

Ancient Narrative
Volume 7

ANCIENT NARRATIVE

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Abstracts

The Silence of Semiramis: Shame and Desire in the Ninus Romance and Other Greek Novels

MICHAEL J. ANDERSON

By exploring the contrast between the silent heroine and the eloquent hero of the Ninus Romance, this paper argues that the Greek novels impose noticeably tighter erotic restrictions on the virgin protagonist than on her male counterpart. Shame prohibits her from actively pursuing or verbally expressing desire. The conflict between desire and shame within her, however, lends the heroine an emotional depth and an audience appeal not matched by the hero. Moreover, while strictly enforcing the patriarchal prohibition and maintaining her decorous silence, the novel casts itself as a legitimate voice for the heroine's desire, proclaiming her desire where she herself cannot.

Michael Anderson is the author of "The Sophrosyne of Persinna and the Narrative Strategy of Heliodorus' *Aethiopica*" (*Classical Philology* 92, 1997, 303–322), and he is currently writing a book on love and sentimentality in the Greek novels. He is a Visiting Associate Professor of Classics at Trinity College, Hartford.

'The (Un)happy Romance of Curleo and Liliat' Xenophon of Ephesus, the *Cyropaedia* and the birth of the 'anti-tragic' novel

ANDREA CAPRA

In part 1, I argue that in Roman Greece Panthea and Abradates' novella from the *Cyropaedia* was so extraordinarily famous that Xenophon of Ephesus must have borrowed and allusively adapted their names so as to give *sprechende Namen* to his novel's heroes ('Anthea' = 'Flora', 'Abrocomes' = 'Delicate hair'). In part 2 and 3, I explore the intertextual potential of such a reference. Echoes from the *Cyropaedia* prove an important ingredient of Xenophon's novel, helping define its fictional status in and against the back-

ground of its classical model. In part 4 I turn to the names themselves, arguing that Xenophon felt the need to hellenise his character names, which suit very well his implicit 'revision' of Panthea's novella.

Andrea Capra, 6 March 1971, Italy.

Institutional Affiliation: University of Milan (Lecturer)

Research: Plato, Xenophon Ephesius

Publications relevant to ancient narrative:

2003. 'Dialoghi narrati e dialoghi drammatici in Platone' in M. Bonazzi – F. Trabattoni, *Platone e la tradizione platonica*, Milano: Cisalpino, 3–30.
2008. 'L'efebò divino e l'incarnato della bella: Due note al testo di Senofonte Efesio (1.2.8 e 5.12.3)', *ACME* 61, 277–282.
2008. 'Plato's Hesiod and the Will of Zeus. Philosophical Rhapsody in the Timaeus and the Critias', in G. Boys–Stones – J. Haubold, *Plato and Hesiod*, Oxford: Clarendon, forthcoming.
2008. 'Xenophon's 'Round Trip': Geography and Narrative Technique in the *Ephesiaka*', paper accepted for ICAN 2008.

Apuleius and The New Testament: Lucius' Conversion Experience

WARREN S. SMITH

Doubt has been cast in recent scholarship (Winkler, Harrison) about the sincerity and believability of Lucius' conversion experience in Book 11 of Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*. Lucius himself, for example, is distressed by the need for repeated initiations into the Isis cult and by the need to pay repeated initiation fees. Light can be shed on his experience by a comparison with the conflicts undergone by St. Paul in his conversion to Christianity in the *Book of Acts*, and in his comments in his epistles. Both Lucius and Paul agree to a radical change of life and embrace an ideal which seems almost too good to be true; both eventually arrive in Rome facing an uncertain future with many hopes, but also with many questions unanswered. Their conversion always includes the implication that instead of triumph, they may be facing failure and ridicule (Lucius a clown with a shaven head, Paul a "fool" for Christ).

Warren S. Smith is a professor of Classics at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M. He has published extensively on satire and the ancient novel; his most recent book is *Satiric Advice on Women and Marriage from Plautus to Chaucer* (University of Michigan Press, 2005).

Ancient personality:
 Trait attributions to characters in Homer's *Iliad*
 CONSTANTINOS G. PASSAKOS & BOELE DE RAAD

The study analyzed Homer's *Iliad*, an epic work which contains hundreds of personages many of which are described in quite some detail. Part of those descriptions is formed by the so-called epithets through which major characters in the *Iliad* are dramatically and psychologically depicted. All trait-epithets in the *Iliad* are identified, listed, and translated into English and Dutch. The translation into Dutch is done to enable the identification of the listed traits in the trait-vocabulary captured by the Dutch Big Five model of traits. We counted a total of 1,057 trait-attributions (epithets) in the *Iliad*. These attributions were based on 197 distinct trait-epithets. Although there is a good spread over the various facets of the Big Five system, the large majority of the trait-epithets is accommodated by certain facets of the Agreeableness (both poles), Conscientiousness (positive pole), Extraversion (positive pole), and Emotional Stability (positive pole) factors. Most of the trait-epithets portray the various aspects of the character of the hero, which character is indeed circumscribed by the factor(pole)s above.

Constantinos G. Passakos is Emeritus Professor of Athens University, Department of Education. Recent research: Psycholexical research in Greek language.

Relevant publications:

Passakos, C.G. 1974. *Stability and change in values and evaluative attitudes: A research work*. Athens, Greece.

Passakos, C.G. 2003. *The person in the process of becoming: An introduction to modern personality psychology*. University of Athens Publications, Athens, Greece

Passakos, C.G. 2004. 'Homeric characterology and modern personality theory', in: B. De Raad, D. Barelds, & K. Van Oudenhoven-Van der Zee (Eds.), *Conference Abstracts, 12th European Conference on Personality, University of Groningen, The Netherlands*.

Boele De Raad is Professor of personality psychology, University of Groningen, Department of Psychology. Recent reseach: structure of traits, cross-cultural comparisons of personality structures, values and virtues, insults.

Recent relevant publications:

- De Raad, B., & Barelds, D.P.H. 2008. 'A new taxonomy of Dutch personality traits based on a comprehensive and unrestricted list of descriptors', *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 94, 347–364.
- De Raad, B., & Van Oudenhoven, J.P. 2008. 'Factors of values in the Dutch language and their relationship to factors of personality', *European Journal of Personality*, 22, 81–108.
- De Raad, B. 2006. 'Individuality and personality', in: K. Pawlik & G. d'Ydewalle (Eds.), *Psychological concepts: An international historical perspective* (pp. 299–323). Hove: Psychology Press.
- De Raad, B. & Ceulemans, E. 2001. 'The trait-dimensional scope of the characters of Theophrastus', in: R. Riemann, F.M. Spinath, & F. Ostendorf (Eds.), *Personality and Temperament: Genetics, Evolution, and Structure* (pp. 168–184). Pabst Science Publishers, Lengerich, Germany

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