

Acknowledgements

Ancient epic and, in particular, structures of epic poetry have stood in the centre of Christiane Reitz' research for a long time. Due to this continued interest in the various structural elements of the epic genre more than 10 years ago in a working group with long-time collaborators the idea was born to bring experts and new voices in the field of epic poetry together in order to develop a comprehensive companion to the structures of ancient epic. With the generous support of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the arrival of Simone Finkmann who joined Christiane Reitz from the University of Oxford to take on this truly 'epic' task with great enthusiasm and new ideas, this complex concept could finally be realised and developed into its current form, a four-volume compendium on the structural elements and narrative patterns of the literary tradition from Homer to Neo-Latin epic.

It is a testament to the closely-knit community of scholars working on epic poetry that many of the colleagues who came together a decade ago to discuss this project indeed became contributors of this compendium and that those who were unable to contribute papers of their own acted as important advisers. As the latter group does not appear in this compendium, we would like to take this opportunity to thank them and acknowledge their invaluable support and input: Thomas Baier, Ludwig Braun, Claudia Klodt, Gernot Michael Müller, Christine Schmitz, Ferdinand Stürner, and last but not least, Christine Walde who advised and encouraged us throughout the project. We would moreover like to thank Manuel Baumbach, Pramit Chaudhuri, Christopher Forstall, Lavinia Galli Milić, Gesine Manuwald, Damien Nelis, Peter Orth, and Alessandro Schiesaro for their extensive feedback and advice on individual papers as well as the entire project at several stages of our work.

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