

STONES, BONES, AND THE SACRED

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STONES, BONES, AND THE SACRED

Essays on Material Culture and Ancient Religion
in Honor of Dennis E. Smith

edited by

Alan H. Cadwallader



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ABBREVIATIONS

Primary Texts

<i>1 Apol.</i>	Justin, <i>Apologia i</i>
<i>1 En.</i>	1 Enoch
<i>Ab urbe cond.</i>	Livy, <i>Ab urbe condita</i>
<i>Acts Paul Thecl.</i>	Acts of Paul and Thecla
<i>Acts Pet.</i>	Acts of Peter
<i>Aem.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Aemilius Paullus</i>
<i>Aen.</i>	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i>
<i>A.J.</i>	Josephus, <i>Antiquitates judaicae</i>
<i>Ann.</i>	Tacitus, <i>Annales</i>
<i>Ant.</i>	Josephus, <i>Jewish Antiquities</i>
<i>Apol.</i>	Tertullian, <i>Apologeticus</i>
<i>Att.</i>	Cicero, <i>Epistulae ad Atticum</i>
<i>Aug.</i>	Suetonius, <i>Divus Augustus</i>
<i>Autol.</i>	Theophilus, <i>Ad Autolycum</i>
<i>Bapt.</i>	Tertullian, <i>De baptismo</i>
<i>Bell. civ.</i>	Appian, <i>Bella civilia</i>
<i>Bib. hist.</i>	Diodorus Siculus, <i>Bibliotheca historica</i>
<i>B.J.</i>	Josephus, <i>Bellum judaicum</i>
<i>Brut.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Brutus</i>
<i>Caes.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Caesar</i>
<i>Carm.</i>	Horace, <i>Carmina</i>
<i>Cels.</i>	Origen, <i>Contra Celsum</i>
<i>Char.</i>	Theophrastus, <i>Characteres</i>
<i>Chron.</i>	Eusebius, <i>Chronicon</i>
<i>Claud.</i>	Suetonius, <i>Divus Claudius</i>
<i>Coll. med.</i>	Oribasius, <i>Collectiones medicae</i>
<i>Cyr.</i>	Xenophon, <i>Cyropaedia</i>
<i>Deipn.</i>	Athenaeus, <i>Deipnosophistae</i>

<i>Descr.</i>	Pausanius, <i>Graeciae descriptio</i>
<i>Diatr.</i>	Epictetus, <i>Diatribai</i>
<i>Did.</i>	Didache
<i>Dig.</i>	Digesta
<i>Ecl.</i>	Virgil, <i>Eclogae</i>
<i>Ep.</i>	Pliny, <i>Epistulae</i>
<i>Epig.</i>	Martial, <i>Epigrams</i>
<i>Epit. Caes.</i>	Pseudo-Aurelius Victor, <i>Epitome de Caesaribus</i>
ESG	Greek book of Esther
<i>Eth. nic.</i>	Aristotle, <i>Ethica nicomachea</i>
<i>Fac.</i>	Plutarch, <i>De facie in orbe lunae</i>
<i>Font.</i>	Cicero, <i>Pro Fonteio</i>
<i>Frat. amor.</i>	Plutarch, <i>De fraterno amore</i>
Gall.	Life of Gallienus
<i>Geogr.</i>	Ptolemy, <i>Geographia</i> ; Strabo, <i>Geographica</i>
<i>Gyn.</i>	Soranus, <i>Gynecology</i>
Hist. Aug.	Historia Augusta
Hadr.	Life of Hadrian
<i>Haer.</i>	Irenaeus, <i>Adversus haereses</i>
<i>Hell.</i>	Xenophon, <i>Hellenica</i>
Herm. Sim.	Shepherd of Hermas, <i>Similitude</i>
<i>Hist.</i>	Polybius, <i>Historiae</i> ; Tacitus, <i>Historia</i> ; Velleius Paterculus, <i>History of Rome</i>
<i>Hist. adv. Paganos</i>	Orosios <i>Historiarum adversus Paganos</i>
<i>Hist. eccl.</i>	Eusebius, <i>Historia ecclesiastica</i>
<i>Hist. rom.</i>	Dio Cassius, <i>Historiae romanae</i>
<i>Il.</i>	Homer, <i>Ilias</i>
Jub.	Jubilees
<i>Jul.</i>	Suetonius, <i>Divus Julius</i>
LAB	Liber antiquitatum biblicalum
<i>Leg.</i>	Athenagorus, <i>Legatio pro Christianis</i> ; Cicero, <i>De legibus</i> ; Plato, <i>Leges</i>
<i>Marc.</i>	Tertullian, <i>Adversus Marcionem</i>
Mart. Pol.	Martyrdom of Polycarp
<i>Met.</i>	Apuleius, <i>Metamorphoses</i>
<i>Mos.</i>	Philo, <i>De vita Mosis</i>
<i>Nat.</i>	Pliny the Elder, <i>Naturalis historia</i> ; Tertullian, <i>Ad nationes</i>
<i>Nat. an.</i>	Aelian, <i>De natura animalium</i>

