The Unity of Plutarch’s Work
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The Unity of Plutarch’s Work

‘Moralia’ Themes in the ‘Lives’,
Features of the ‘Lives’ in the ‘Moralia’

Edited by
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Preface

The annual work on Plutarch registered in *L’Année Philologique* 2006 takes up more than 7 pages, which is a spectacular progress in comparison with the only 2 Plutarch pages twenty years ago. Such eruption of interest in the sage of Chaeroneia can hardly be accidental and is linked, most probably, to the scholarly activities of the International Plutarch Society following its foundation in 1985 (primarily through the triennial international congresses, the local Plutarch conferences in Italy, Spain, USA and Belgium, and, as of 2003, the *Ploutarchos*, the Society’s own review). Especially the conferences have invigorated and vitalized Plutarchean studies in two directions: a) by removing Plutarch from the group of the so-called reference authors, and establishing that the Chaeronean is an important literary figure *per se*, whose work deserves to be studied and evaluated for its own merit; and b) by attracting to Plutarch scholars from various other areas who, exploring his writings from their particular perspectives, have shed more light on them, thus conducing to a fuller understanding of our author and his work.

The idea of organizing the IPS triennial Congress at Rethymno was first conceived in response to relevant hints (and encouragement) of several fellow-Plutarchists during the Madrid-Cuenca V International Congress in 1999. The idea took deep roots and so, before the following conference in Nijmegen, I officially informed the Society of my readiness to organize the VII International Congress in Crete. I also proposed its topic (the title of this volume), and on 15/5/2002 Aurelio Pérez Jiménez, President of the IPS at the time, let me know in a letter that the Society had accepted my proposals and, therefore, he formally authorized me to organize the VII International Congress at Rethymno.

The IPS Congress was eventually held at the campus of the University of Crete on 4–8 May 2005, and the present volume (with the exception of 6 papers that were not submitted or were published elsewhere) contains its considerably updated proceedings. The funding came from various sources to which the organizer is deeply grateful. In particular, however, I wish to acknowledge the financial support of the University of Crete, the Greek Ministry of Education, the National Bank of Greece, Motor Oil Hellas, S.A., and Dot Repro, S.A. Further, I am also grateful to the J.F. Costopoulos Foundation and the Educational Research Centre for kindly subsidizing the pub-
lication of the Congress Acta. Yet the present volume would have never been published without the generosity and expertise of the De Gruyter publishers.

Special thanks I also owe to Dr. Sabine Vogt, editor of Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, who took interest in the subject-matter of the present volume from the very beginning and kindly introduced me to the Millennium editors; and to Professor Dr. Peter Möllendorff, co-editor of the Millennium Studies, as well as to the reviewers of the series, who made useful suggestions to ameliorate the presentation of the contents of the volume. Finally, I would like to thank the colleague who wishes to remain anonymous for his spending endless hours on technically homogenizing the texts of 55 individual articles that were submitted in a frightful variety of fonts (especially Greek fonts), styles, sizes and spaces.

Rethymno, 12 February 2008

A. G. N.