

Acknowledgments

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to my supervisor, Prof. Andrew Wilson, for all his help and advice during the preparation of this thesis. Our many conversations about water supply and management have helped immeasurably in the formation of the arguments and ideas expressed here. Prof. Chris Gosden has also been a source of good advice and interesting discussion. I thank him for his continued support and faith in my work. Drs Mike Decker and Paul Newson kindly allowed me to read their unpublished theses and make use of them here. I would also like to thank Dr Graham Philip for first showing me the Homs Dam.

Thanks must also go to the School of Archaeology whose graduate studentship funded this work and to the Craven Committee, the Thomas Whitcombe Greene Fund and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies who funded several research trips to the Middle East.

The audiences at the '*Oxford-Princeton Conference on Syria in Antiquity, January 2006*', '*Cura Aquarum in Ephesus, 12th International Conference on the History of Water Management and Hydraulic Engineering, 2-10 October 2004*', '*Water Supply and Use in the Roman World, Oxford University, 28 November – 30 November 2003*', '*BANEA 2005, Oxford University, 7-8 January 2005*' and '*Loxbridge Postgraduate Ancient History Conference, Manchester University, 20 March 2004*' conferences, as well as those at the Roman Discussion Forum and Graduate Work-in-Progress seminars provided much useful discussion and many helpful suggestions.

Thanks also to Hugo Lamdin-Whymark for his support and his driving skills on the 'eventful' roads of Syria. John Williamson provided indispensable help with the illustrations as well as emergency beer, pizza and 'Shaun of the Dead', for which I will always be grateful. Paul Backhouse and Sarah Connor also generously offered their time and help with printing.

Finally, my family have been a constant source of support and love during difficult times over the past few years; I could not have done this without them.