Encyclopaedism from Antiquity to the Renaissance

There is a rich body of encyclopaedic writing from the two millennia before the Enlightenment. This book sheds new light on this material. It traces the development of traditions of knowledge-ordering which stretched back to Pliny and Varro and others in the classical world. It works with a broad concept of encyclopaedism, resisting the idea that there was any clear pre-modern genre of the ‘encyclopaedia’, and showing instead how the rhetoric and techniques of comprehensive compilation left their mark on a surprising range of texts. In the process it draws attention to both remarkable similarities and striking differences between conventions of encyclopaedic compilation in different periods. The focus is primarily on European/Mediterranean culture. The book covers classical, medieval (including Byzantine and Arabic) and Renaissance culture in turn, and combines chapters which survey whole periods with others focused closely on individual texts as case studies.

JASON KÖNIG is Senior Lecturer in Greek at the University of St Andrews. He works broadly on the Greek literature and culture of the Roman empire. He is author of Athletics and Literature in the Roman Empire (Cambridge, 2005) and Saints and Symposiasts: The Literature of Food and the Symposium in Greco-Roman and Early Christian Culture (Cambridge, 2012), and editor, jointly with Tim Whitmarsh, of Ordering Knowledge in the Roman Empire (Cambridge, 2007).

GREG WOOLF is Professor of Ancient History at the University of St Andrews. His books include Becoming Roman: The Origins of Provincial Civilization in Gaul (Cambridge, 1998); Et tu Brute: The Murder of Julius Caesar and Political Assassination (2006); Tales of the Barbarians: Ethnography and Empire in the Roman West (2011); and Rome: An Empire’s Story (2012). He has also edited volumes on literacy, on the city of Rome and on Roman religion and has published widely on ancient history and Roman archaeology.
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2 Frontispiece to Gregor Reisch’s *Margarita philosophica*, 2nd edition, 1554 (Freiburg?: Johannes Schottus) (University of Iowa John Martin Rare Book Room, Hardin Library for the Health Sciences). [404]

Abbreviations

For the most part we have avoided abbreviations in footnotes, although some classical chapters use standard abbreviations from *L’Année Philologique*, the *Greek-English Lexicon* (LSJ) and the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*. Some of these abbreviations are reproduced below for convenience, along with others which are not listed in those sources.

- **Anth. Pal.** Anthologia Palatina
- **BHG** Bibliotheca hagiographica graeca
- **CE** Constantinian Excerpts
- **C.Just.** Justinianic Code
- **CPF** Corpus dei papiri filosofi
- **CPG** Geerard, M. (ed.) *Clavis patrum graecorum*
- **C. Theod.** Theodosian Code
- **Dig.** Justinian, *Digest*
- **DMB** Dictionary of Ming Biography
- **EETS ES** Early English Text Society, Extra Series
- **EETS OS** Early English Text Society, Original Series
- **ESAR** Frank, T. (ed.) *An Economic Survey of Ancient Rome*
- **FGrHist** Jacoby, F. (ed.) *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*
- **FIRA** Riccobono, S. *et al.* (eds.) *Fontes iuris romani antieustiniani*
- **K** Kühn, K. G. (ed.) *Opera omnia Claudii Galeni*
- **K-A** Kassel, R. and Austin, C. (eds.) *Poetae Comici Graeci*
- **LSJ** Liddell, R. and Scott *et al.*. (eds.) *A Greek-English Lexicon* (9th edition, with supplement)
- **New Pauly** Cancik, H., Schneider, H. and Landfester, M. (eds.) *Brill’s New Pauly: Encyclopaedia of the Ancient World*
- **Page** Page, D. L. (ed.) *Poetæ Melici Graeci*
- **Pfeiffer** Pfeiffer, R. (ed.) *Callimachus*
- **PG** Migne, J.-P. (ed.) *Patrologia Graeca*
- **PLP** Trapp, E. *et al.* (eds.) *Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit*
- **P.Oxy.** Papyri Oxyrhynchii
Contributors

Daniel Andersson is Research Fellow in History at Wolfson College, Oxford. He works chiefly on the intellectual, religious and literary culture of Europe, 1450 to 1650. His main current projects are a history of spiritual consolation in early modern England, a study, both philological and philosophical, of the physics commentaries of the sixteenth century, and a study on Horace in Renaissance France.

Mary Beagon is Reader in Ancient History at the University of Manchester. Her research interests include the history of ideas in the late Roman republic and early empire and she has published two books on Pliny the Elder: Roman Nature: the Thought of Pliny the Elder (1992) and Pliny on the Human Animal: Natural History Book 7 (2005).

Maaike van Berkel is Associate Professor in Medieval History at the University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on the bureaucracy and court culture of the Abbasid and Mamluk empires and, more broadly, on the social and cultural history of the medieval Middle East.

