A Symposium

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University of California Los Angeles
Royce Hall 314
The Neoplatonists invented a philosophical technique to explicate Homer in a morally comforting way, calling it ‘poetic theology.’ With very different motives, Michael J. B. Allen has made himself the modern master of this method, applying it ingeniously and abundantly to the immense corpus of Latin philosophy produced by Marsilio Ficino in the Renaissance. Professor Allen’s studies of Ficino’s Phaedrus commentaries, for example, do for our time what Porphyry did in his Cave of the Nymphs around 260 CE. On the occasion of his retirement, this symposium celebrates Professor Allen, his work and his special gift of reading philosophy like a poet and poetry like a philosopher.