

Acknowledgments

This book began as a doctoral dissertation at Yale University, and I am grateful for the many friends and colleagues there who provided advice, guidance, and support at various points of its early development. Camille Angelo, Chris Atkins, Harry Attridge, Kavya Bhat, Dexter Brown, Michal-Beth Dinkler, Maria Doerfler, Tim Gannett, Felicity Harley-McGowan, Hwansoo Kim, Mark Lester, Wendy Mallette, Stéphanie Machabée, Sara Misgen, Yoni Nativ, Laura Nasrallah, Julia Nations-Quiroz, Naila Razzaq, Austin Rivera, Tom Schmidt, Lilly Sellati, Zachary Smith, Olivia Stewart-Lester, and Lewis West all shared their thoughts on different aspects of the project and helped me define, refine, and redefine it over time. I also thank the final examiners of the dissertation—Andrew Crislip, Felicity Harley-McGowan, Blake Leyerle, and Andrew McGowan—who gave generously of their time and expertise to read through the entire document and provided many helpful comments, criticisms, and ideas for further development. Above all, I am grateful to my doctoral advisor, Stephen Davis, who both during and after my tenure at Yale has been unfailingly generous with his time and energy as a teacher, mentor, and colleague. This book would not exist without the many conversations with him that pushed it forward and shaped its progress.

It is also a pleasure to thank the many people who helped this project along in the years since I left Yale. As a visiting instructor at Duke Divinity School I was fortunate to enjoy the warm collegiality of Jung

Choi, Warren Smith, Peter Casarella, and Joel Marcus, whose conversations and curiosity—along with the deep shelves of the Duke library system—kept me going in the interregnum between full-time positions. I am grateful, too, to my contacts at the University of California Press: first, to Joel Kalvesmaki, who gave generously of his time to read through most of the manuscript and offered valuable feedback, and subsequently to Jyoti Arvey and Cindy Fulton for shepherding the project through publication and to Gabe Bartlett and Roberta Engleman for their meticulous editing and indexing. In this connection I wish to express my thanks to the book's anonymous reviewers, whose critiques and advice helped me to sharpen its arguments and deepen its engagement with other scholarship. Finally, I am grateful to my colleagues at Goethe University, Frankfurt, and Yonsei University, Seoul, who have provided welcoming intellectual communities for me during the final stages of the book's progression to publication.

Many people near and far aided me in the quest to acquire publication-quality images and the permission to publish them and other materials. Of these I wish to thank, in particular, the staff of the Coptic Museum in Cairo and the monks at Deir Anba Bishoi for their hospitality and help during field work in Egypt. I also thank Felicity-Harley McGowan, Camille Angelo, Julia Nations-Quiroz, and Charlotte Metternich for their help in acquiring scans of materials beyond my reach; Patrizia Piacentini and Ilaria Sieli for generously allowing me access to the James Quibell Archive at the Università degli Studi di Milano; Elizabeth Bolman, Nicholas Warner, Alin Suciu, Barbara Rosenwein, Monique Scheer, Arlie Hochschild, and Marguerite Rassart-Debergh for their kind permission to republish materials from their work; and Chelsea Connelly and Robin Jensen for suggestions regarding funding for the publication of color images. Perhaps nowhere is the adage "It takes a village . . ." more apt than in the process of acquiring images and publication permissions, and I am thankful to all those who made this process as smooth as possible for me.

Last but not least, for their love, patience, and support through the challenges of the past years, my deepest gratitude goes to my family. I dedicate this book with love to the memory of my father, who passed away while it was still incomplete.