

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has had a considerably long gestation and several origins. I first began thinking about the intersection of poetry and number as a Master's student. The result was a dissertation on Archimedes' *Cattle Problem*, and it would eventually become an article in *Ramus* (2015), which is substantially reworked and expanded here as Chapter 3. I then pursued a doctorate on a different topic. Still, Leonides of Alexandria and his isopsephic epigrams constituted one distraction from the main task of my thesis; in fact, some of the material of Chapter 2 had originally been submitted to the *Cambridge Classical Journal* as an article. I thank the anonymous reviewers of that piece for their challenging but supportive feedback. A failed Oxford interview in 2008 bears special mention, too, since it was there that I first encountered Catullus *cc.* 5 and 7 – and I have been ruminating on those poems ever since. The beginnings of a postdoctoral position afforded me the time to write up these ideas while, once again, I should have been working on other things. Thus, this book is quite a different beast to one's typical first book in academia. It is the product of a lengthy obsession and not the direct result of my doctoral studies. Yet I hope and believe that the passage of so much time has imbued it with a certain intellectual maturity – of the kind which I did not yet possess as a fresh postgraduate – and has streamlined its arguments so as to avoid the bloatedness that is a residual characteristic of many a thesis turned monograph.

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