

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	6
Preface	8
1 The tip of the iceberg	23
2 Pagan ‘vandalism’ and iconoclasm in peacetime	45
3 Destruction in war and peace	53
4 Image destruction seen through Christian eyes	64
5 Hilltop sanctuaries	70
6 Large Mithraic cult images	79
7 Destruction at Dendara: a colossal task	89
8 Destruction and re-use in Egypt and Palestine	102
9 The speed of Christianisation in Egypt	106
10 A world waiting for Christianity?	114
11 Afterlife and oriental cults: serious competition for Christianity?	131
12 Money and Mithraism	143
13 Christianisation and bloodshed	157
14 A past phenomenon or future threat?	160
15 Conclusions	165
Bibliography	174
Picture credits	187
Index	188