

## Acknowledgements

The conference on ‘The Construction of the Real and the Ideal in the Ancient Novel’ is the 5<sup>th</sup> in the ongoing series, Rethymnon International Conferences on the Ancient Novel (RICAN), organized by Stelios Panayotakis and Michael Paschalis (to whom we owe thanks for hospitality, physical arrangements, organizational skills, and intellectual stimulus), and held at the University of Crete on 25-26 May 2009. Thirteen of the fifteen papers delivered at the conference are printed in this volume. Warmest thanks are owed to the *Ancient Narrative* publisher, Roelf Barkhuis, for once again producing a marvelous book.

My summaries of the papers in the Introduction are just that, summaries (I was chastised by Vered Lev Kenaan in *Ancient Narrative* 9 (2011) 121ff., for not privileging certain papers and approaches above others in my Introduction to the publication of the RICAN 4 papers in 2009. She misunderstands the purpose of Introductions). The richness of detail, fine points of distinction, and even of originality, are passed over in the Introduction for lack of space, not lack of respect. For these reasons all the papers are printed in full in this volume, and the reader at his peril will ignore papers and trust summaries.

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