How did Ancient Greek express the fact that an event occurred at a particular time, for a certain duration, or within a given time frame? The answer to these questions depends on a variety of conditions – the nature of the time noun, the tense and aspect of the verb, the particular historical period of Greek during which the author lived – that existing studies of the language do not take sufficiently into account. This book accordingly examines the circumstances that govern the use of the genitive, dative, and accusative of time, as well as the relevant prepositional constructions, primarily in Greek prose of the fifth century BC through the second century AD, but also in Homer. While the focus is on developments in Greek, translations of the examples, as well as a fully glossed summary chapter, make it accessible to linguists interested in the expression of time generally.

COULTER H. GEORGE is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Virginia. The author of Expressions of Agency in Ancient Greek (Cambridge University Press, 2005), he has also taught at Rice University and was a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. His research interests include the syntax of the Greek verb, particles and prepositions, and contact phenomena between Greek and the other languages of the ancient Mediterranean.
## CONTENTS

*Acknowledgments*  
*List of abbreviations and other conventions*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Expressions of time: an introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Expressions of time in Thucydides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Expressions of time: style, genre, and diachrony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Expressions of time in Biblical Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A retrospective: going back in time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bibliography*  
*General index*  
*Index of Greek words*  
*Index of passages discussed*
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As the final task in writing a book on Ancient Greek expressions of time, it seems fitting to take a diachronic look at its genesis. After all – if I may indulge in Vendlerian language – writing it was certainly a (durative) Accomplishment rather than an (instantaneous) Achievement; in any case, I’m very much relieved it didn’t remain an (atelic) Activity! Work on it began during 2006–07, my last year as a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge, and I remain extremely grateful to the Master and Fellows for providing an environment so conducive to research. In particular, I should like to record my lasting gratitude to Eric Handley, who, ever since my very first supervision at Cambridge (Greek prose composition, October 1995), had nothing but the kindest words of encouragement and advice. As always, the camaraderie of the E Caucus of the Faculty of Classics meant that there was ample opportunity for lively discussion of sundry linguistic issues.

The academic year 2010–11 was also fruitful, when, thanks to a Sabbatical Fellowship from the American Philosophical Society as well as Sesqui Leave and a summer stipend from the University of Virginia, I was able to give the project my undivided attention. During the first two months, I enjoyed a delightful stay at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and it is a true pleasure to thank the classicists there, especially my academic host, Rutger Allan, for their warm hospitality. The rest of the year, equally idyllic, was spent in Cologne, where José Luis García Ramón was tremendously welcoming and helpful. It was a great pleasure to have the chance to bounce ideas off Daniel Kölligan, and I am also very grateful to Lena Wolberg for helping me navigate bureaucratic matters.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Throughout all of this, I have enjoyed the unceasing support of the University of Virginia’s Department of Classics, under the outstanding leadership of our chair John F. Miller. The remarkable collegiality of the entire department, faculty and graduate student alike, makes it impossible to single out individuals for thanks, but it would be remiss of me not to note a special debt of gratitude to the Wednesday Night Bachelors for their unstinting bonhomie.

Eleanor Dickey read substantial sections of the book in draft, and both Rutger Allan and James Clackson read it in its entirety. Their kind attentions have saved me from numerous errors and infelicities; those that remain are to be attributed, of course, to my own intransigence. Once again, it has been a pleasure to work with Michael Sharp and Cambridge University Press on the book’s production; Miranda Bethell’s attentive work was invaluable in ensuring consistent style throughout and I am very grateful for Annette Copping’s sharp-eyed scrutiny of the proofs. Finally, there is the matter of the peripatetic existence that went hand-in-hand with writing the book: work on it took place in four countries – or even five, counting the Christmas vacation I spent in my grandfather-in-law’s study in Uberlândia combing the New Testament for temporal expressions. My wife Daphne deserves praise and thanks for being a constant, loyal companion throughout it all.

Charlottesville
ABBREVIATIONS AND OTHER CONVENTIONS

The abbreviations of Greek authors and works are those found in LSJ, except for names of the books of the Bible, which are abbreviated as in The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version (1991), p. xxvii. Papyri are abbreviated as in the Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri (http://www.papyri.info/browse/ddbdp/). An ellipsis within round brackets indicates that words may or may not occur between the words on either side.


LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND OTHER CONVENTIONS

Kühner–Gerth  R. Kühner and B. Gerth (1898)  
Hanover and Leipzig.


MT  Masoretic Text

Rahlfs  A. Rahlfs and R. Hahart (2006)  

Schwyzer–Debrunner  E. Schwyzer and A. Debrunner (1950)  

TLG  Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (Irvine, CA, 1972–)