There is now a renewed concern for moral psychology among moral philosophers. Moreover, contemporary philosophers interested in virtue, moral responsibility and moral progress regularly refer to Plato and Aristotle, the two founding fathers of ancient ethics. This book contains eleven chapters by distinguished scholars which showcase current research in Greek ethics. Four deal with Plato, focusing on the Protagoras, Euthydemus, Symposium and Republic, and discussing matters of literary presentation alongside the philosophical content. The four chapters on Aristotle address problems such as the doctrine of the mean, the status of rules, equity and the tension between altruism and egoism in Aristotelian eudaimonism. A contrast to classical Greek ethics is presented by two chapters reconstructing Epicurus’ views on the emotions and moral responsibility as well as on moral development. The final chapter on personal identity in Empedocles shows that the concern for moral progress is already palpable in Presocratic philosophy.

Burkhard Reis is Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in the project to provide a new German translation of and commentary on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, which is being run by Dorothea Frede and sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. He is the author of Der Platoniker Albinos und sein sogenannter Prologos. Prolegomena, Überlieferungsgeschichte, kritische Edition und Übersetzung (1999).
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Preface

On 5 July 2006 Professor Dr Dorothea Frede will celebrate her 65th birthday. Professor Frede, who has held a chair of Philosophy at the University of Hamburg since 1991, is one of the outstanding scholars in the field of Ancient Philosophy, with a high reputation in Germany and the international academic community. She has published widely on Plato, Aristotle and the Hellenistic philosophers. She has also conducted research on Heidegger and phenomenology, Rorty and Davidson. Currently she is president of the German Society for Ancient Philosophy (GANPH). Recently she has been appointed Mills Visiting Professor at the University of Berkeley, a position she will take up in 2006. Professor Frede’s birthday will also mark the end of her official activities in Hamburg. Friends and colleagues in Germany, England, the United States and Canada would like to use this occasion to offer her this volume and thereby to express their gratitude for her academic contributions and her friendship over the years. The title of this collection of eleven papers on ancient Greek ethics thus refers to the common topic of all contributions as well as to the honorand herself.

As editor I would like to thank everybody who has been involved in the production of this book, first of all Stella Haffmans for her assistance in preparing the final typescript and the indices. Special thanks are also due to Mena Grünefeld, Ute Haffmans, Christoph Helmig, Eva Horváth, Brad Inwood, Christof Rapp, Reinold Schmücker, Andreas Schubert, Euree Song, Hans-Walter Stork, Jan Szaif, Roland Weidle, Jan Wiebers, Anja Wolkenhauer and, in more than one respect, to Gisela Striker. For technical support I am grateful to Daniel Deckers and Raffael Schaller. Without constant supervision by Dr Michael Sharp, my commissioning editor at CUP, the book would not have come out in print. The same holds true for the valuable comments supplied by an anonymous reader and the patience of Bernard Dod, the copy editor.
Ancient authors and works are referred to according to the abbreviations listed in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (3rd edition, Oxford 1996) and the *Greek-English Lexicon* of Liddell, Scott and Jones (9th edition, Oxford 1940), with the notable exception of Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*, which is abbreviated as *Met*. Long and Sedley’s *The Hellenistic Philosophers* is abbreviated as *LS*. 

*Preface*