Noct. att.	Aulus Gellius, <i>Noctes atticae</i>
Oct.	Minucius Felix, <i>Octavius</i>
Od.	Homer, <i>Odyssea</i>
Opif.	Philo, <i>De opificio mundi</i>
Or.	Dio Chrysostom, <i>Orations</i> ; Isaeus, <i>Orations</i>
Pan.	Epiphanius, <i>Panarion</i>
Peregr.	Lucian, <i>De morte Peregrini</i>
Pol.	Ignatius, <i>To Polycarp</i>
Polior.	Aeneas Tactitus, <i>Poliorcetica</i>
Praescr.	Tertullian, <i>De praescriptione haereticorum</i>
Prot.	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
Protr.	Galen, <i>Protrepticus</i>
Quaest. conv.	Plutarch, <i>Quaestionum convivialum libri IX</i>
Ran.	Aristophanes, <i>Ranae</i>
Rom.	Plutarch, <i>Romulus</i>
Sent.	Julius Paulus, <i>Sententiae</i>
Sib. Or.	Sibylline Oracles
Sol.	Plutarch, <i>Solon</i>
Strom.	Clement of Alexandria, <i>Stromateis</i>
Tib.	Suetonius, <i>Tiberius</i>
Usu part.	Galen, <i>De usu partium</i>
Trad. ap.	<i>Traditio apostolica</i>
Vesp.	Suetonius, <i>Vespasianus</i>
Virg.	Tertullian, <i>De virginibus velandis</i>
Vir. ill.	Jerome, <i>De viris illustribus</i>
Vit. Apoll.	Philostratus, <i>Vita Apollonii</i>
Vit. soph.	Philostratus, <i>Vitae sophistarum</i>
VP	Iamblichus, <i>Vita Pythagorae</i>

Secondary Resources

AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by David Noel Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
ADPF	Association pour la diffusion de la pensée française
AE	<i>L'Année épigraphique</i> . Edited by René Cagnat et al. Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 1888–.
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
AJPA	<i>American Journal of Physical Anthropology</i>

