Contents

Acknowledgments ix Introduction xi

PART I

Biography and Tradition: The Myth of Genre 1

ONE Graeco-Roman Biography: Form and Function 3

TWO Biography and Paradigms of the Divine Sage 17 THREE Literary Aspects of Biography 45

PART II

Myth, History, and the Elusive Holy Man: Two Approaches 67

FOUR Eusebius' "Life of Origen": Faces of History 69

FIVE Porphyry's Life of Plotinus: Interior Familiars of Myth 102

SIX Conclusion: The Creative Use of History 134

Selected Bibliography 151

Index 164