Preface

Throughout a long and distinguished career, Angus C. Graham (1919—1991) was known both for the depth of his Chinese textual scholarship as a philologist, grammarian, and translator, and equally for the breadth of his philosophical interpretations of those texts against the background of the Western intellectual heritage in which he was originally trained.

Both of these dimensions of his work are especially evidenced in his studies of the *Chuang Tzu* (*Zhuangzi*), for whose author(s) Graham had a deep respect and affection. His translation of the text, *Chuang-tzu, the Seven Inner Chapters: and other writings from the book 'Chuang-tzu'* (Allen and Unwin, 1981), was the culmination of many years of study and reflection thereon, and fairly quickly became the benchmark for all readings and interpretations of the book.

The demand for Graham's translation continued after it went out of print in England. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Jay Hullett and Ms. Deborah Wilkes of the Hackett Publishing Company, the book was reprinted from the original—save for the correction of a few minor typographical errors—in an inexpensive paperback edition in 2000, making it readily available again, this time to a wider audience.

Graham’s subtitle is slightly misleading, for he actually translated over 80% of the Chinese text, omitting only those sections he believed merely duplicative, or corrupted beyond linguistic and philosophical reconstruction. But because he believed there were several distinctive philosophical voices in the different chapters of the work—and even within the same chapter on occasion—that had been indiscriminately collocated by later authors and editors, Graham also rearranged the standard order of the received text so that each of the several voices could be heard distinctly. To justify his omissions, emendations, translations, and rearrangements,
he wrote extensive textual notes, but his original publisher did not want to include them in the book; they were published separately in 1982 as a supplement to the Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, and they, too, have long been unavailable.

Everyone interested in the Chuang Tzu and Graham's work on it, therefore, must be deeply indebted to Professor Harold D. Roth for rescuing these valuable notes from obscurity, and seeing to their reissuance. Further, he has gathered together and edited all of Graham's earlier writings on the Chuang Tzu so that all future scholars can trace the development of Graham's thoughts about what he considered the most significant philosophical and literary work produced in classical China.

And more: Roth has also taken Graham's philological, historical, and philosophical investigations and speculations several steps further in a closely but clearly crafted Colophon that concludes the present work. This Colophon is a significant contribution to the field of early Chinese textual studies in its own right, and is thereby simultaneously a most fitting tribute to the scholarship of Angus Graham.

Other scholars who have profited from, and significantly advanced Graham's work—and who have contributed to keeping his writings in print—are acknowledged by Roth in his Editor's Introduction, which follows immediately. It remains to thank the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Research for a generous subvention to defray the costs of publishing this work, and to the Trustees of Brown University, and Gary Baker and Dawn Graham Baker for additional financial support for this volume in the SACP Monograph Series.

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A COMPANION TO ANGUS C. GRAHAM’S
CHUANG TZU