

these epitaphs are meant to evoke the ancient greek and latin tradition of epitaphs and epigrams, specially those of martial and juvenal. they were composed in the winter and spring of 1977, in milwaukee, wisconsin and in new york. most consist of purely original materials, but a few trope folk or literary sources (eg., erik satie). epitaphs were originally intended for painted inscriptions on the outside of funerary urns. in keeping with this, the ultimate form of this work consists of these texts painted by myself on specially broken terra cotta jars, made for me by alberto sassone of amalfi, near naples, after which the texts were glazed over, antique style. a sample is shown as the frontis of this book. the whole collection was the basis of a one artist show of my work at the studio morra in naples in september, 1977. special thanks are due to peppe morra and to lawrence shevick, who found mr. sassone for me, and who translated the texts for this book together with maria coggerino. the lettered texts are reproduced from my rough sketches for the terra cotta versions.

*dick higgins*