

# Contents

|                                                                              |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Preface .....                                                                | 9   |
| 1. Fountains, Apses and the Meaning of Water .....                           | 13  |
| Apses as ' <i>zotheca</i> ' and ' <i>antrum</i> ' .....                      | 14  |
| Mosaic Apses of Nymphaea and the Aquatic Realm .....                         | 15  |
| Mosaic Apses with Maritime Landscapes in Churches .....                      | 17  |
| Church Apses with an Aniconic Decoration .....                               | 24  |
| 2. From Adyton to Presbyterium                                               |     |
| Towards a History of the Apse as a Space for Images .....                    | 31  |
| Introduction .....                                                           | 31  |
| Perspective .....                                                            | 32  |
| Early Temples with Apses and Statues .....                                   | 34  |
| Buildings of the Imperial Cult .....                                         | 38  |
| Apses with Statues and Images in the Roman East .....                        | 40  |
| The Basilica of Maxentius and the Temple of Venus and Roma .....             | 46  |
| The So-Called Fastigium in the Lateran Church .....                          | 50  |
| 3. From Private Worship to Official Representation of the Virgin in the Apse | 57  |
| The Second Commandment and the Image in Churches .....                       | 58  |
| The Adoration of the Magi and the Beginning of the Worship of the Virgin     | 61  |
| The Cryptogram ΧΜΓ .....                                                     | 69  |
| S. Maria Maggiore and the Official Theology .....                            | 71  |
| Mary and the Apse .....                                                      | 75  |
| S. Maria in Capua Vetere: the First Known Apse Mosaic with the Virgin ...    | 75  |
| 4. Apse and Icon                                                             |     |
| Official Representation and Private Worship .....                            | 83  |
| Abstract .....                                                               | 108 |
| Bibliography .....                                                           | 111 |
| Index .....                                                                  | 129 |
| Plates .....                                                                 | 133 |