Literary Currents and Romantic Forms: Essays in Memory of Bryan Reardon

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Literary Currents and Romantic Forms Essays in Memory of Bryan Reardon

edited by

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S.R.W.

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Image on cover: the Tetrapylon, or monumental gateway, in Aphrodisias that leads to the sanctuary of Aphrodite, dating to the mid-later second century CE; photograph by Kathryn Chew, 2007

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Foreword

The name of Bryan Reardon will be familiar to virtually every reader of this volume. In a distinguished career, whose lasting achievement was to rescue the Ancient Greek novels from the disregarded margins of classical literature, and to set in motion the tide of scholarly interest in them and their Latin relations which is embodied in the Ancient Narrative series, perhaps two landmarks stand out. The first was the organisation of the first International Conference on the Ancient Novel (ICAN), held in 1976 in Bangor in North Wales (where Bryan held the Chair of Classics at the time), which kicked the whole thing off. And the second was the editorship of the volume of translations, Collected Ancient Greek Novels, which brought the novels into the curricula of universities all over the Anglosphere and continues to serve as the central text for popular and successful courses at all levels. However, despite his extensive and influential bibliography (and Bryan certainly wrote beautifully, in both English and French), it is as a person that he is best remembered: as facilitator, energiser, teacher, mentor, father-figure and, above all, as generous and kind friend, and, along with his beloved wife, Janette, hospitable and merry host.

The contributors to this memorial volume owe much to Bryan: Billault, Bowie, Dowden, Gill, Mason, Morgan, Ruiz-Montero, Sandy, Schmeling, Tatum, and West were all present at ICAN, while Dowden, Gill, Morgan, and Sandy all contributed to *Collected Ancient Greek Novels*. There is not one amongst us whose life was not touched and enriched by Bryan in one way or another.

The original intention had been for this book to be a Festschrift for Bryan's eightieth birthday in 2008, and we were in fact able to present him with copies of most of these essays on his birthday. Sadly, he died before the book was complete and ready for the publisher. For a combination of reasons, some professional and some personal, the editors lacked the energy and resolve to push forwards with the project at that time. We cannot excuse that, and only say in mitigation that the delay has never ceased to weigh heavily on our conscience. We are grateful beyond words to the contributors for their patience, and for their readiness to review their articles when we reignited the project in 2017; they are

certainly of too high a quality to remain unpublished. We must also thank Roelf Barkhuis for his help in bringing these essays into the public domain after such a long gestation.

The publication of this volume would not be possible without the generous subvention of a former student of Bryan's, who wishes to remain anonymous. At an earlier stage Bryan's erstwhile department at the University of California, Irvine, offered support, and, from further back in his career, the Classics Department at Trent University also asked to be associated in our expressions of affection and respect for him. We must also mention friends and colleagues who were not able to contribute but nonetheless join us in remembering Bryan: particularly Roger Beck, Glen Bowersock, Laurent Pernot, Simon Swain.

KC, JRM, SMT