

Preface

The present book has grown out of my earlier and ongoing interest in fragmentarily preserved tragedies and their reception over the course of the last fifteen years. Despite the evergrowing attention which dramatic fragments have been attracting especially during the last two decades, the afterlife of fragmentary plays has still remained underexplored. Their *Nachleben* calls for further investigation, not least because it could add to the contemporary critical interest in tragic fragments and their literary appreciation and could shed light on those very aspects which have given rise to their later transformations, thus revealing their continuing cultural power.

I am truly grateful to the General Editors of *Trends in Classics Supplementary Volumes*, Professor Franco Montanari and Professor Antonios Rengakos, for encouraging me to submit this book for publication in their renowned series and for their brilliant guidance throughout. Ever since the beginning of my scholarly research in the early 2000s, I have been extremely fortunate to have received the unstinted interest of my three supervisors, Professor Chris Carey, Professor Pat Easterling and Professor Richard Janko, with whom I have discussed several aspects of this material at the early stages of this work.

I have also benefited significantly from the great expertise of Professor Lorna Hardwick in classical reception and from her warmly encouraging me to write on the afterlife of fragmentary plays. I am much indebted to Professor Stavros Tsitsiridis for his insightful criticism and thoughtful advice on several aspects of this book, as well as for kindly supplying me with essential bibliography on Aristotle's *Poetics*. Warmest thanks are due to David Stuttard for discussing with me the challenges of the performance of Euripides' *Alexandros* on the contemporary stage and to the two anonymous readers for their constructive criticism.

At this point, I feel the need to express my everlasting gratitude to late Professors Daniel Jacob and Herman Van Looy, both of whom had read earlier versions of chapters of this book, offering me vigorous scholarly advice and unfailing support.

Last but not least, I owe a huge debt to my family: to my children, Zoe-Georgia and George-Christos, for brightening my life; to my parents, Andreas and Georgia, and my brother, Yiannis, for always being there. This book is fondly dedicated to the memory of my grandparents for showing me the way.

I.K.

Nafplio and Thessaloniki, December 2018

