

PREFACE

W. den Boer has served Leiden University, and in particular the Departments of Classics and History, as a Professor of Ancient History for thirty-three years (1946-1979). He has had an enormous impact upon the development of the study of ancient history in the Netherlands. Fifteen *promovendi* have reached the status of *promoti* under his supervision; two chairs of Ancient History in the Netherlands outside Leiden are held by his pupils; large numbers of undergraduates and graduate students have been introduced by him to his field of study. In addition to his teaching and his research W. den Boer has devoted much time and energy to administrative duties: he has acted as Dean of the Faculty of Letters, as Secretary of the Senate and as Rector Magnificus of the University. Regularly and consistently he has shown a profound interest in problems concerning the position of our studies in the modern world and the promotion and organization of research both at the University and in institutes outside it. In all this he has never failed to promote good personal relations both in and outside the department of Ancient History at Leiden.

This book, which consists of a number of selected articles written by den Boer in the course of his impressive career, is both a token of gratitude on the part of all those who have come under his influence, and a testimony to the variety of his own interests. The latter receives additional emphasis from the complete bibliography of his writings which precedes the selection of articles.

We all hope that he will enjoy his *otium, cum dignitate* but above all *cum sanitate*, for many years to come, together with his wife, (grand) children and with all those who have regular contact with him.

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