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THE ANCIENT GREEK ECONOMY

The Ancient Greek Economy: Markets, Households and City-States brings together sixteen essays by leading scholars of the ancient Greek economy specialising in history, economics, archaeology, and numismatics. Marshaling a wide array of evidence, these essays investigate and analyse the role of market exchange in the economy of the ancient Greek world, demonstrating the central importance of markets for production and exchange of goods and services during the Classical and Hellenistic periods. Contributors draw on evidence from literary texts and inscriptions, household archaeology, amphora studies, and numismatics. Together, the essays provide an original and compelling approach to the issue of explaining economic growth in the ancient Greek world.

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MARKETS, HOUSEHOLDS AND CITY-STATES

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PREFACE

The origins of this book lie in a conference entitled "Beyond Self-Sufficiency: Households, City-States, and Markets in the Ancient Greek World," held in St. John's College, Durham University, on July 2–5, 2011, organized by the editors of this volume. This meeting could not have taken place were it not for the generous support of Department of Classics and Ancient History and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Durham University. We would like to thank Sue Hobson and the team at St. John's College for their assistance in running the conference.

The rationale behind the conference lay in dissatisfaction with the belief found in many scholarly studies that the Greeks cherished a notion of autarky that profoundly influenced economic behaviour, in particular minimizing engagement with markets and market exchange. Although the conference was not conceived with a view to publication, it became apparent that many of the participants found this approach inadequate to explain the evidence from the ancient Greek world, and that a volume challenging this view from a number of different vantage points would be valuable. We then submitted a proposal to Cambridge University Press and received positive and helpful reports from two anonymous referees. Vasia Psilakakou did a splendid job proofreading the entire manuscript before we sent it to the press. Finally, we would like to thank the team at Cambridge University Press in New York for their expert assistance in preparing the volume for publication.

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