Ann Blair is Henry Charles Lea Professor of History at Harvard. She works in early modern European intellectual and cultural history, with special interests in the history of scholarly working methods, book history, and the relations between science and religion. She is the author of The Theater of Nature: Jean Bodin and Renaissance Science (1997) and Too Much To Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age (2010).

Paul Dover is Associate Professor of History at Kennesaw State University just outside Atlanta. Holding a PhD from Yale University, he has published widely on Renaissance diplomatic and cultural history, and recently completed a textbook on the history of western historiography. On the subject of Solinus, he has also published (with Christopher McDonough) ‘Of camels, crocodiles and human sacrifice: the North Carolina MS of Solinus’ De situ orbis terrarum and readings of classical geography in the Renaissance’, in the International Journal of the Classical Tradition (2011).
Marco Formisano is Professor (docent) of Latin Literature at the University of Ghent. He particularly focuses on literature of knowledge and Latin literature of late antiquity. His publications include *Tecnica e scrittura: le letterature tecnico-scientifiche nello spazio letterario tardolatino* (2001) and two recent edited volumes: *War in Words: Transformations of War from Antiquity to Clausewitz* (jointly with Hartmut Böhme) (2010) and *Perpetua's Passions: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis* (jointly with Jan Bremmer) (2012).

Erika Gielen obtained a doctoral degree in Classics from the KU Leuven (Belgium) in Spring 2010, with a doctoral thesis on the *De virtute* of Joseph Rhakendytès and of Nicephorus Blemmydes. Both editions will appear in volume 80 of the *Corpus Christianorum Series Graeca*. She is currently attached to the same institution as post-doctoral researcher. Her main fields of research are late Byzantine literature, philosophy, textual history and criticism. Her current project deals with the medical aspects of Christian anthropological texts.

Jill Harries is Professor of Ancient History at the University of St Andrews and author of *Sidonius Apollinaris and the Fall of Rome* (1994), *Law and Empire in Late Antiquity* (1999), *Cicero and the Jurists* (2006) and *Imperial Rome AD 284–363: The New Empire* (2012), as well as many articles on late antiquity and Roman legal history.

Daniel Harris-McCoy is Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. He works broadly on the encyclopaedic writing of the ancient world, and also on dreams and dream-interpretation in antiquity. His translation of Artemidorus’ *Oneirocritica*, with commentary, was published in 2012.

Myrto Hatzimichali is Lecturer in Classics at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests centre on intellectual and cultural history, especially on the ways in which literary and philosophical texts were transmitted, received and professionally studied in the Hellenistic and early imperial periods. She is the author of *Potamo of Alexandria and the Emergence of Eclecticism in Late Hellenistic Philosophy* (2011), and has contributed chapters to volumes on the philosopher Antiochus of Ascalon and on Hellenistic poetry, as well as to König, Oikonomopoulou and Woolf (eds.) (2013) *Ancient Libraries*.

Ian Johnson is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of St Andrews, where he is also a member of the Institute of Mediaeval Studies. He is General
Notes on contributors

Editor of *The Mediaeval Journal* and was General Editor of *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, 1999–2008. He was Co-Director of the Queen’s Belfast–St Andrews AHRC-funded project *Geographies of Orthodoxy: Mapping English Pseudo-Bonaventuran Lives of Christ, 1350–1550* (2007–10). With Alastair Minnis he edited *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*, vol. II: *The Middle Ages* (2005), and has published widely on Middle English literature, with particular interests in Latin and vernacular traditions of medieval literary theory and conceptions and practices of translation, especially with regard to Boethius and the Middle English tradition of *Vitae Christi*, on which he has a monograph forthcoming, entitled *The Middle English Life of Christ: Academic Discourse, Translation, and Vernacular Theology*.

**Elizabeth Keen** studied English Language and Literature at Bristol University (BA Hons 1964) specialising in the medieval period, and resumed her studies in the History Department of the Australian National University (MA 1996, PhD 2002). While a Visiting Fellow at ANU she published papers on Bartholomew the Englishman and the medieval encyclopaedic genre, and the monograph *Journey of a Book: Bartholomew the Englishman and the Properties of Things* (2007).

**Jason König** is Senior Lecturer in Greek at the University of St Andrews. He works broadly on the Greek literature and culture of the Roman empire. He is author of *Athletics and Literature in the Roman Empire* (2005) and *Saints and Symposiasts: The Literature of Food and the Symposium in Greco-Roman and Early Christian Culture* (2012), and editor, jointly with Tim Whitmarsh, of *Ordering Knowledge in the Roman Empire* (2007).

**Paul Magdalino** is Professor Emeritus of Byzantine History at the University of St Andrews, and currently teaches in the Department of Archaeology and History of Art at Koç University, Istanbul. He has published extensively on the political, cultural and social history of Byzantium.

