

Acknowledgments

This three-tome collection of original essays pays tribute to Alain Touwaide, an exceptional scholar, friend, colleague, and mentor to countless international historians of medicine and science, researchers, and scholars. I began the project as a way to show my gratitude for Alain's assistance and advice as he helped guide to publication my book *Healing Manuals from Ottoman and Modern Greece: The Medical Recipes of Gymnasios Lauriōtis in Context* (Medical Traditions Series, 1) (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2021). For four years, Alain provided invaluable advice on and assistance with puzzling textual readings, botanical questions, and the history of postclassical healing and science. I had intended to produce a single volume for what I envisioned as a *Festschrift*, and I was pleased when 25 scholars quickly signed on. I then approached the editorial board for De Gruyter's *Medical Traditions Series* De Gruyter in December 2020 about the volume, preliminarily entitled *Αρχαία/Νέα: Manuscripts, Plants, Remedies, Food-stuffs*. The board approved my proposal, followed by the editors at De Gruyter encouraging me to proceed. However, word of this project soon spread, and I began to receive numerous requests from scholars in Alain's areas of research who wanted to join the project and contribute a paper. The result was that within 18 months the number of contributors rose from 25 to 80 and the single volume had become three oversized tomes. A fourth or even fifth volume was not out of the question—such is the admiration and respect with which the scholarly community holds Alain—but all good things must at some point end.

I owe thanks of gratitude to many people. First, I am grateful to the authors for submitting such excellent works of scholarship and also for their longsuffering patience, especially those original 25 contributors who had papers sitting in queue for nearly three years as more and more scholars signed onto the project. I extend my warmest thanks of appreciation to the editors of De Gruyter with whom I have worked: Marco Acquafredda, and Carlo Vessella, assisted by Carla Schmidt. The editors at De Gruyter were remarkably tolerant as I kept moving back my deadline for completing the volumes. Anne Hiller, Senior Manager, as well as Carla Schmidt, has been a true delight to work with; she has been the perfect editor and has overseen the publications at every step of the way with the greatest diligence and care. I am also very grateful for Chandhini Magesh, the typesetter who displayed the highest levels of professionalism and made sense of my too often-confusing materials. She has been truly magnificent. Finally, my thanks to my George Sumey, Jr., Professorship of Liberal Arts endowed position at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, which supported research trips to the National Library of Greece and the Blegen Library at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, where I copyedited many papers and compiled the bibliographies.