- ALA* *Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity: The Late Roman and Byzantine Inscriptions Including Texts from the Excavations at Aphrodisias Conducted by Kenan T. Erim.* Edited by Charlotte Roueché and Joyce Maire Reynolds. London: Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, 1989.
- AltHierapolis* *Altertümer von Hierapolis.* Edited by Carl Humann, Conrad Cichorius, Walther Judeich, and Franz Winter. Berlin: Reimer, 1898.
- AmJT* *American Journal of Theology*
- ANF* *The Ante-Nicene Fathers: Translations of the Writings of the Fathers down to A.D. 325.* Edited by Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980–1983.
- ANRW* *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung.* Part 2, *Principat.* Edited by Hildegard Temporini and Wolfgang Haase. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1972–
- AnSt* *Anatolian Studies*
- ArchEph* *Archaiologikē Ephēmeris*
- ASCSA* American School of Classical Studies at Athens
- Athēna* *Athēna: Syngamma periodikon tēs en Athēnais ēpistēmonikes hetaireias*
- BAR* *Biblical Archaeology Review*
- BCH* *Bulletin de correspondance hellénique*
- BCHSup* Supplement to *Bulletin de correspondance hellénique*
- BCL* Bohn's Classical Library
- BDAG* Danker, Frederick W., Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.* 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- BECNT* Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
- BETL* *Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium*
- BGU* *Aegyptische Urkunden aus den Königlichen Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin, Griechische Urkunden.* 15 vols. Berlin: Weidmann, 1895–1937.
- BHAK* Beiheft zur Halbjahresschrift Antike Kunst

Bibel 2000	<i>Bibel 2000: Ester enligt den grekiska texten.</i> Uppsala: Svenska Bibelsällskapet, 2000.
BiTS	Biblical Tools and Studies
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BMC	British Museum Collection
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
BSGRT	<i>Bibliotheca Scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
CB	<i>The Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia: Being an Essay of the Local History of Phrygia from the Earliest Times to the Turkish Conquest.</i> William Mitchell Ramsay. 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1895–1897.
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CIG	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum.</i> Edited by August Boeckh. 4 vols. Berlin: 1828–1877.
CIJ	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Judaicarum.</i> Edited by Jean-Baptiste Frey. 2 vols. Rome: Biblical Pontifical Institute, 1936–1952.
CIL	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum.</i> Berlin: Reimer, 1862–1974.
CIRB	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Regni Bosporani.</i> Leningrad: Nauka; Saint Petersburg: Bibliotheca Classica Petropolitana, 1965. Repr., 2004.
CMG	<i>Corpus Medicorum Graecorum.</i> Leipzig: Teubner, 1915–
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
COMCAR	Colloquium on Material Culture and Ancient Religion
CRAI	<i>Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres</i>
CTR	<i>Criswell Theological Review</i>
DNP	<i>Der neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike.</i> Edited by Hubert Cancik and Helmuth Schneider. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1996–.
Douay-Rheims	<i>The Vulgate Bible: Douay-Rheims Translation.</i> Edited by Swift Edgar and Angela M. Kinney. 4 vols. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010–2013.

<i>EA</i>	<i>Epigraphica Anatolica</i>
<i>EAD</i>	<i>Exploration archéologique de Délos: Faite par l'Ecole française d'Athènes.</i> Paris: de Boccard, 1909–2007.
<i>ECHC</i>	Early Christianity in Its Hellenistic Context
<i>EDNT</i>	<i>Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament.</i> Edited by Horst Balz and Gerhard Schneider. ET. 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990–1993.
<i>EPHMS.PT</i>	<i>Epistēmonikai pragmateiai. Hetaireia Makedonikōn Spudōn.</i> Philology and Theology
<i>ESV</i>	English Standard Version
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>FRLANT</i>	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
<i>GIBM</i>	<i>The Collection of Ancient Greek Inscriptions in the British Museum.</i> Edited by Charles T. Newton, Gustav Hirschfeld, Frederik H. Marshall, and Edward L. Hicks. Oxford: Clarendon, 1874–1916. Repr., 1974.
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>HesperiaSup</i>	Hesperia Supplement Series
<i>Historia</i>	<i>Historia: Zeitschrift für alte Geschichte</i>
<i>HNT</i>	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
<i>HSCP</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HTS</i>	Harvard Theological Studies
<i>HvTSt</i>	<i>Hervormde theologiese studies</i>
<i>IArykanda</i>	<i>Die Inschriften von Arykanda.</i> Edited by Helmut Engelmann et al. Bonn: Habelt, 1972.
<i>IAssos</i>	<i>Die Inschriften von Assos.</i> Edited by Reinhold Merkelbach. IGSK 4. Bonn: Habelt, 1976.
<i>IBoubon</i>	<i>Boubon: The Inscriptions and Archaeological Remains, a Survey 2004–2006.</i> Edited by Christina Kokkinia. Meletemata 60. Athens: de Boccard, 2008.
<i>ICC</i>	International Critical Commentary
<i>IDelos</i>	<i>Inscriptions de Délos.</i> Edited by Félix Dürrbach, Pierre Roussel, Marcel Launey, André Plassart, and Jacques Coupry. 7 vols. Paris: 1926–1972.
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae. Editio Minor.</i> Berlin: de Gruyter, 1924–.

