TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD by Ernest L. Fortin	ix
PREFACE	xiii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xix
I. WHAT IS THE CONTRA ACADEMICOS ABOUT?	1
A History of the Criticism	1
The Manuscript Tradition 1	
The Middle Ages 2	
The Renaissance 4	
Modern Times 5	
The Need for a New Interpretation	10
Augustine's Own Testimony	14
II. BACKGROUND	19
Augustine at the Time of the Contra Academicos	19
The Cassiciacum Dialogues	24
Cicero's Academica	28
The Dialogue as a Literary Form	30
Plato 30	
Cicero 33	
Christianity 34	
Augustine 34	
Skepticism	36
III. IS THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH FUTILE? (CONTR	A
ACADEMICOS, BOOK ONE)	39
The Dedicatory Epistle (1.1 - 1.4)	39
The Argument Proper	43
Truth and Happiness (1.5 - 1.6) 43	
Can Happiness Be Found in the Mere Search for Truth?	
(1.7 - 1.10) 47	

The Definition of Error (1.11-1.15) 55

Wisdom and Happiness (1.23-1.25) 63

Knowledge, Chance and Fortune (1.16-1.23) 59

IV. CRITICISM OF THE NEW ACADEMY	
(CONTRA ACADEMICOS, BOOK TWO)	69
An Exhortation to Philosophy (The Introductory	
Epistle)	69
Exhortation to Romanianus (2.1-2.2) 69	0,
Invitation to Philosophy (2.3-2.6) 71	
Philocalia and Philosophia (2.7) 75	
The Purpose of the Dialogue (2.8-2.9) 75	
The Main Argument	79
Introduction (2.10) 79	
Summary of the Academic Doctrine (2.11-2.15) 80	
The Verisimile and the Probabile (2.16-2.24) 83	
To Know the Probable Is to Know Truth (2.25-2.28) 91	
Did the Academics Dissimulate? (2.29-2.30) 93	
V. TRUTH CAN BE FOUND (CONTRA ACADEMICOS, BOC THREE)	97
Found	97
The Need to Seek for Truth (3.1-3.4) 97	,
The Sapientes and the Philosophos (3.5-3.6) 99	
The Wise Man Knows Truth (3.7-3.12) 101	
Truth is Revealed (3.13) 104	
Refutation of the Academics	105
Skepticism is Inconsistent (3.14-3.21) 105	
Something Can Be Perceived (3.22 - 3.29) 108	
One Can and Must Assent (3.30 - 3.32) 116	
Acting according to the <i>Probabile</i> is	
Dangerous and Immoral (3.33-3.36) 120	
Explanation of the Academic Teaching (3.37-3.41) 127	
Platonism and Christianity (3.42-3.45) 132	

VI. AUGUSTINE'S METHOD OF WRITING:	
A RE-EXAMINATION	139
The Tradition of Esoteric Writing	139
Origins 139	
Cicero 142	
The Early Church 145	
Ambrose 146	
Augustine 147	
Christian and Pagan Esotericism	151
BIBLIOGRAPHY	155
INDEX	163