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PREFACE

Greek historians frequently complain that most of ancient Greek literature has been lost. So, for example, of the almost 1,000 Greek writers who wrote histories, the works of less than a dozen have been preserved, and not all of those completely. As the familiar cliché goes, however, a glass can be viewed as half empty or half full, and in the case of Greek historical literature, the glass is definitely half full. The works that have been preserved include those of some of the most distinguished prose authors in Greek literature and some of the most interesting narrative literature to survive from antiquity. For over half a century, the most popular introduction to Greek historiography for students has been M. I. Finley's *The Portable Greek Historians*.

The Portable Greek Historians has served students well, but its weaknesses have become more and more apparent with time. Three are particularly noteworthy. First, although no anthology can be truly comprehensive, Finley did not provide students with a true picture of the range and variety of Greek historiography by limiting his selections to the works of only four authors. Second, the translations he used were archaic—the latest was published in 1889—and are increasingly difficult to read by contemporary students. Third, and finally, the supporting material—introduction, notes, and bibliography—were all limited. The present anthology aims to remedy these flaws and to provide contemporary students with an introduction to the riches of ancient Greek historiography that will serve them as well as *The Portable Greek Historians* did. To that end, more readable translations have been used and provided with the necessary supporting materials, including contextual summaries and footnotes and a list of suggested readings.

Every author acquires debts to other scholars in the course of research and writing, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge mine. First, and foremost, is to a great historian and teacher, Professor Mortimer H. Chambers Jr. of UCLA, who kindly agreed to review and revise Sir Frederick G. Kenyon's translation of Aristotle's *The Constitution of Athens*. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Andrew Smith, who generously granted permission to reprint selections from his excellent translation of Memnon's *History of Heracleia Pontica*. Thanks also are due to Professors Frank Holt of the University of Houston, Jennifer T. Roberts of the City University of New York, and Raimund Schulz of the University of Bielefeld, who read and commented on earlier drafts of the Introduction. Finally, I particularly would like to thank Rick Todhunter of Hackett Publishing Company, who suggested this project and has supported it throughout.