Thanks to a generous endowment from the A. G. Leventis Foundation, the School of History and Classics in the University of Edinburgh has the honour to welcome, every two years, a Visiting Research Professor in Greek, chief among whose duties is the organisation of a major international conference on a theme of his or her own choosing within the wide field of Hellenic studies. There have been four incumbents to date, and four such conferences. From each, a selection of papers has been revised and presented for publication as Edinburgh Leventis Studies, volumes 1–4.

The fourth Leventis Professor was Terry Penner, Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus) and former Affiliate Professor of Classics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Having spent almost all of his teaching career in philosophy departments, Terry very much welcomed his three months as a fully fledged member of a classics department distinguished especially for its contribution to Plato studies. For him, the outstanding collegiality and intellectual power that he encountered among the students, staff and former staff in Edinburgh was ample confirmation of the suggestion that analytical philosophers cannot do without the contributions of, and constant conversation with, their colleagues in classics. For their part, Edinburgh classicists and philosophers, at all levels, found in Terry a welcome reminder of what a university is for: during his tenure of the Leventis Chair Terry assiduously made himself available to students and colleagues, not only as an informal interlocutor and mentor, but also in a series of challenging and fascinating Friday seminars in which the rigour and originality of his thought were a constant source of inspiration.

In March 2005 Terry presided over a conference entitled ‘The Good and the Form of the Good in Plato’s Republic’, from which the current volume derives. The editors would like to thank the A. G. Leventis Foundation for its generous support of the Chair, the
conference, and the publication of this volume. In supporting classics in the United Kingdom, the Foundation not only encourages classicists, historians and philosophers everywhere, but also addresses the justified aspiration of many Greeks, in Greece and abroad, that ancient Greek culture should continue to speak to humanity at large, through the constant reinterpretation and exploration of its legacy. The conference would not have taken place, and this volume would not exist, had it not been for the extraordinary scholarly concern for the project shown by Professor Keith Rutter: his patience, his tact, and his remarkable skills of organisation and attention to detail were invaluable. Also instrumental in the success of the conference were the dedication, industry and unfailing good humour of Mrs Jill Shaw. Finally, we should like to thank Carol MacDonald and Fiona Sewell for their care and skill in seeing this volume through to publication.

Douglas Cairns  
Fritz-Gregor Herrmann  
Terry Penner  

Leventis IV took place with a remarkable assemblage of that interesting genre of classicist-cum-philosopher interpreters of Plato whose work has in practice generated an entire subject of its own. They came from Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Greece (six were either of Greek origin or descended from Greeks), the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Japan – and that is not to mention those who were unable to accept the invitation. Many were scholars of renown. Others were young people judged to be important for the future of the subject. The conference itself was a feast of dialectic of the best kind – friendly, and generous, but always sharp. Unfortunately, the papers of Sarah Broadie, M. M. McCabe, Verity Harte, Dory Scaltsas, Jerry Santas, Anthony Price and Michael Erler could not be presented in this volume, mostly because they were antecedently destined for publication elsewhere. But of those that remain, many – those of Lesley Brown, Rachel Barney, Richard Kraut, Christopher Gill, Christopher Rowe, Gerhard Seel and Terry Penner – come from widely recognised members of the profession. Other younger scholars contributing to this volume – Fritz-Gregor Herrmann, Vasilis Politis, Mariana Anagnostopoulos, Rachana Kamtekar, Timothy Chappell, Antonio Chu and George Rudebusch (some of them already well known) – surely all give promise of accomplishments not less than those of their older counterparts.
I should also like to thank the University of Edinburgh School of History and Classics for doing me the honour – the great public honour of my scholarly life – of inviting me to hold the fourth Leventis professorship.

T. P.