

Acknowledgments

What makes this book worthwhile is of course fundamentally the amazing quality of the text it treats, namely, the *Analects* of Confucius. Few texts in human history are able to continuously inspire people for thousands of years, always living, being present and relevant, like inexhaustible fountains. This book is therefore first and foremost a work owing its value to the wisdom of Confucius and those who recorded and edited the teachings into a book. Along with them, it owes much to the long list of scholars throughout the history, all the way to the present day, who have contributed to the extraordinary stock of commentary literature of the text. What I have done is not much more than presenting the text and some most notable commentaries to its readers in a way that will hopefully help readers to access the text more easily and rewardingly.

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—P. N.