

Preface

The genesis of this volume was a conference by the same name, held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton in May of 2018, which attracted 44 papers. This conference, the first devoted to the courts of Philip and Alexander, was the ninth in a semi-regular but informal series of international symposia, the first held at the University of Calgary in 2002, followed by a second in Calgary in 2005, and then New Zealand (2006), South Carolina (2008), Spain (2010), Sydney (2013), Salt Lake City (2014), and Milan (2015). The earliest conferences focused upon the larger-than-life figure of Alexander the Great, but subsequent organizers incorporated the reigns of his father, Philip II, as well as the Successors, in order to achieve a fuller understanding of the historical context and significance of Alexander's achievements. Similarly, the traditional questions which dominated the earlier conferences on Alexander have now largely given way to thematic approaches that offer new insights and open up complementary avenues of research. These conferences have attracted the leading scholars on Ancient Macedonia, who are usually scattered throughout the world, offering them the ability to engage with one another, as well as with emerging scholars, students, and the general public. From the beginning, the "Alexander conferences" (as they have affectionately come to be known) have been characterized by intense and spirited (although always collegial) discussions, often continued long after the formal program has drawn to a close. This spirit of debate is evident in the published collections of revised papers from these conferences, which have begun to revolutionize the study of Alexander the Great.¹ We offer up this volume, a collection of selected papers originally presented at the conference, in the hopes that it will provide a fresh look at the significant roles that Philip II and Alexander the Great played in the emergence of a new kind of Macedonian kingship and court culture that was spectacularly successful and transformative.

I owe many debts of gratitude. First of all, to all those who presented, chaired the sessions, or were members of the audience at the 2018 Edmonton conference; it is thanks to you that the conference was such an outstanding success. Thank you to the (then) Chair of the Department of History and Classics, David Marples, and the (then) Dean of Arts, Lesley Cormack, for your support

¹ Heckel and Tritle (2003); Heckel *et al.* (2007); Wheatley and Hannah (2009); Carney and Ogden (2010); Alonso Troncoso and Anson (2013); Bearzot and Landucci (2016); Walsh and Baynham (2021). Full references to these works can be found in the bibliography to the introduction.

and for your kind words of welcome to our truly international group of guests. Thank you to our office staff (Barb Baker, Shufen Edmondstone, Lindsey Rose, and especially Lia Watkin) for your patient and cheerful administrative assistance. The tireless work behind the scenes of University of Alberta graduate students ensured that all went smoothly; special thanks to Gino Canlas, Kat Furta-do, Adam Wiznura, and especially Beatrice Poletti (Event Manager) and Kristen Spencer-Millions (Research Assistant). Thanks are also due to my husband Joe Pownall for ferrying some of the speakers to a post-conference trip to Banff and helping me act as tour guide; the Canadian Rockies provided a stunning backdrop for reflection on the insights arising out of the papers. Funding for the conference was generously provided by the Department of History and Classics, the Faculty of Arts, and the Kule Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Alberta, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Scott R. Jacobs Fund (special thanks to Lindsay Adams), the *Ancient History Bulletin* (special thanks to Tim Howe), and the Department of Classics and Religion, University of Calgary (special thanks to John Vandespoel). And last but not least, I thank my wonderful co-editors, Sulochana Asirvatham and Sabine Müller, without whom this volume would not have been possible.

Proper names are generally given in their Latin forms, although there are some exceptions in the cases of unfamiliar names in accordance with the wishes of individual authors.

Frances Pownall
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