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DIONYSIUS SCYTOBRACHION
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Foreword

The author known (if he is known at all) as Dionysius Scytobrachion is hardly a topic of general interest, and since scholars of the rank of Eduard Schwartz and Erich Bethe devoted dissertations to him in the last century it may with justice be asked why the 20th century must see yet another one. This time, however, the subject chose himself. My study of an unpublished papyrus (chapter iii below) revealed that it contained a reference to Dionysius' Argonauts, a work already known in outline from Diodorus and the scholia to Apollonius of Rhodes; further searching among published papyri turned up two other unnoticed fragments as well (chapters i–ii below), of which one—from an ancient manuscript of the work itself—was at least a century older than Dionysius is currently thought to have lived. Editions of these three papyri and a new examination of the evidence for Dionysius' life and works formed a dissertation ("The Argonauts of Dionysius Scytobrachion") submitted to Harvard University in 1979; out of this, with the addition of a general description of Dionysius' major works (chapters vii–viii below) and a new fragment collection, the present book has grown.

At every stage of my work I have turned to others for help, and have always received a generous response. Among those to whom I owe thanks for various assistance are W. Clausen, L. Daly, H. Erbse, L. Koenen, B. Kramer, H. Lloyd-Jones, R. Merkelbach, P. J. Parsons, R. Schodel, Z. Stewart, and E. G. Turner. Photographs of P. Hibeh 2.186 and P. Mich. inv. 1316v are reproduced by permission of the British Library and the University of Michigan.

My debt is especially great to Rudolf Kassel, who read and improved many of these chapters and whose teaching has influenced them all; to Albert Henrichs, who directed the project and kept it interesting with energetic criticism and encouragement; and to Caroline, whose patient support is mainly responsible for its completion.

Although it was begun and completed in America, most of this book was written during a two years' stay (made possible by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst and the Rheinisch-Westfälische Aka-
demie der Wissenschaften) at the Institut für Altertumskunde of the University of Cologne. More congenial and stimulating surroundings for such work cannot be imagined, and the list of those there who assisted and encouraged me almost daily—many without knowing they did so—would be long indeed. I hope, therefore, that my teachers, colleagues, and friends from those days in Cologne might accept this odd little book as some sign of my great gratitude to them all.

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