

## PREFACE

From September 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Northwestern University had the honor of hosting Symposium XIII, the thirteenth meeting of the International Society for the History of Greek and Hellenistic Law. On a late summer's evening in Evanston, Illinois, 29 students of Greek law, old friends and new, came together from the distant corners of Europe and the United States for four days of papers and discussions on Greek legal history. In keeping with tradition, there was no general theme. Topics of the 16 principal papers ranged from the Homeric world down to Hellenistic and Roman Egypt. These papers, and the formal responses that followed many of them, are edited and published in this volume. The Symposium series to which it belongs constitutes a rich resource for the study of Greek law, a subject nearly invisible a generation ago. For this we owe a profound debt of gratitude to the founder of the Society, Hans Julius Wolff, and to the Society's current directors, Eva Cantarella, Joseph Méléze Modrzejewski, and Gerhard Thür.

During our September meetings, Symposium participants also enjoyed the pleasure of visiting Northwestern's distinguished neighboring institution, the University of Chicago. The presentations on Roman Egypt were delivered there, in conjunction with a tour of the Oriental Institute. Following another Symposium tradition, collegial conviviality was much in evidence, not least in Evanston's many fine restaurants where our European colleagues could also sample some excellent American wines. As Professor Modrzejewski observed in his closing remarks, this was a true symposion. Our final lunch was an American style cook-out near the shores of Lake Michigan.

When our group arrived in Evanston, it found Northwestern's campus in some disorder. Five new buildings for the sciences and humanities were under construction. Two days after it left, on September 11, two buildings were tragically destroyed in New York. Northwestern's impressive new structures now stand. Will the promotion of law help rectify the world's wider problems? We can only hope so – "hope, that comforter in danger" as the Athenians observed to the Melians in 416.

It remains to thank those whose generosity made Symposium XIII possible. From Northwestern University, these include the Offices of President Henry S. Bienen, the Vice President for Research, the Provost, the Dean of Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences, The Humanities Center, The School of Speech, and the Departments of Classics and Philosophy. Important contributions were also made by

the Classics Department of the University of Chicago, by the University of Texas, and by the Ingeborg Foundation.

With this volume our series *Akten der Gesellschaft für Griechische und Hellenistische Rechtsgeschichte* has found a new publishing house, and we thank the Austrian Academy of Sciences for hosting our Symposium acts in future.

Robert W. Wallace