When this book was first proposed to me, I felt doubtful of my competence to undertake it. But over some fifty years of studying Greek I have come into contact with a good deal of the evidence, and particularly in the years after World War II with Michael Polanyi in Manchester and with A. H. M. Jones and my other colleagues in University College London, I was much concerned with this sort of problem. Still more, my teaching in Stanford has convinced me that the relation between culture and society is a very live issue in the modern world. My doubts, of course, remain, and I can only say that I have tried to state simply such evidence as I know and to draw a very few tentative conclusions at the end. I have been very greatly encouraged and helped by my colleague, William Berg III, who has read my manuscript and saved me from many imprecisions and errors (for the mistakes that remain he is in no way responsible).

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