

# Contents

Preface 7

The Question 9

The Greek City-State Culture 10

Some Fundamental Characteristics of Ancient  
Greek Athletic Festivals 13

The Olympics and Other Big Events 13

The Name of the Games 14

The Periodos 16

Elis and the Olympics 19

Elis and Olympia Make One 19

Inviting the Greek World for the Olympics 21

Controlling the Quality of Olympic Athletes 23

Going to Olympia – the Initial Procession 25

Judging the Olympics 29

The Other City-States and the Olympics 33

Building Treasuries at Olympia 33

Offering Weapons to Zeus 36

Offering Sculptures to Zeus 37

Publishing Acts of State at Olympia 42

Making Proclamations at Olympia 44

To the Greater Glory of Zeus 52

Individual Athletes at the Olympics 55

Athletes Not Formal Representatives of Their City-States 55

No Team-Sports at Olympia 56

Number of Entrants from a Given City-State 58

The Motivations of Olympic Athletes: Honour and Glory 59

The Motivations of Olympic Athletes: Material Gain 67

Perpetuating Glory and Honour: Victory Odes	79
Perpetuating Glory and Honour: Victor Statues	83
Adding Surplus-Value to Victory	89
Naming Horses	91
The Motivations of Olympic Athletes: Making Political Statements	92
Athletic Success and City-State Power – the Point of View of the Spectators	98
 The City-States ‘at the Olympics’	 101
Boycotting the Games	101
The Athletes as Citizens and Representatives of Their City-States	102
Rewards Bestowed by City-States on ‘Their’ Victors	108
 Outline of an Answer	 115
Abusing the Ancient Olympics	115
The Fab Four	116
Elis’ Use of the Olympics	117
Following Tradition: The Use of the Olympics by Other City-States	118
Sportswashing and Soft Power	119
 Abbreviations	 125
Ancient Literary Sources	125
Ancient Epigraphical Sources	126
Ancient Papyrological Sources	127
Modern Scholarly Publications	127
Other Abbreviations	128
 Bibliography	 129
Index of Sources	151
General Index	155