Places of Entertainment	15
	Population and Districts of Alexandria	16
	Alexandrian Syncretism	17
	The Greek Temples	17
	Isis and Sarapis	17
	The Syncretism of the Necropolis	19
	From Royal Cult to Imperial Cult	20
	How Egypt Became Roman	21
II	Being Jewish in Alexandria in Philo's Day	27
	A Distinguished Family	27
	Between "Metropolis" and "Fatherland": The Diaspora	31
	"If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem"	35
	Between Greeks and Egyptians	40
	Proselytes and Renegades	45
	A Fragile Minority	48
		7-
III	Philo's Cultural World	53
	Hellenised Jews	53
	Philo's Education	54
	Greek or Hebrew?	58
	The Septuagint Translation	59

viii CONTENTS

	Philo and the Miracle of the Greek Bible	63
	Jew and Greek: "The Judaeo-Hellenistic Symbiosis" and its Limits	66
	did its Limits ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	00
IV	Amid Political Turmoil	69
	Early Warning Signals	70
	When the Mob Seizes Power	71
	Confronting the Tyrant	78
V	Judaism According to Philo: Practice and Ethics	91
	Exterior Criteria for the Jewish Identity	92
	Circumcision	95
	The Dietary Laws	97
	The Sabbath	99
	Passover in Egypt	104
	The Two Other Feasts of Pilgrimage	107
	The Great Fast	109
	The Universalist Interpretation	112
VI	The Biblical Commentary	117
	Philo's Treatises and the Bible	117
	On the Necessity of Exegesis	122
	The Bible of Philo	124
	Questions and Answers	127
	The Creation of the World	128
	Man, Woman and the Serpent	131
	The Problem of Evil: Cain and Abel	132
	The Models in Humanity	133
	The First Triad and Noah	133
	The Second Triad and Abraham	135
	From Joseph to Moses: The Ideal Leader	139
	The Decalogue and the Laws of Moses	145
	The Exegetical Invention of Philo	149
	The Variety of Ways	149
	"God is not Like Man"	151
	Are there Myths in the Bible?	152
	Philo and the Midrash	154
VII		159
	Contemplation and Philosophy	159

CONTENTS ix

	Philo and the Greek Philosophical Schools	161	
	When Philo "Platonises"	164	
	"Everything is Number" (Pythagoras)	165	
	Philo, a Stoic?	169	
	Barbarian Wisdoms: Essenes and Therapeutes	171	
	Is Philo a Philosopher?	175	
	The "True" Philosophy	177	
VIII	Philo's Doctrine	181	
	God, Logos and Powers	181	
	Law of Nature, Law of Moses	188	
	"Migration" and Spiritual Progress	190	
	Political Theory: In Praise of Democracy	192	
	The Destiny of the Soul	196	
	The Sojourner on Earth	199	
IX	Philo, 'Father of the Church Honoris Causa'	201	
	Philo and the Beginnings of Christianity	201	
	The Septuagint, an Inspired Text	204	
	Philo and the Development of Christianity in Alexandria	206	
	Philo in Caesarea	210	
	Ambrose the "Latin Philo"	213	
	Philo as a "Christian Source": From Translations to	Ŭ	
	Printed Editions	214	
	Philo Judaeus	218	
	Conclusion: The Philonic Heritage	221	
Regi	uiem	223	
	Bibliography		
	ex of Ancient Authors and Texts	225 231	
Inde	Index of Philonic Passages		