Preface

The present volume derives its inspiration from the papers presented at the 10th Conference of the International Plutarch Society, titled *Space, Time and Language in Plutarch’s Visions of Greek Culture: Introversion, Imperial Cosmopolitanism and Other Forms of Interaction with the Past and Present*, which was held at the European Cultural Center at Delphi, 16–18 May 2014. Our choice of Delphi as a venue for the meeting was closely connected with Plutarch’s long-standing and deep ties with the city and its sanctuary: ties which extended from his visit to Delphi with his teacher Ammonius on the occasion of Nero’s tour of Greece in 67 (*The E at Delphi 385B*) to his election as one of the two permanent priests of the shrine (perhaps in Trajan’s reign),¹ down to the reign of Hadrian, when as *epimelete* of the Delphic Amphictyony he supervised the erection of a statue for the emperor (Dittenberger, *Syll.* ³ 829A). The wide range of participants included faculty from North American Universities, the United Kingdom, Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Spain, Portugal, Greece, Israel, Poland, as well as researchers and graduate students in Plutarchan studies.

The papers that were delivered at the Conference aimed to demonstrate how in Plutarch’s works spaces, geographical sites, topographical landmarks, historical locations and locales, religious and mythological landscapes (real or imagined) can prompt reflection on a variety of issues: these include the relationship between local culture (in the Greek cities) and the Roman Empire (an inclusive, cosmopolitan space); the nature of the different kinds of interactions (cultural, military, linguistic, mythological and other) among Greeks, Romans and others at different moments in history (thus opening an avenue for understanding Plutarch’s perception and construction of time); and the uses of spatial and temporal concepts and terminology in Plutarch’s works.

The present volume includes revised and expanded versions of some of the papers presented at the Conference, with an additional contribution by Mark Beck. It addresses not only Plutarch scholars and Classicists, but anyone in the Humanities and Social Sciences interested in the concepts of space and time, and their codification through literary discourse.

Naturally, this volume does not exhaust all research avenues into the topics of space, time and language, as far as Plutarch is concerned. A next step would involve exploring Plutarch’s handling of time and space in relation to other imperial authors, Greek or Latin. Moreover, it would be beneficial to enquire whether there are divergences in the concepts of time and space (and their linguistic representation) between the *Moralia* and the *Lives*, or across the different genres in which Plutarch writes. But we believe that what emerges clearly from all contributions is both con-

cepts' unquestionable value for gaining a richer understanding of Plutarch’s engagement with the past, his versions of Greek *paideia*, his philosophical layers, and his biographical techniques and moralism.

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