

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Chapter 1. The Rhetoric of Laughter	9
Chapter 2. Agonistic Humors: Lucian and Plato	65
Chapter 3. Aging Deities: Lucian's Olympus	125
Chapter 4. Sudden Glory: The Revenge of Epicurus	179
Conclusion: Potter or Prometheus?	211
<i>Abbreviations</i>	218
<i>Notes</i>	219
<i>Selected Bibliography</i>	271
<i>Index</i>	275

Humor ist keine Stimmung, sondern eine Weltanschauung.
—Wittgenstein, *Vermischte Bemerkungen* (1948)

The text of Lucian is cited from *Luciani Opera*, ed. M. D. MacLeod, vols. 1–4 (Oxford 1972–1987). In translating Lucian I have freely used (and sometimes modified) the existing versions, particularly those of H. W. and F. G. Fowler (Oxford 1905).