Preface

The present volume includes a collection of essays, most of which were initially presented at an international conference titled “Judea in the Long Third Century BCE: The Transition between the Persian and Hellenistic Periods,” held at the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University, from May 31 to June 3, 2014. The interdisciplinary conference, which brought together scholars of Hellenistic history, the archaeology of Judea and biblical studies, was a collaborative effort by the Ancient Israel Studies program of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University and the Institut romand des sciences bibliques, Université de Lausanne. Its organization benefited from the financial support of the Israel Science Foundation (Grant No. 2118/14). Further financial support was provided by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, as well as by the Rector and the President of Tel Aviv University, the Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology, the Institut romand des sciences bibliques and the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the Université de Lausanne, as well as the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). Our deepest thanks are extended to them all. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to Prof. Thomas Römer for his support and involvement—from the first meeting, discussions and ideas concerning the conference and to its actual organization. We thank him also for his good advice and his cooperation in the efforts to produce this book of collected essays. Many people worked tirelessly to bring this volume to fruition. Nitsan Shalom helped in the organization of the conference and the preliminary editing of the book, Yulia Gottlieb assisted with the plates, Sasha Flit with the photographs and Yafit Kedar provided administrative assistance. The editorial, design and production department of our partners, Penn State University Press, provided useful input throughout the publication process. Nurit Rozenfeld is responsible for the layout and design of the book, and Tsipi Kuper-Blau copy-edited and oversaw production of the volume, from manuscript to its final form. We are grateful to them all.

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