- IGBR *Inscriptiones graecae in Bulgaria repertae*. Edited by Georgi Mihailov. Sophia: Academiae Litterarum Bulgaricae, 1956–1997.
- IGRR *Inscriptiones graecae ad res romanas pertinentes*. Edited by René Cagnat, J. Touvain, Pierre Jouguet, and Georges Lafaye. 4 vols. Paris: Leroux; Rome: Bretschneider, 1906–1964.
- IHadrianoi *Die Inschriften von Hadrianoi und Hadrianeia*. Edited by Elmar Schwertheim. Bonn: Habelt, 1987
- IK *Inschriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasiens*. Edited by Helmut Egelmann. Bonn: Habelt, 1972–
- IKilikiaBM *Journeys in Rough Cilicia, 1964–1963*. Edited by George E. Bean and Terence B. Mitford. 2 vols. Vienna: Böhlau, 1965–1970
- IKorinthKent *Kent, John H. The Inscriptions, 1926–1950*. Vol. 8.3 of *Corinth: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*. Princeton: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1966.
- IKorinthMeritt *Meritt, Benjamin D., ed. Greek Inscriptions 1896–1927*. Vol. 8.1 of *Corinth: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1931.
- IKorinthWest *West, Allen Brown, ed. Latin Inscriptions, 1896–1926*. Vol. 8.2 of *Corinth: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*. Cambridge: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1931.
- IKyzikos *Die Grabtexte*. Vol. 1 of *Die Inschriften von Kyzikos und Umgebung*. Edited by E. Schwertheim. Bonn: Habelt, 1980.
- ILipara *Le iscrizioni lapidarie greche e latine delle isole Eolie*. Vol. 12 of *Meligunis Lipára*. Edited by Luigi B. Brea, Madeleine Cavalier, and Lorenzo Campagna, with the collaboration of Filippo Famularo. Palermo: Publiscula, 2003.
- ILS *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*. Edited by Hermann Dessau. 3 vols. Berlin: Weidmann, 1892–1916.

- IMT *Inschriften Mysia und Troas*. Edited by Matthias Barth and Josef Stauber. Munich: Leopold Wenger-Institut, 1993.
- IPerge *Die Inschriften von Perge*. Edited by S. Şahin. 3 vols. Bonn 1992.
- ISmyrna *Die Inschriften von Smyrna*. Edited by Georg Petzl. Bonn: Habelt, 1982–1990.
- IstMitt *Istanbuler Mitteilungen*
- JdI *Jahrbuch des deutschen archäologischen Instituts*
- JArS *Journal of Archaeological Science*
- JFSR *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*
- JHS *Journal of Hellenic Studies*
- JNG *Jahrbuch für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte*
- JÖAI *Jahreshefte des Österreichischen archäologischen Instituts*
- JRA *Journal of Roman Archaeology*
- JRASup *Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplement Series*
- JRS *Journal of Roman Studies*
- JRSMS *Journal of Roman Studies Monograph Series*
- JSNTSup *Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series*
- KEK *Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament (Meyer-Kommentar)*
- KJV *King James Version*
- KJVA *The Apocrypha: Or, Non-canonical Books of the Bible; The King James Version*. Edited by Manual Komroff. New York: Tudor, 1949.
- LBW *Le Bas, Philippe, and W. H. Waddington. Inscriptions grecques et latines recueillies en Gréce et en Asie Mineure*. 3 vols. Paris: Didot, 1870.
- LCL *Loeb Classical Library*
- LGPN *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names*. Edited by P. M. Fraser and E. Matthews. Oxford: Clarendon, 1987–.
- LNTS *The Library of New Testament Studies*
- LSAM *Lois sacrées de l'Asie Mineure*. Edited by Franciszek Sokolowski. Paris: de Boccard, 1955.
- LSJ *Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. A Greek-English Lexicon*. 9th ed. with revised supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.

