## POETRY AND NUMBER IN GRAECO-ROMAN ANTIQUITY

Poetry and mathematics might seem to be worlds apart. Nevertheless, a number of Greek and Roman poets incorporated counting and calculation within their verses. Setting the work of authors such as Callimachus, Catullus and Archimedes in dialogue with the less well-known isopsephic epigrams of Leonides of Alexandria and the anonymous arithmetical poems preserved in the *Palatine Anthology*, this book reveals the various roles that number played in ancient poetry. Focusing especially on counting and arithmetic, Max Leventhal demonstrates how the discussion, rejection or enacting of these two operations was bound up with wider conceptions of the nature of poetry. Practices of composing, reading, interpreting and critiquing poetry emerge in these texts as having a numerical component. The result is an illuminating new way of approaching Greek and Latin poetry – and one that reaches across modern disciplinary divisions.

MAX LEVENTHAL is Bye-Fellow and College Lecturer in Classics at Downing College, Cambridge. He was previously the Thole Research Fellow at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Classics.

## CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

General editors

J. P. T. CLACKSON, W. M. BEARD, G. BETEGH, R. L. HUNTER, M. J. MILLETT, S. P. OAKLEY, R. G. OSBORNE, C. VOUT, T. J. G. WHITMARSH

## POETRY AND NUMBER IN GRAECO-ROMAN ANTIQUITY

MAX LEVENTHAL Downing College, Cambridge



## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009123044 DOI: 10.1017/9781009127295

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 2022

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009127295 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these thirdparties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009127295

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-12304-4 Hardback ISBN 978-1-009-12417-1 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.