

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THIS BOOK began with a footnote, briefly compiling some evidence for Egyptian priests' activity in the later Roman period, only to burgeon into a rapidly consuming interest in the vitality of Egyptian religion in a period when most scholars assumed its decay. But the interest would never have come to such fruition if not for a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1992), a two-year Historical Studies fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study (1993–95), and the continuing interest, encouragement, and critical gifts of Glen Bowersock, John Baines, John Gager, and Peter Brown.

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