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Edited and translated by Stephen White
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DIOGENES LAERTIUS

Lives of Eminent Philosophers

A pioneering work in the history of philosophy, the ancient text of the *Lives* presents engaging portraits of nearly a hundred Greek philosophers. It blends biography with bibliography and surveys of leading theories, peppered with punchy anecdotes, pithy maxims, and even snatches of poetry, much of it by the philosophers themselves. The work presents a systematic genealogy of Greek philosophy from its origins in the sixth century BCE to its flowering in Plato's Academy and the Hellenistic schools. In this fully up-to-date and accessible translation, based on the most accurate texts and the latest advances in scholarship, Stephen White provides a valuable resource for students and scholars of ancient philosophy. Highlights include extended treatment of the "seven Sages" (Book 1), Socrates and his Socratic followers (Book 2), Plato (Book 3), Aristotle and his school (Book 5), Diogenes the Cynic (Book 6), Stoicism (Book 7), Pythagoreans (Book 8), Pyrrhonian skepticism (Book 9), and Epicureanism (Book 10).

Stephen White is Professor of Classics and Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Sovereign Virtue: Aristotle on Prosperity and Happiness* (1992) and of articles on many topics in ancient philosophy and literature. With William Fortenbaugh, he is the co-editor of volumes on Lyco of Troas and Hieronymus of Rhodes (2004) and Aristo of Ceos (2006).

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Acknowledgments

Melville's Ishmael could imagine few fates sweeter than tumbling into a great whale's "honey head": "a very precious perishing ... confined, hearsed, and tombed in [its] secret inner chamber and sanctum sanctorum." Leviathan or not, Diogenes Laertius offers similar enchantments. My own fascination with his *Lives* began in graduate school, when rumors of a new edition of the Greek text made any thoughts of a fresh English translation premature. The decades since then have seen both desiderata fulfilled, twice each in fact, as we have gained not one but two new editions of the Greek text, then the first complete English translation in over ninety years, which appeared last year as I was preparing indexes for the present volume. Although it has taken considerably longer to reach harbor than I ever anticipated or wished, the voyage has been immensely rewarding – getting to know "the towns and minds of many" – and the reserves of personal and professional gratitude I have accumulated I am happy finally to register. My heartfelt thanks to the many friends, colleagues, and students who helped me through this project, and in particular to Tony Long and David Sedley for kindling my interest in the *Lives* many years ago; to Tiziano Dorandi for generously sharing his mastery of the text along the way; to Christopher Moore for incisive comments on drafts of Books 1 and 2; to participants in a Mayweek seminar on Book 9 for illuminating discussion; to Theofilos Kyriakidis for assistance with indexing; and to Hilary Gaskin and the team at Cambridge University Press for meticulous support and for nimbly playing Queequeg to my stumbling Tashtego. And the first shall be last: serenades to Mary Ingle, the captain of all my journeys for having me her first mate.