Epicureanism after the generation of its founders has been characterized as dogmatic, uncreative and static. But this volume brings together work from leading classicists and philosophers that demonstrates the persistent interplay in the school between historical and contemporary influences from outside the school and a commitment to the founders’ authority. This interplay begins with Epicurus himself, who made arresting claims of intellectual independence, yet also admitted to taking over important ideas from predecessors, and displayed more receptivity than is usually thought to those of his contemporaries. The same principles of autonomy and openness figure importantly in the three major areas of focus in these essays: theology, politics and the emotions.

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Note on Abbreviations

We have retained throughout the volume the original titles for Latin works. Titles of Greek works when cited in full are given in English translation. Abbreviations for Greek and Latin works generally follow those given in the prefaces of the ninth edition of *A Greek English Lexicon* (edited by Liddell, Scott and Jones, LSJ; Liddell et al. 1996) and the single-volume *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (OLD; Glare 1982) respectively. Any deviations (e.g., the use of specific titles for individual treatises within Plutarch’s *Moralia*, etc.) should be self-explanatory.

In the case of Epicurus’ works, the following abbreviations have been employed:

- **Ep. Hdt.** = Letter to Herodotus
- **Ep. Pyth.** = Letter to Pythocles
- **Ep. Men.** = Letter to Menoeceus
- **KD** = Key Doctrines
- **VS** = Vatican Sayings
- **Nat.** = On Nature

The titles of works by Philodemus of Gadara are given in English translation in the main body of the text. In their first occurrence within any given chapter, these are also accompanied by their traditionally assigned Latin titles: e.g., ‘On Death (*De morte*)’. Within the notes, the following traditional titles and abbreviations are employed for citation references:

- **Ad [cont.]** = To the [Friends of the School]
- **Adv. [soph.]** = Against the Sophists
- **De adul.** = On Flattery
- **De dis** = On the Gods
- **De elect.** = [On Choices and Avoidances]
- **De ira** = On Anger
- **De libert. dic.** = On Frank Criticism
- **De morte** = On Death

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Note on Abbreviations

De mus. = On Music
Oec. = On Household Management
Piet. = On Piety
Rhet. = On Rhetoric
Sign. = On Signs

Titles of modern works are unabbreviated, with the exception of DK (= Diels and Kranz 1951), LS (= Long and Sedley 1987), SVF (= von Arnim 1903–5), and Us. (= Usener 1887).
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