

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Over forty years have passed since Elias Bickermann published his *Der Gott der Makkabäer*. Like all truly historical studies, the work bears the stamp of the time and conditions under which it was produced. This does not make it "dated": it gives it its abiding value. Experts, including the author, may wish to alter this date or that, but *The God of the Maccabees* is an historical document in its own right and should be allowed to stand as originally conceived.

At the author's request, the footnotes have been dropped or, in the case of references to other literature, incorporated into the text. The German edition contained four appendices, of which two have been dropped in this translation: "Zum Daniel" and "Die Urkunden."

May the translation be received as a small token of gratitude to an eminent scholar who is still teaching all of us.

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