The articles contained in this volume are based on papers presented on February 21–22, 1997, at the Fourth Annual Langford Conference of the Department of Classics at The Florida State University. The conference is organized each year under the direction of the Langford Eminent Scholar in Classics, a chair endowed by the family of George and Marian Langford. The Langford Scholar for 1997, Brunilde S. Ridgway, selected the theme and the participants in the conference and guided the intellectual development of the sessions.

Professor Ridgway, at the time about to write a volume on Greek sculpture of the second century B.C., conceived of the idea to hold a conference bringing together two of the most spectacular ensembles of sculpture that have been associated with that century, from the Great Altar at Pergamon, with its Gigantomachy and Life of Telephos, and the Cave at Sperlonga, with its epic themes connected especially with the adventures of Odysseus. It is clear that numerous problems exist concerning the two groups, beginning with their dating, and extending to their historical background, archaeological context, style, iconography, and function. Decisions about the relationship between the two must be based on careful sifting of evidence and opinions about each contained in the extensive scholarly literature.

Although the conference did not proceed as a systematic march through these problems, at various points the existing questions and arguments were probed, and many new insights were developed. The papers presented here incorporate many of the fresh, creative ideas that arose during and after the conference. The widespread enthusiastic reaction of audience and participants, as well as the many inquiries from those who were unable to attend, led to the decision to publish the papers. Upon the identification of two major topics that could further illuminate the arena of debate, two additional
articles were commissioned for this volume. J. J. Pollitt was invited to present an overview of the problem of the relationship of the art of Rhodes to that of Pergamon and Sperlonga, and John Marszal was asked to probe the questions associated with the representation of the Gauls in Hellenistic and Roman art.

The editors of this volume have many to thank for the general success of the Langford Conference and for help with the publication of the proceedings. Christopher Pfaff served with Nancy de Grummond as coordinator of the conference, and Carola Maitland and Heidi Grey oversaw numerous details of distribution of information and registration. Norma Goldman created an exciting finale for the meeting, with her fashion show, “Heavenly and Earthly Dress in Ancient Greece and Italy,” which included live models wearing the costumes of “Eos” and “Nyx” from the Great Altar, and of Odysseus from the Polyphemos group at Sperlonga. The useful and handsome conference booklet, organized by Carola Maitland, has been partly incorporated into this publication, serving as a resource in the selection of maps, chronology, genealogy, and literary and epigraphic evidence. Andrew Stewart assembled pertinent texts and inscriptions on Pergamon, while Anne Weis selected the relevant passages for Sperlonga. Kimberley Christensen served as bibliographical assistant for this volume. Glenn Kidd provided important assistance in computer technology.

The Classics Department of The Florida State University extends its warmest appreciation to George and Marian Langford and their sons, Lawton Langford and G. Robertson Langford, Jr., who, with their sympathetic vision of the need for advanced research on topics of the ancient classical world, made possible the conference and this publication. The present writer would like to record as well sincere gratitude to Brunilde Ridgway, who as Langford Professor participated enthusiastically in the life of the Classics Department at Florida State, generously sharing her knowledge with colleagues and students and exerting her boundless energy on their behalf. Finally, special thanks are due to Paul Psoinos, copy editor of this volume, for his knowledgeable reading of the text and his valiant efforts to introduce some consistency in the spelling of ancient names according to their Greek, Etruscan, and Latin contexts.

Nancy T. de Grummond