

Preface

This book, a revised and reorganized version of my Ph.D. dissertation, completed for the University of California at Berkeley in 1985, is in large part a biography. In writing it I have had to face the problem I imagine all biographers face: that they come to like or dislike their subject, with consequent danger to objectivity. It will be obvious to the reader that I rather like and admire my subject, Antigonos Monophthalmos, but I hope that this has not colored my treatment of him here: I have certainly tried to remain objective.

A feature of this book that the reader needs to be warned about in advance is the spelling of Greek names. It used to be the custom to latinize the spelling of Greek names in English—for example, Cassander for Kassandros, Antipater for Antipatros, and so on—but I see no reason to perpetuate this curious habit. Instead, I adhere to Greek spelling of Greek personal and geographic names, but not entirely consistently. Some names of people and places are so familiar in their latinized form that it seems to me excessively pedantic to change them back to Greek spelling. Thus I refer throughout this work to Athens rather than Athenai, Thebes rather than Thebai, Cyprus rather than Kypros, and so forth; likewise I retain the latinized spelling for Alexander the Great, Philip of Macedon, and Ptolemy of Egypt. This has the added advantage of distinguishing these three famous men from all other bearers of the very common names Alexandros, Philippos, and Ptolemaios in my text. I should further mention that, while I have tried to use all relevant scholarly literature up to 1985, works appearing after that date have necessarily been used only very selectively.

It is a pleasure here to acknowledge the help, advice, and support of many scholars and friends who have been of incalculable aid in the production of this book. In the first place there are my Ph.D. advisers, Raphael Sealey, Ronald Stroud, and Erich Gruen, who with extraordinary patience read and gave their comments on the inordinately long first version. Erich Gruen above all has been an indefatigable source of scholarly criticism, useful advice, and friendly support, not only during the Ph.D. phase of the work but during subsequent revisions with a view to publication. Christian Habicht, while visiting Berkeley as a Sather Professor in 1982, was of immense help in initiating me into the mysteries of Greek epigraphy, and subsequently very kindly read and commented on large portions of the manuscript, to my great advantage. I should also mention with gratitude the Regents of the University of California for making available a travel fellowship which enabled me to visit Turkey and Greece when I was doing research for this book in 1983; the staff of the British School at Athens for their hospitality; and Mrs. Molizani of the Epigraphical Museum at Athens for allowing me to examine several inscriptions there. Furthermore, fellow students at Berkeley also contributed in numerous discussions of early Hellenistic history both in and out of the classroom: in particular Joe Scholten, Brady Kiesling, and my wife, Ann Kuttner.

Since moving to Columbia University I have received support and encouragement from a variety of sources: the Center for Research in the Social Sciences at Columbia provided a stipend enabling me to visit Greece again in 1986 to clear up some loose ends of research; my colleague William Harris has been uniformly helpful and supportive; and Roger Bagnall very kindly read through an earlier version of this book and provided numerous helpful comments. Columbia University's generosity in the matter of faculty research funds has greatly helped me to defray the costs of preparing this work. For all of this I am deeply grateful.

In the process of consideration for publication by the University of California Press, the book was read by Peter Green and August Frugé. Their criticisms were an invaluable guide in the reorganization of what was in some respects a verbose and diffuse dissertation into a much tighter and more carefully structured work. Finally, the staff of the University of California Press, especially the acquisitions editor for Classics, Doris Kretschmer, production editor Mary Lamprech, and copyeditor Peter Dreyer, and the reader of the Press's Editorial Committee, Buchanan Sharp, have been helpful in more ways than I can easily set out here.

Needless to say I have often disagreed with the various readers and other helpers whom I have identified above, and stubbornly insisted on doing things my own way; but I do thank all of them for their efforts and assure them that, however recalcitrant I may have been at times, I am well aware that without the input of all of them, this book, whatever its flaws and merits, would have been very much inferior to its present state.