LXX	Septuagint
MAMA	<i>Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua</i> . Edited by W. M. Calder et al. London: Manchester University Press; Longmans, Green, 1928–.
MDAIA	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung</i>
MnemosyneSup	Mnemosyne Supplement Series
MT	Masoretic Text
NA27	<i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> , Nestle-Aland, 27th ed.
NETS	<i>A New English Translation of the Septuagint</i> . Edited by Albert Pietersma and Benjamin G. Wright. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
NeuePaulySup	Neue Pauly Supplements
NewDocs	<i>New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity</i> . Edited by Greg H. R. Horsley and Stephen Llewelyn. North Ryde, NSW: The Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University, 1981–.
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIDB	<i>New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by Katherine Doob Sakenfeld. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006–2009.
NIV	New International Version
NKJV	New King James Version
NLT	New Living Translation
NO 1988	<i>Det gamle testamente apokryfiske bøker: De deuteronikiske bøker</i> . Oslo: Norske Bibelselskap, 1988.
NovT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Supplements to Novum Testamentum
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NTG	New Testament Guides
NTL	New Testament Library
NTOA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
OGIS	<i>Orientis graeci inscriptiones selectae</i> . Edited by Wilhelm Dittenberger. 2 vols. Leipzig: Hirzel, 1903–1905.
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
PfuhlMöbius	Pfuhl, Ernst, and Hans Möbius. <i>Die Ostgriechischen Grabreliefs</i> . 2 vols. Mainz: von Zabern, 1977–1979.

PHI	Packard Humanities Institute
P.Lond.	<i>Greek Papyri in the British Museum</i> . Edited by F. G. Kenyon, H. I. Bell, W. E. Crum, and T. C. Skeat. 7 vols. London: British Museum, 1893–1974
PNEAS	<i>Publication of the Near East Archaeological Society</i>
PNTC	Pillar New Testament Commentary
P.Oslo.	<i>Papyri Osloenses</i> . Edited by Samson Eitrem and Leiv Amundsen. 3 vols. Oslo: Dybwad, 1925–1936.
P.Oxy.	<i>The Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i> . Edited by Bernard P. Grenfell and Arthur S. Hunt. London: Egypt Exploration Society, 1898–.
REG	<i>Revue des études grecques</i>
RevPhil	<i>Revue de philologie</i>
RGRW	Religions in the Graeco-Roman World
RIDA	<i>Revue internationale des droits de l'antiquité</i>
Ritti	Ritti, Tullia. <i>Museo Archeologico di Denizli-Hierapolis: Catalogo delle iscrizioni greche e latine; Distretto di Denizli</i> . Naples: Liguori, 2008.
RRA	Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity
RSV	Revised Standard Version
RTR	<i>Reformed Theological Review</i>
SB	<i>Sammelbuch griechischer Urkunden aus Ägypten</i> . Edited by Friedrich Preisigke, Friedrich Bilabel, Hans-Albert Rupprecht, and Andrea Jördens. Strasbourg: Trübner; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1915–.
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SC	Sources chrétiennes
SCS	Septuagint and Cognate Studies
SEG	<i>Supplementum epigraphicum graecum</i> . Leiden: Brill, 1923–.
SemeiaSt	Semeia Studies
SGO	<i>Steinepigramme aus dem griechischen Osten</i> . Edited by Reinholt Merkelbach and Josef Stauber. Stuttgart: Teubner, 1998–2004.
SHR	Studies in the History of Religions (supplements to <i>Numen</i>)

