## Contents

List of Illustrations xi Preface xiii Abbreviations xvii Introduction I

- I. The Characteristics of Recorded Oracles 11
   Modes of Expression in Historical and Legendary Responses 13
   The Topics of Historical and Legendary Responses 24
   The Question Formulae of Historical
   and Legendary Consultations 35
   The Occasions of Consultation 39
   Observations 42
   The Characteristics of Quasi-Historical Responses 44
   Addendum 56
- II. ORACLES OF FOLKLORIC ORIGIN 58

  Jerusalem Chamber 58

  Macduff and Birnam Wood 62

  Equivocal Predictions of Death or Fortune 65

  Distinctive Sign 70

  Traditional Themes in Oracular Tales 73

Riddles 79 Proverbs 83

- III. THE TRANSMISSION AND ATTRIBUTION OF NARRATIVE ORACLES
  Prophecy in Legend and Epic 89
  The Citation and Quotation of Narrative Oracles 93
  Narrative Oracles Originally Non-Delphic 95
  Narrative Oracles Invented as Delphic Responses 107
  Adventitious Oracles 117
- IV. QUESTIONABLE RESPONSES 120
  The Cyrenaic Oracles 120
  The Tegean Oracles 123
  The Wooden Wall 124
  The Tomb of Pausanias 129
  The Locrian Maidens 131
  Colonization Oracles 137
- V. CHRESMOLOGUES AND ORACLE COLLECTIONS 145
  Oracles Variously Ascribed 145
  Seers and Chresmologues 152
  The Oracle Collections 158
- VI. THE CONVENTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF

  TRADITIONAL ORACLES IN VERSE 166

  Opening Formulae of Traditional Verse Oracles 166

  The Structure of Traditional Verse Oracles 174

  The Characteristics of Authentic Verse Responses 186
- VII. THE MANTIC SESSION 196
  Chasm and Vapors 197
  The Pythia's Ecstasy 204
  The Speaking of Responses 212
  The Mantic Ritual 224
  Addendum: Procedures of Other Oracles 228
  Conclusion 233
  Catalogue of Delphic Responses 240
  Catalogue of Responses of Didyma 417

CONTENTS ix

Appendix A. Correspondence of PW Numbers
with the Catalogue 430
Appendix B. Summary of Modes, Topics, Question Formulae,

Occasions 436

Bibliography 445

Index 451

A. Index Locorum 451

B. General Index 458