**Andy Merrills** is Senior Lecturer in Ancient History at the University of Leicester. His research focuses on ancient and medieval geography and on late antique North Africa. His publications include *History and Geography in Late Antiquity* (2005) and *The Vandals* (2010) (with Richard Miles).

Notes on contributors

Elias Muhanna is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Brown University, where he teaches courses on classical Arabic literature and Islamic intellectual history. He earned his doctoral degree in Near Eastern languages and civilisations from Harvard University in 2012, and is currently completing a book on the encyclopaedic production of the Mamluk empire (1250–1517).

András Németh is a curator of Greek manuscripts at the Vatican Apostolic Library. Before moving to that post he was a research scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin). His research interests focus on the cultural history of tenth-century Byzantium and the reception of Greek manuscripts in Renaissance libraries.

Katerina Oikonomopoulou is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the programme ‘Medicine of the Mind, Philosophy of the Body: Discourses of Health and Well-Being in the Ancient World’ at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She is co-editor, with Frieda Klotz, of The Philosopher’s Banquet: Plutarch’s Table Talk in the Intellectual Culture of the Roman Empire (2011).

Claire Preston is Reader in Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary, University of London. Her recent books include Thomas Browne and Writing of Early-Modern Science (2005), Bee (2006), and Sir Thomas Browne: The World Proposed, co-edited with Reid Barbour (2008); she is the general editor of The Complete Works of Sir Thomas Browne (forthcoming). She has received Guggenheim, British Academy and AHRC research awards, and the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize from the British Academy (2005).

Neil Rhodes is Professor of English Literature and Cultural History at the University of St Andrews and Visiting Professor at the University of Granada. He is co-General Editor of the Modern Humanities Research Association Tudor and Stuart Translations and his publications include English Renaissance Translation Theory (2013), Shakespeare and the Origins of English (2004) and, with Jonathan Sawday, The Renaissance Computer: Knowledge Technology in the First Age of Print (2000).

William N. West is Associate Professor of English, Classics, and Comparative Literary Studies at Northwestern University. His publications include Theatres and Encyclopedias in Early Modern Europe (2002). Current projects include a book on understanding and confusion in the Elizabethan theatres, and work on Poliziano’s philological inhumanism.
Notes on contributors

Greg Woolf is Professor of Ancient History at the University of St Andrews. His books include Becoming Roman: The Origins of Provincial Civilization in Gaul (1998); Et tu Brute: The Murder of Julius Caesar and Political Assassination (2006); Tales of the Barbarians: Ethnography and Empire in the Roman West (2011); and Rome: An Empire’s Story (2012). He has also edited volumes on literacy, on the city of Rome and on Roman religion and has published widely on ancient history and Roman archaeology.

Harriet T. Zurndorfer (PhD 1977 from the University of California, Berkeley, in Chinese history) is an Affiliated Fellow of the Leiden Institute of Asian Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University in the Netherlands where she has worked since 1978. She is the author of Change and Continuity in Chinese Local History (1989), China Bibliography: A Research Guide to Reference Works about China Past and Present (1995; paperback edition 1999), and founder as well as editor of the journal Nan Nü: Men, Women and Gender in China. She has published more than a hundred learned articles and reviews.
Preface

The starting point of this book was a conference on ‘Encyclopaedia before the Enlightenment’ held in St Andrews in June 2007. That event was generously funded by the British Academy. It was also the opening event in a three-year project in St Andrews on ‘Science and Empire in the Roman World’, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. We are very grateful to both. We wish also to thank Margaret Goudie for her hard work in organising the original conference and Katerina Oikonomopolou, who as well as contributing to this volume has been our collaborator for the duration of the project. Like so many of the encyclopaedic projects described in the pages that follow, this one gathered momentum and scale as we learned more and thought harder about the many questions raised on that first occasion. Some of the contributors to this volume spoke at that conference; others were recruited later. We are grateful to all for their hard work, and especially for their willingness to read and comment on each others’ chapters. Special thanks go to Will West for taking on a particularly large volume of that work, and to our St Andrews colleague Christopher Smith for his comments on chapter 2. We are grateful also to Michael Sharp and the anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press, and to Gill Cloke for all her work on copy-editing. Nearly all quotations from languages other than English are translated, but we have occasionally included untranslated or partially translated Latin quotations in footnotes where we feel that they will be of particular interest to specialist readers. We have used the author-date system in references throughout in accordance with Cambridge University Press house style; some contributors have chosen in addition to include the full titles and publication details of medieval and early modern editions in footnotes for clarity. It was another St Andrews colleague Harry Hine who advised us at the start to focus on encyclopaedia as a phenomenon, not on chasing down encyclopaedias. It was good advice, and we are grateful to him for that and for much else.