

*For Richard Frajola, without whose
help this book would not have been possible.*

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THE MITHRAIC
ORIGIN AND MEANINGS OF
THE ROTAS-SATOR SQUARE

WITH A FRONTISPIECE AND 6 PLATES



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PREFACE

The ROTAS-SATOR/SATOR-ROTAS square has a history of at least two millennia and has appeared on all five continents. The attraction that men feel for it borders on the instinctual, and even in our supposedly rational age the magic formula still entices with its mysteries. Hardly a year passes that at least one investigator does not have a try at unravelling its meaning and determining its origin. Consequently the bibliography on the subject is enormous and constantly growing. Despite this considerable effort, however, the matter remains *sub iudice*.

My interest in the word-square began in late 1969 when I sensed that the SATOR was Saturn and that the square transmitted a direct message concerned with sowing and reaping. In the spring of 1971 I began to speculate on it as a number-square. Since then many significant numbers have turned up and further word meanings have been deduced, all of which point to the Mithraic character of the formula. I now present these findings in the firm conviction that I have come upon the correct solution.

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