

Authority and Expertise in Ancient Scientific Culture

How did ancient scientific and knowledge-ordering writers make their work authoritative? This book answers that question for a wide range of ancient disciplines, from mathematics, medicine, architecture and agriculture, through to law, historiography and philosophy (focusing mainly but not exclusively on the literature of the Roman Empire). It draws attention to habits that these different fields had in common, while also showing how individual texts and authors manipulated standard techniques of self-authorisation in distinctive ways. It stresses the importance of competitive and assertive styles of self-presentation, and also examines some of the pressures that pulled in the opposite direction by looking at authors who chose to acknowledge the limitations of their own knowledge or resisted close identification with narrow versions of expert identity. A final chapter by Sir Geoffrey Lloyd offers a comparative account of scientific authority and expertise in ancient Chinese, Indian and Mesopotamian culture.

JASON KÖNIG is Professor of Greek at the University of St Andrews. This is the third in a trilogy of volumes arising from a Leverhulme-funded research project, 'Science and Empire in the Roman World', which ran from 2007 to 2010 in St Andrews; the other two volumes, *Ancient Libraries* and *Encyclopaedism from Antiquity to the Renaissance*, were both published by Cambridge University Press in 2013.

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Edited by JASON KÖNIG AND GREG WOOLF



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Preface

This book is the third in a trilogy of edited volumes arising from a project on ‘Science and Empire in the Roman World’ which ran in St Andrews from 2007 to 2010, funded by the Leverhulme Trust; the others are *Ancient Libraries* and *Encyclopaedism from Antiquity to the Renaissance*, both published by Cambridge University Press in 2013. The project as a whole was a joint enterprise, but Jason König took the lead in assembling this final collection and bringing its editing to completion. This third volume arose from a series of workshops and conferences on scientific writing and on scientists and professionals in the ancient world which took place during the second half of the project. Very few of the chapters below were delivered as papers – most were commissioned and designed afterwards – so this is not in any sense a conference volume, but we are very grateful to all who attended those events to give papers and to contribute to our discussions, which had a formative influence over our plans for the volume as a whole. Among other things, they helped to convince us even further of the value of examining a wide range of different disciplines together in order to see better the cross-fertilisation between them. In that sense the word ‘science’ in the title is intended in the most capacious sense possible, to encompass the whole industry of ancient knowledge-ordering, not just what we would refer to now as ‘scientific’ and technical topics, but also fields like law, historiography and generalship, which are not often studied as part of the history of ancient science. We are grateful to the Leverhulme Trust for funding that project, to Katerina Oikonomopoulou, who collaborated with us in organising all of these events as postdoctoral fellow for the project, and to Michael Sharp and all at Cambridge University Press. In what follows we have generally preferred Latinized spellings of Greek names, except where the Greek version seems more familiar or more appropriate.

Abbreviations

Journal titles are cited in full in the bibliography. Abbreviations in chapters follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (or for works not listed there, the *Greek-English Lexicon* (LSJ) or the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*). Title abbreviations for the works of Galen follow Hankinson 2008b: 391–7. The following abbreviations are not listed in any of those sources:

EAE	<i>ṭupšarru Enūma Anu Enlil</i>
EANS	Keyser, P. T. and Irby-Massie, G. L. (eds) (2008) <i>The Encyclopedia of Ancient Natural Scientists</i> , London.
K	Kühn, K. G. (ed.) (1821–33) <i>Opera omnia Claudii Galeni</i> , Leipzig.
N	Nickel, D. (2001) <i>Galen: Über die Ausformung der Keimlinge</i> (CMG 5.3.3), Berlin.
Varro, ARD	Varro, <i>Antiquitates rerum divinarum</i>