Preface

The publication of a further volume of my ‘Kleine Schriften’, coinciding as it does with the end of my tenure of the Regius Professorship of Greek in Cambridge, should in principle be an opportunity to reflect on how my interests have shifted over the years and to seek significance in the pattern of those shifts. Staring at the list of titles in this volume, however, has not led me to detect more than the most obvious rebalancing of direction from the papers collected in On Coming After; as with the books I have published in the period covered by these papers, there is perhaps greater attention paid than before to the ancient critical tradition and to prose rather than poetry, but I think the central driving questions (and obsessions) remain the same. What has, however, come home very strongly to me (again) is just how lucky I have been to work in a Faculty of Classics with wonderful library resources and an institutional structure which has never imposed constraints or demands upon my research, but has just left me to get on with it, in my own way and to my own agenda. It helps, of course, often to have nothing much else to do anyway.

I am (once again) very grateful to Antonios Rengakos and Evangelos Karakasis for the time and effort they have devoted to make this volume possible. For some of the years covered here, Thessaloniki became my second home, and I am very happy to be again associated with the Aristotle University, an institution where I learned a great deal and to which I remain very attached.

Richard Hunter