

# Preface

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This monograph, *Lectures on Greek Prose*, contains the revised version of lectures delivered at Adam Mickiewicz-University during the Academic Year 2015/16 and 2016/17. It consists of three main parts. A first group outlines Herodotus' style of reporting, his approach, and how his imaginative style was received by three modern readers: Bruce Chatwin, Georges Dumézil, and John Beazley. A second group of lectures covers Thucydides. They examine central parts of his monograph, dedicated to the plague at Athens, the civil war in Cercyra, and the character of Alcibiades respectively. Since Thucydides was well received by some Roman historians, it seemed adequate to refer to passages from Sallustius and Tacitus, which may shed light on Thucydides' position in historiography. He was the first to focus on the contrast between sluggish underlying causes and their abrupt consequences, i.e. between causes that stretch back, and out into the wider world of history and politics, and the Gavrilo Princip in the case of the First World War. A third group of lectures provides an introduction to literary criticism in Greek literature. Due to his prominent position, Plato is central to this final part. Passages from Aristotle's *Poetics*, however, as well as from the short *On the Sublime*, are discussed as well.

As with my preceding *Lectures on Greek Poetry*, my students often asked for a printed manuscript covering the material in my lectures. My colleagues, to whom I'm most grateful, supported the idea of making this text available. C.J. Hopkins once again found time to have a look at the English.

Berlin, August 2017