Acknowledgements

The present study of Proclus' *Hypotyposis Astronomicarum Positionum* begun as a Ph.D. dissertation project in the winter semester of 2017 in the Faculty of Philosophy at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and, more specifically, in the Research Training Group (RTG) "Philosophy, Science and the Sciences" as part of the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies (BerGSAS). I am grateful to the RTG for awarding me via the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) the Ph.D. scholarship that enabled me to write this dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Gerd Graßhoff and Prof. Stephen Menn. The dissertation was reviewed by them and Prof. Daryn Lehoux (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada) and, with the consent of the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Prof. Thomas Sandkühler, was defended on 12.12.2023.

This study would not have materialized, had I not received the continuous support of my supervisors. Lengthy discussions with both of them, either in private or in the framework of their regular colloquia, revealed inadequacies in some of my initial approaches, opened new perspectives from which the study of the *Hypotyposis* could be carried out, and advanced my understanding of the Greek text in different directions. Thanks to their expertise in the fields of Ancient Science and Ancient Philosophy and their genuine interest in my project the conditions under which I wrote my dissertation proved to be more than favorable. Moreover, they both created a friendly academic environment, while showing respect for the personal needs and rhythms of a doctoral student. I thank Prof. Graßhoff, in particular, for his willingness and readiness to help me with all the practical and material aspects of my dissertation and my Ph.D. studies in general and to protect me from possible distractions. I also owe special thanks to Prof. Menn for his patience and kindness each and every time he faced my unfortunate or even funny attempts to translate the Greek text into English and for his incomparably meticulous reading of my provisional and finalized texts.

I am extremely grateful to Prof. Daryn Lehoux, who, as an external reviewer, accepted to evaluate my dissertation within a very short period of time and did it with real enthusiasm, providing me with insightful comments during and after the defense.

Many ideas found in this study were formulated through exchanges within the live academic community of the RTG. I would like to thank Prof. James Wildberding, Prof. Jonathan Beere and Dr. David Ebrey for the feedback they gave me in the regular colloquia/dissertation seminars they organized, as well as my fellow students — especially, Noa Naftalovich, Sara Panteri and Sinem Derya Kiliç — who also commented upon earlier versions of parts of my dissertation. At the beginning of my research I received useful comments from Prof. Filip Karfik and Prof. Dominic O'Meara during a workshop which the former organized at the University of Friburg in May 2018. Dr. Fabio Acerbi, Dr. Nikos Agiotis and Dr. Olivier Defaux deserve a special mention, since each one helped me at different stages of my study of the Byzantine manuscripts of the *Hypotyposis*. Fabio Acerbi was the first to acquaint me with the world of manuscripts; he

dealt even with practicalities related to my access to the manuscripts I needed. Nikos Agiotis inspired me with reference to research questions on my topic and gave me plenty of academic literature and tools that significantly facilitated my research. My friend Olivier Defaux, being always enthusiastic about my research project, devoted much time on a close reading of parts of my dissertation and long discussions on technical details – not to mention his steady encouragement and precious advice on a bunch of non-scientific issues regarding my dissertation. Moreover, the part of my research which concerns the manuscript tradition of the *Hypotyposis* was made possible thanks to Prof. Graßhoff, Prof. Beere and the coordinators of the RTG and BerGSAS who approved and helped me with the order of manuscript images from various libraries and my trips to Milan for study on site. My thanks are extended to Dr. Stefano Serventi of the Ambrosian Library for his hospitality.

Invaluable support came from Dr. Jonathan Griffiths who proofread a significant part of the dissertation. Thanks to Prof. Stephen Menn's decisive initiative the costs for the proofreading were covered by the RTG. My thanks are extended to the editorial board of the De Gruyter series "Science, Technology, and Medicine in Ancient Cultures" and, especially, to Prof. Markus Asper for warmly welcoming my book in the series and speeding up the publication process. The acquisitions, content and production editors, Dr. Carlo Vessella, Dr. Torben Behm and Lena Hummel, took great care of the book and ensured our smooth and efficient communication throughout the publication process.

As a matter of fact, I bear the responsibility for any infelicities and mistakes to be found in the present book.

I am also grateful for the trust shown in my research project and progress by the DAAD which granted me an extension of my initial scholarship and a study completion grant. For my intellectual journey in the RTG I owe a lot to the Greek public higher education system and, particularly, to the Department of Philosophy and Education at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh), which, despite the adversities from which Greek universities were suffering due to the financial crisis, maintained its concern about its students and potential researchers. The professors at the AUTh – especially, Prof. Panagiotis Thanassas and Prof. Pantelis Golitsis – provided me with the necessary supplies to spread my wings in Berlin.

Throughout my Ph.D. studies, I have been extremely lucky and happy to have enjoyed the emotional support of Angeliki Athyridi-Ntaliani, my bosom friend, Sabrina Brier, Vassilis Lorentzakis and Theodoros Pelekanidis, with whom, by a happy coincidence, I ended up sharing a flat during the final, most demanding and most crucial stages of my writing process.

The most difficult thing is the following: to express my deep gratitude to Spyros Rangos. Words are not enough to describe even to a small degree how much this man supported me during all these years that my life was divided between Berlin and Athens. His spirit and provocative questions asked out of intellectual curiosity underlie my research approach and conclusions. Most importantly, I regard the completion and revision of my doctoral dissertation as the fruit of his unquestioned commitment to the freedom of personal development and to the enduring value of ancient studies. My work is dedicated to him.