

## Preface to the fourth edition (1993) by Paul Oskar Kristeller

*LMB*, that is, *Latin Manuscript Books before 1600, A List of the Printed Catalogues and Unpublished Inventories of Extant Collections*, was first published in two articles in *Traditio* 6 (1948) 227–327 and 9 (1953) 393–418. A second revised edition was published as a book by Fordham University Press in 1960, and a third enlarged edition in 1965, in which the Addenda after 1960 appear in a separate appendix (pp. 233–284). A reprint of this third edition was issued in 1987.

The plan for a new revised, enlarged and updated edition was discussed since 1983, especially with Mr. H. George Fletcher, then director of the Fordham Press, and with Professors F. Edward Cranz, G. N. Knauer, Stephan Kuttner, and Charles H. Lohr, and the possibility of adding as a co-publisher the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, or both, was seriously considered. After 1965, many new printed catalogues had been published, and many unpublished inventories came to light through the preparation of my *Iter Italicum*, through the *Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum*, now edited by Virginia Brown, and through the correspondence and library visits prompted by both projects. In 1986, Dr. Sigrid Krämer, an assistant and former student of the late Bernhard Bischoff and connected with the *Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften*, offered to help me with the revision of the new edition, which involved also the inclusion of the appendix of the 1965 edition in the main body of the volume. Dr. Krämer did the ground work, beginning in 1986 and finishing recently, consulting me both on the general arrangement, and on the inclusion or omission of specific entries, and she also computerized all her entries, making changes, additions and omissions much easier.

Last year, we asked the *Fordham University Press* to send Dr. Krämer a contract for her revised edition. The Press, which at that time had a new director, Mr. Saverio Procaro, replied that they did not have the necessary funds that would enable them to publish the revised edition in the foreseeable future, and released its copyright to me on May 5, 1992. We then accepted the kind offer of Professor Horst Fuhrmann, President of the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* and the *Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften*, to publish the volume in their series, entitled *Hilfsmittel*, with the friendly cooperation of the *Kommission für die Herausgabe mittelalterlicher Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz* of the *Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften*, and of its head (Kommissionsvorsitzenden) Prof. Helmut Gneuss. After the volume had been taken over by the *Monumenta*, Dr. Timothy Reuter, following the practice of