**Acknowledgements**

Ancient epic and, in particular, structures of epic poetry have stood in the centre of Christiane Reitz’ research for a long time. Due to this continued interest in the various structural elements of the epic genre more than 10 years ago in a working group with long-time collaborators the idea was born to bring experts and new voices in the field of epic poetry together in order to develop a comprehensive companion to the structures of ancient epic. With the generous support of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the arrival of Simone Finkmann who joined Christiane Reitz from the University of Oxford to take on this truly ‘epic’ task with great enthusiasm and new ideas, this complex concept could finally be realised and developed into its current form, a four-volume compendium on the structural elements and narrative patterns of the literary tradition from Homer to Neo-Latin epic.

It is a testament to the closely-knit community of scholars working on epic poetry that many of the colleagues who came together a decade ago to discuss this project indeed became contributors of this compendium and that those who were unable to contribute papers of their own acted as important advisers. As the latter group does not appear in this compendium, we would like to take this opportunity to thank them and acknowledge their invaluable support and input: Thomas Baier, Ludwig Braun, Claudia Klodt, Gernot Michael Müller, Christine Schmitz, Ferdinand Stürner, and last but not least, Christine Walde who advised and encouraged us throughout the project. We would moreover like to thank Manuel Baumbach, Pramit Chaudhuri, Christopher Forstall, Lavinia Galli Milić, Gesine Manuwald, Damien Nelis, Peter Orth, and Alessandro Schiesaro for their extensive feedback and advice on individual papers as well as the entire project at several stages of our work.

We are most grateful to all our contributors who not only agreed to write the comprehensive diachronic chapters but also took time out of their busy schedules to share and discuss their results with us during a series of colloquia, lectures, workshops, and conferences at Rostock, Berlin, and Vandoeuvres. We are especially indebted to those colleagues who kindly offered to contribute more than one chapter or who agreed to write a paper at a later stage of the project, following belated author withdrawals or conceptual additions to our volumes. This is also the reason why we took it upon ourselves to contribute more than one chapter each to our compendium.

In addition to the German Research Foundation, without whom this project would not have been possible, we received financial support from the Heinrich Schliemann-Institut für Altertumswissenschaften, the Philosophische Fakultät, https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110492590-202
Acknowledgements

the Professorinnenprogramm funded by the University of Rostock and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and the Department ‘Wissen–Kultur–Transformation’ of the Interdisciplinary Faculty of the University of Rostock, which allowed us to employ a team of research assistants, undertake crucial research stays in London at the Institute of Classical Studies and in Vandœuvres at the Fondation Hardt, and to organise additional workshops, such as our two main conferences ‘Non nisi grandia canto – Die Transformation narrativer Strukturelemente in der epischen Tradition’ (15.–17.12.2016) and ‘Narratology and Structure in Ancient Epic’ (16.–17.11.2017) in Rostock.

We are excited that the work on our project has led to a new departmental partnership with the Classics Department at the University of Georgia, and we are grateful to Thomas Biggs and his colleagues, as well as to Gesine Manuwald and our Erasmus partners Alison Sharrock and Marco Fucecchi for hosting us and/or members of our team, as well as to the many other colleagues who invited us to give lectures during this time, allowing us to present our on-going work to a wider audience. We were also able to discuss our plans and findings in an interdisciplinary setting during the conference we held in December 2016 and on various other occasions with colleagues from neighbouring disciplines both in Rostock and at other institutions.

We are very thankful to Lavinia Galli Milić, Damien Nelis, and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) for hosting the joint workshop ‘Exploring the Boundaries of Narrative Structures in Epic Poetry’ (3.–5.2.2017) at the Fondation Hardt in Vandœuvres and to our publishing house De Gruyter, especially Serena Pirrotta, Katharina Legutke, and Torben Behm, for their kind and professional supervision of the book publication, their encouragement and support, as well as their generous offer to host workshops for us in Berlin and to finance a part-time research assistant for the preparation of the index rerum and the index nominum.

During our work on the manuscript we could rely on the help of many supportive collaborators. We were so fortunate to work with an excellent team of student helpers and research assistants without whom the editing of our four volumes would not have been feasible: Felix Apel, Maria Dreier, Jannien Finck, Lars Liemer, Maria Lüchow, Katja Milkowski, Laura Rodegro, Eric Starzynski, and Martin Wagner all supported us in various phases of our project. We are, in particular, indebted to Patrick Hilmer who became an invaluable team member in the final two years of our projects and to Hellmut Braun who diligently helped us prepare the index nominum and the index rerum. We are moreover grateful to Konrad Löbcke, Christopher Londa, and Orla Mulholland who assisted us with the correction of the contributions by non-native speakers and, as experts in the field of Classics
themselves, also provided some of our authors with excellent translations of their work.

Eric Naujoks’ expertise, patience, and meticulous work on the typesetting of our compendium cannot be praised highly enough. If it had not been for his, and in the final stages of the project, also Jörn Kobes’ very capable and conscientious work, our four volumes would have taken on a very different appearance. The same can be said not only of our De Gruyter editors but also of the entire Konvertus team, Anne Rudolph, Katja Schubert, and especially Simone Hausmann, who very competently supervised the editing process.

Just as crucial to the success of the project was Matteo Romanello from the Digital Humanities Laboratory at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) who designed our EpiBau digital companion, a web application (http://epibau.ub.uni-rostock.de/app/) and API (http://epibau.ub.uni-rostock.de/api/) that make the compendium’s contents more readily accessible and easily searchable for its readers, and allowed us to extract the cited ancient literature semi-automatically for our index locorum with his Cited Loci citation mining technology. We are also grateful for the support from the University Library in Rostock and its Digital Library Division, especially Robert Zepf, Karsten Labahn, and Robert Stephan, who helped us design the digital compendium in the early stages and who will curate the database to ensure its long-time accessibility.

At the Heinrich Schliemann-Institut für Altertumswissenschaften we could always rely on the kind and competent help of Brigitte Meyer, Grit Rausch, and especially Anke Wegner, as well as on the encouragement of our colleagues, some of whom have also become contributors to our compendium.

Last, but certainly not least, we are extremely grateful to our loving families and friends for their patience, support, and understanding during what has been a demanding, but most rewarding research project.

Christiane Reitz
Simone Finkmann