SIG	<i>Sylloge inscriptionum graecarum</i> . Edited by Wilhelm Dittenberger. 4 vols. 3rd ed. Leipzig: Hirzel, 1915–1924.
SMA	Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTW	Studies of the New Testament and Its World
SPP	<i>Studien zur Palaeographie und Papyruskunde</i> . Edited by Carl Wessely. Leipzig: Avenarius, 1901–1924.
SPbCU	St. Petersburg Christian University
StPatr	Studia Patristica
TAM	<i>Tituli Asiae Minoris</i> . Vienna: Hoelder-Pichler-Tempsky, 1901–.
TANZ	Texte und Arbeiten zum neutestamentlichen Zeitalter
TAPA	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Edited by Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–1976.
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
TynBul	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
UBS4	<i>The Greek New Testament</i> , United Bible Societies, 4th ed.
VC	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
VCSup	Supplements to <i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
WW	<i>Word and World</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
YNER	Yale Near Eastern Researches
ZECNT	Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>

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PREFACE

There is a restaurant in the square at the entrance to Anton Kallinger Caddesi in Selcuk, Turkey. It was one of the regular watering holes for the participants in the first Colloquium on Material Culture and Ancient Religion (COMCAR) based at the Crisler Library in 2008. One unknown Australian met up with the epitome of a Texas gentleman for lunch. I was the Aussie; Dennis Smith was the exemplary companion.

Dennis proceeded to attend with keen interest, good humor, and bucketloads of encouragement to my take on the Syro-Phoenician woman and her daughter. Of course, as the discussion unfolded, I realized that little by little he was both mining and stretching my ideas about the dining customs that the story in Mark's Gospel was playing with at its heart and climax. From that moment on, Dennis has never ceased to cultivate the friendship begun over a meal in Turkey and nurtured in similar fashion many times since. Always there have been attentiveness, good humor, and encouragement; always a gentle, critical question or insight that fosters new considerations.

Mine is far from an isolated story, but it does distill the man that so many have found who have joined the COMCAR gatherings. This explains the desire to offer this collection of essays. In appreciation of Dennis's contribution to teaching, research, and scholarly collaboration, members of COMCAR from across the world have agreed to bring some of their research into ancient material culture and religion to a collection fêted in his honor. The collection focuses on the intersection of material culture, ancient religion, and the texts and practices of early Christianity. As diverse as the subjects may be, the various essays demonstrate the immense value of the exchange between artifacts, text, and interpreter that arises from the in situ context of a collaborative gathering of scholars from around the world. From Ephesus to Corinth, Colossae to Athens, Omrit to Assos, the refrain of "digging in the dirt" yields new, sometimes startling insights into the ubiquity of religion in life in the ancient world, most especially in the

fabric, circumstances, and symbolics of meals—the life-long preoccupations of the one for whom the collection is dedicated.

Thanks must be given to the organizers of COMCAR, to Christine Thomas, Steven Friesen, Dan Schowalter, and James Walters. Without their commitment, experience, and love of the investigation of material culture, COMCAR would not exist, and the many who have joined the cheers of congratulation to Dennis would never have had the joy of meeting him. We are all grateful as well to Bob Buller and the editors of SBL Press, who have not only recognized the importance of material culture to biblical interpretation—a long-standing commitment of North American scholarship—but have joined in saluting one of its most astute and endearing exponents, Dennis E. Smith.

So, as we all imagine ourselves again being invited to recline at a feast, we raise our cups to you, Dennis, in thanksgiving and in honor.

Alan H. Cadwallader

The following participants in the Colloquium on Material Culture and Ancient Religions (COMCAR) have celebrated in the collegiality, scholarship, and generosity of Dennis Smith. They join in honoring his unsurpassed contribution to their material experience and their critical reflections.

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Alan H. Cadwallader
Kelley Coblenz-Bautch
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