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FOREWORD

The Forty-fifth Entretiens (16-21 August 1998) were the first ever devoted to a modern man rather than to Pausanias or Hesiod. 18 May 1998 was the 150th birthday of Hermann Diels (1848-1922); *Wissenschaftsgeschichte* is a flourishing new discipline within classical studies that deserves encouragement at the highest level; and Diels had long played Xenophon to Wilamowitz' Thucydides. He deserved and repaid attention. Eight scholars assembled that included *Wissenschaftshistoriker* and specialists within disciplines where Diels had made a permanent contribution. Because only eight participants were possible, several subjects were not covered (e.gg., the Aristotelean Commentators and ancient technology). The nature of the subject limits disagreement. We know Diels wrote the *Doxographi Graeci*. We can argue endlessly about the author of the *Seventh Epistle* and end up convincing no one. Often discussion meant the introduction of new sources (published and unpublished) unknown to the contributor. The participants agreed that such sources could be included in the final versions without specific attribution. We express here the gratitude of all of us to one another. One result is that the traditional published discussions are briefer than usual and often simply state an alternative view or adduce neglected supporting evidence. The contributions are published in the order in which they were delivered.

Finally, we thank the Comité scientifique for their courage in breaking with tradition; Professors O. Reverdin and F. Paschoud for their patience and hospitality; and M. Bernard Grange who has much improved the published format. The Research Fund of the William Abbott Oldfather Professorship

of the Classics at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and the Department of Philosophy at Utrecht University contributed to the cost of these Entretiens. We hope that the ensuing decades will see further gatherings on other great men and women in our field.

William M. Calder III

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