Preface

This volume inaugurates the sub-series *Athenian Dialogues*, which is dedicated to publishing the fruits of the research activities of the Research Centre for Greek and Latin Literature of the Academy of Athens. The person behind this initiative is Antonios Rengakos, Member of the Academy of Athens. I am deeply indebted to him for his vision, on top of his guidance and help throughout the preparation of this volume. I am also grateful to the Director of the Centre, Dr Athanasios Stefanis, for his unwavering support, as well as to the Presiding Board of the Academy of Athens for generously sponsoring the Centre’s annual seminars and conferences.

The idea of putting together a volume on silence was born out of the Centre’s one-day conference on *Meanings of Silence in Ancient Greek Literature* (June 2018). The participants in this conference (E. Bowie, A. Lardinois, S. Montiglio, J. Mossman, E. Papadodima, K. Synodinou, A. Tatsi) explored a wide range of aspects of silence across various literary works, even in such a limited time-span. The emerging discussions proved stimulating in the truest sense of the word; on top of offering remarkable insights, they were revealing of how a theme as broad and as enigmatic as silence cannot but open new, exciting venues for further inquiry and debate. Admittedly, on account of my research interests, I was especially intrigued by its treatment in Greek drama. Hence, the invaluable invited contributions, in this volume, by leading scholars in the field of ancient comedy and tragedy (J. Gregory, D. Lateiner, L. McClure, S. Mills, D. Rosenbloom, R. Sea- ford). I extend my most sincere thanks to all contributors for sharing their expertise and, no less, for their zealous cooperation.

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