ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Some twenty years ago I came into contact with Fokke Sierksma, professor of the comparative history of religion and of religious anthropology at Leiden University. I have met a great many excellent people since, but never again a teacher like Sierksma. It was Sierksma who suggested that I should take up the study of religious dancing, a subject once brought to Sierksma's attention by his own mentor, Gerardus van der Leeuw. I intended to follow this advice, but Sierksma died, much too young and much too soon, and others, rather less keen on the dance, put me onto different tracks. I might never have pursued the subject of dancing any further if I had not become acquainted with a ballerina. As she became an important part of my life, dance reasserted itself as an important part of my studies.

For the past fifteen years I have worked intermittently on the study of the dance in general and the dance of ancient Greece in particular. During these years I encountered some scepticism, which should be seen against the background of the virtual absence of dance studies within Dutch academic life: ignoti nulla cupido. But I also met with enthusiasm, interest and support. First of all I want to thank Leiden University which funded my research for over two and a half years. Next Joanna Brown, Madeleine Inglehearn, and Cerys Williams, who all read part of my English manuscript, and who purged it of several barbarisms. Then in alphabetical order, as I really would not know whom to thank most, those who have answered my queries, provided information without even being asked, read through part of the manuscript or contributed in whatever way: Alessandro Arcangeli, Egbert Bakker, Jan Bremmer, Marie-Hélène Delavaud-Roux, Edward Grasman, Margriet Haagsma, Mogens Herman Hansen, Benedikt Hartmann, Siska Hoogendijk, Madeleine Inglehearn, Fridolf Kudlien, Charles Kyriacou, Donald Lateiner, Anna Lazou, Rena Loutzaki, Margaret McGowan, Steven Moors, Ilja Pfeijffer, Harry Pleket, Alkis Raftis, Herman Roodenburg, Heleen Sancisi, Eva van Schaik, Clemens Sicking, Tyler Jo Smith, Folkert van Straten, Rolf Tybout,
Henk van Veen, Henk Versnel, Marjaana Vesterinen, and Alexandra Voutyras. All those not mentioned by name, because they have been inadvertently overlooked or because they remained anonymous, as do for instance most of the helpful people in the several libraries where I worked, may rest assured of my sincere gratitude. I am greatly indebted to them all. I of course bear sole responsibility for all remaining errors. Towards the end of the acknowledgements one usually deals with family matters, and I will not depart from this tradition. My wife, whose important inspirational role was already noted above, has always shown a lively interest in the work in progress. And last but not least the one to whom I dedicate this book. Without her presence and support, maternal, educational, moral and financial, during the past 40 years and 228 days, this book would never have been written at all. Some debts are of their very nature impossible to repay; dedicating the book to her is, however, meant to be a meaningful gesture.

Voorschoten, 30 June 1997