

## About the Authors

*Roderick Beaton* (King's College London) has carried on fieldwork on Greek oral poetry in many parts of Greece and Cyprus and is the author of *Folk Poetry of Modern Greece* (1980). He has researched and published extensively on Greek literature dating from the twelfth century to the present and on modern Greek folk music. His current research project is a book entitled *The Medieval Greek Romance*.

*Robert Culley's* interest in oral tradition and Biblical studies began with his dissertation, later published as *Oral Formulaic Language in the Biblical Psalms* (1967). In addition to the general problem of the applicability of this approach to the Bible, he has touched on similar areas in *Studies in the Structure of Hebrew Narrative* (1976) and plans further commentary in a Proppian study of narrative action now underway. He is presently Professor of Religious Studies at McGill University.

In 1963 *Eric Havelock's* landmark book *Preface to Plato* revolutionized the way we read both Homer and other ancient Greek literature by making the case for the "oral encyclopedia" of cultural attitudes, values, and beliefs that was "published" in oral performance. A collection of his seminal writings, *The Literate Revolution in Greece and Its Cultural Consequences* (1982), has since appeared, as has a fascinating study of the Presocratics (1983). He is Sterling Professor of Classics (Emeritus) at Yale University.

*Burton Raffel* (University of Denver), author of some forty books on an enormous variety of literary subjects, has given us classic translations of some of our most cherished works, such as *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and many more. He is a practicing poet, literary critic, fiction writer, and editor, and spent some years as a lawyer on Wall Street. Among his present projects are a verse translation of Chrétien's *Yvain* and *Readings and Documents in the History of Prosody*.

*Frederick Turner* (University of Texas, Dallas), former editor of the *Kenyon Review*, is at home in anthropology and modern science as well as literary studies. He also is a well-published poet, whose book-length epic poem *The New World* appeared in 1985. His essays range from an examination of reflexivity in Thoreau to a study of space and time in Chinese verse, and on to the collection entitled *Natural Classicism* (1985).