

Acknowledgments

All the papers published here were originally presented at a conference entitled "Masks of Dionysus" held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on 11–14 October 1990. This volume is not, however, a conference "Proceedings" and has in fact been organized in an entirely different fashion, one that cannot adequately reflect (nor should it even try) the dynamics of a conference that from the very start was designed to maximize cross-disciplinary dialogue. For the conference eight thematic sections (e.g., "Dionysus and Sexuality," "The Companions of Dionysus," "Dionysus and Sacrifice") were assembled, and whenever possible the dais was shared by individuals of widely varied scholarly interests and training, including archaeologists, literary critics, political and religious historians, epigraphists, and philosophers. The result was a cross-disciplinary discourse of great vivacity and variety—a discourse that informed and transformed all the essays collected here. Because the published collection of essays by its very nature reflects so little of the dynamics of the conference, the reader can have little insight into the extraordinary performances of the conference's "unsung" heroes, Mary Whitlock Blundell, Helene P. Foley, David Halperin, Sarah Iles Johnston, Jon Mikalson, John Oakley, James Redfield, and Charles Segal, who were given the most difficult task of commenting on papers that by design were outside or (at best) at the periphery of their own expertise. In

each case the commentaries were insightful and extremely helpful in creating a broader context for the discussion that followed. We also owe special thanks to three of our contributors: to Susan Guettel Cole and Dirk Obbink for their expert advice in the early planning stages of the conference; and to Froma Zeitlin for her wonderful translation of François Lissarague's essay. Our colleague Nicholas Smith also gave much practical advice on planning the conference and this publication.

The success of the conference was guaranteed by a unique amalgam of federal, state, and local resources. Derek Meyers, Chairman of the Art Department, and Robert Landen, Director of the Center for Programs in the Humanities at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, provided the all-important seed money for the conference. Robert Bates, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, was an early and staunch supporter of the project, and when looming budget cuts threatened to overwhelm it, both he and Dean Herman Doswald stood by us and provided additional funds at a crucial juncture. We owe thanks to the Virginia Council for the Humanities and Public Policy for several fellowships that allowed broad participation by educators and future educators from all over the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our greatest thanks, however, goes to the National Endowment for the Humanities, which underwrote most of the expense of the conference, and to Christine Kalke of its Research Division, who offered much advice and help throughout the planning process.

T.H.C. and C.A.F.

MASKS OF
DIONYSUS

