PREFACE

My interest in the Cratylus began when I read it as an undergraduate for a course in the Integral Liberal Arts Program at Saint Mary’s College. Two of my teachers from those halcyon days, who are now my colleagues in the Classics Department and Integral Program at Saint Mary’s, Albert Dragstedt and Joseph Lanigan, have both patiently heard and read the argument of this book in many stages.

As a graduate student in the Classics Department at the University of Washington, Seattle, I received help and encouragement for my work on the Cratylus from many excellent teachers. These included Catherine Roth, who led the seminar on “How the Greeks thought about their language” for which I wrote the paper which has grown into this book, Pierre MacKay, who directed my dissertation on the Cratylus, John McDiarmid, Larry Bliquez, and Cecilia Luschnig, all of the Classics Department, and Marc Cohen of the Philosophy Department. In subsequent years, Robert Renehan of the Classics Department of the University of California at Santa Barbara, and Thomas G. Rosenmeyer of the Classics and Comparative Literature Departments of the University of California at Berkeley helped me with crucial parts of the manuscript.

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Finally, my greatest thanks are for my wife Karen and children Julia, Johnny, and Deirdre, who have been endlessly helpful and hopeful about this book, which I now dedicate to them with love.