



**Socrates from Antiquity to the Enlightenment and
Socrates in the Nineteenth and Twentieth
Centuries (Publications of the Centre for Hellenic
Studies, King's College London)**

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Socrates, son of Sophroniscus, of Alopece is arguably the most richly and diversely commemorated - and appropriated - of all ancient thinkers. Already in Antiquity, vigorous controversy over his significance and value ensured a wide range of conflicting representations. He thus became available to the medieval, renaissance and modern worlds in a provocative variety of roles: as paradigmatic philosopher and representative (for good or ill) of ancient philosophical culture in general; as practitioner of a distinctive philosophical method, and a distinctive philosophical lifestyle; as the ostensible originator of startling doctrines about politics and sex; as martyr (the victim of the most extreme of all miscarriages of justice); as possessor of an extraordinary, and extraordinarily significant physical appearance; and as the archetype of the hen-pecked intellectual. To this day, he continues to be the most readily recognized of ancient philosophers, as much in popular as in academic culture. This two volume set aims to do full justice both to the source material (philosophical, literary, artistic, political), and to the range of interpretative issues it raises. Volume 1, *Socrates from Antiquity to the Enlightenment*, opens with an Introduction surveying ancient accounts of Socrates, and discussing the origins and current state of the 'Socratic question'. This is followed by three sections, covering the Socrates of Antiquity, with perspectives forward to later developments (especially in drama and the visual arts); Socrates from Late Antiquity to medieval times; and Socrates in the Renaissance and Enlightenment. Volume 2, *Socrates in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, opens with an Introduction summarizing the reception of Socrates up to 1800, and describing scholarly study since then. This is followed by sections on the hugely influential Socrateses of Hegel, Kirkegaard and Nietzsche; representations of Socrates (particularly his erotic teaching) principally inspired by Plato's *Symposium*; and political manipulations of Socratic material, especially in the 20th century. Topics singled out for special attention range from medieval Arabic and Jewish interest in Socrates to the Socrateses of the Cold War period (capitalist and communist). The Socratic presence in drama, music, and the visual arts is a recurring concern in both volumes.

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