

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.

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Edited by JASON KÖNIG AND GREG WOOLF



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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.

<i>Anth. Pal.</i>	<i>Anthologia Palatina</i>
BHG	<i>Bibliotheca hagiographica graeca</i>
CE	<i>Constantinian Excerpts</i>
<i>C. Just.</i>	<i>Justinianic Code</i>
CPF	<i>Corpus dei papiri filosofici</i>
CPG	Geerard, M. (ed.) <i>Clavis patrum graecorum</i>
<i>C. Theod.</i>	<i>Theodosian Code</i>
<i>Dig.</i>	Justinian, <i>Digest</i>
DMB	<i>Dictionary of Ming Biography</i>
EETS ES	Early English Text Society, Extra Series
EETS OS	Early English Text Society, Original Series
<i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i>	Brill's <i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> (second edition: Bearman, P. J. et al. (eds.) 1960–2005; third edition: Fleet, K. et al. (eds.) 2007–)
ESAR	Frank, T. (ed.) <i>An Economic Survey of Ancient Rome</i>
<i>FGrHist</i>	Jacoby, F. (ed.) <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i>
FIRA	Riccobono, S. et al. (eds.) <i>Fontes iuris romani anteiustiniani</i>
K	Kühn, K. G. (ed.) <i>Opera omnia Claudii Galeni</i>
K-A	Kassel, R. and Austin, C. (eds.) <i>Poetae Comici Graeci</i>
LSJ	H. G. Liddell and R. Scott et al. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> (9th edition, with supplement)
<i>New Pauly</i>	Cancik, H., Schneider, H. and Landfester, M. (eds.) <i>Brill's New Pauly: Encyclopaedia of the Ancient World</i>
Page	Page, D. L. (ed.) <i>Poetae Melici Graeci</i>
Pfeiffer	Pfeiffer, R. (ed.) <i>Callimachus</i>
PG	Migne, J.-P. (ed.) <i>Patrologia Graeca</i>
PLP	Trapp, E. et al. (eds.) <i>Prosopographisches Lexikon der Palaiologenzeit</i>
<i>P.Oxy.</i>	<i>Papyri Oxyrhynchi</i>

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Preface

The starting point of this book was a conference on ‘Encyclopaedism 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 encyclopaedism as a phenomenon, not on chasing down encyclopaedias. It was good advice, and we are grateful to him for that and for much else.