

Preface

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The major single project undertaken by the Copenhagen Polis Centre is to build up an inventory of archaic and classical Greek *poleis*. The symposium held in August 1995 was devoted to some key problems related to the inventory. The two main themes of the symposium were (a) the term *polis* and its use in archaic and classical literary and epigraphical sources, and (b) a number of case studies, each devoted to a region. Two papers treated regions in the Peloponnese, *viz.*, Arkadia and Achaia; one was devoted to the *poleis* in Crete; and two focused on colonies, *viz.*, the Greek *poleis* in Sicily and along the northwest coast of the Black Sea.

In each paper some central problems were selected and studied in relation to the *poleis* found within the region. The paper on Arkadia focused on two problems: ethnics as evidence for polis-ness and the subdivision of eastern Arkadia into tribal communities. The paper on Achaia demonstrated that *polis* formation in this region took place more than two centuries after Achaian colonists had founded their large colonies in southern Italy. The paper on the Sicilian colonies was devoted to the urbanization of the island and the earliest examples of grid planning of towns. The paper on Crete analysed the concept of the dependent *polis*, one of the central themes in *Acts 2*; and the paper on the colonies in the Black Sea area discussed *inter alia* the chronology of the foundation of the colonies and the problem to what extent these colonies were proper *poleis* or had the status of e.g. an *emporion*.

In the light of the respondents' views and the following discussion of each of the papers among all the participants the six papers were subsequently revised by their authors, and are published in this volume together with the editor's contribution to the inventory, *viz.*, a short account of the region Boiotia and an alphabetical list of the *poleis* within the region.

In addition to the papers two lectures were given, one by Prof. Richard Talbert about the new Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, a project with which the Polis Centre is now officially affiliated, and one by Mogens Herman Hansen about ethnics as evidence for *polis*-ness, to be published in the third volume of the Papers from the Copenhagen Polis Centre.

This book could not have been published within a year after the Symposium if it had not been for the unfailing support and help from friends and colleagues. Pernille Flensted-Jensen composed the index of names, Thomas Heine Nielsen the index of sources, and the eagle-eyed Theodore Buttrey read the first version of the manuscript and detected more inconsistencies than I like to remember. Next, I am indebted to the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters for having sponsored the symposium and undertaken the publication of these acts; and finally, i owe a great debt of gratitude to all the participants who by their papers, their responses and their contributions to the discussion turned our meeting into what we all thought was a success.