ANCIENT GREEK PORTRAIT SCULPTURE

This book offers a new approach to the history of Greek portraiture by focusing on portraits without names. Comprehensively illustrated, it brings together a wide range of evidence that has never before been studied as a group. Sheila Dillon considers the few original bronze and marble portrait statues preserved from the Classical and Hellenistic periods together with the large number of Greek portraits known only through Roman copies. By moving away from the traditional concern with names and dates, Dillon investigates the range of strategies and styles used by these portraits to construct subject identity. This study calls into question two basic tenets of Greek portraiture: first, that it was only in the late Hellenistic period, under Roman influence, that Greek portraits exhibited a wide range of styles, including descriptive realism; and second, that in most cases, one can easily tell a subject’s public role – that is, whether he is a philosopher, an orator, a poet, or a general – from the visual traits used in this portrait. The sculptures studied here instead show that the proliferation of portrait styles takes place much earlier, in the late Classical period, and that the identity expressed by these portraits is much more complex and layered than has previously been realized. Despite the fact that these portraits lack the one feature most prized by scholars of ancient portraiture – a name – they are evidence of the utmost importance for the history of Greek portraiture.

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ANCIENT GREEK
PORTRAIT SCULPTURE

Contexts, Subjects, and Styles

SHEILA DILLON
Duke University
To Alex and Donald, with love.

To my teachers Eve Harrison, Gunter Köpcke, Jim McCredie, and Bert Smith, with gratitude.
CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

page ix

Acknowledgments

xv

Abbreviations

xix

CHAPTER 1. Facing up to Anonymity

1

FACING THE PAST: GREEK PORTRAITS IN ROMAN CONTEXTS

CHAPTER 2. Making Portraits of the Greeks

15

CHAPTER 3. Displaying Portraits of the Greeks

38

FACING THE SUBJECT: INTERPRETING IDENTITY IN GREEK PORTRAITURE

CHAPTER 4. The Appearance of Greek Portraits

61

CHAPTER 5. Greek Portraits in Practice

99

Conclusions

127

APPENDIX 1. Museum Index

129

APPENDIX 2. Portrait Catalogue

135

Notes

173

Bibliography

209

Index

215
ILLUSTRATIONS

2. Naples–Rome Old Man with Matted Beard Type. Left profile, Naples version  3
3. Diphilos Type. Vienna version (cat. A12.3)  7
4. Bronze portrait from the Villa of the Papyri (cat. B6.4)  7
5. Statue of Demosthenes  8
6. Bust of Demosthenes  9
7. Head from a late Classical grave monument  9
15. New York–Rome–Caesarea Type. Left profile, Caesarea version  19
18. Getty–Woburn Abbey Type. Front, Getty version (cat. A29.1)  21
19. Getty–Woburn Abbey Type. Front, Woburn Abbey version (cat. A29.2)  21
20. Getty–Woburn Abbey Type. Right profile, Getty version  22
ILLUSTRATIONS

22. Getty–Woburn Abbey Type. Left profile, Getty version

23. Getty–Woburn Abbey Type. Left profile, Woburn Abbey version


26. Hermarchus Type B. Front, Naples version (cat. A1.9)

27. Hermarchus Type B. Front, American Academy version (cat. A1.12)

28. Hermarchus Type B. Front, Hanover version (cat. A1.5)

29. Hermarchus Type B. Right profile, American Academy version

30. Hermarchus Type B. Right profile, Hanover version

31. Hermarchus Type B. Left profile, American Academy version

32. Hermarchus Type B. Left profile, Hanover version

33. Hermarchus Type B. Back, Naples version

34. Hermarchus Type B. Back, American Academy version

35. Hermarchus Type B. Back, Hanover version

36. Marble portrait of Metrodorus

37. Sophocles Type III. Front, Naples version (cat. A2.7)

38. Sophocles Type III. Front, London version (cat. A2.5)


40. Seated statue of a poet by the sculptor Zeuxis, front

41. Seated statue of a poet by the sculptor Zeuxis, left

42. Sophocles Type III. Front, Copenhagen version (cat. A2.2)

43. Sophocles Type III. Left, Copenhagen version

44. Herculanenum and its vicinity in the eighteenth century

45. Plan of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculanenum

46. Bronze portrait from the Villa of the Papyri (cat. B65)

47. Bronze portrait from the Villa of the Papyri (cat. B66)

48. Crates Type. Front, Naples version (cat. A18.2)

49. Crates Type. Right, Naples version

50. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, front (cat. B68)

51. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, left

52. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, front (cat. B69)

53. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, left

54. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, front (cat. B70)

55. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, right

56. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, front (cat. B71)

57. Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri, left

58. Map of villas in the Tivoli area, with the location of the Villa of “Cassius”

59. Plan of the remains of the Villa of “Cassius,” Tivoli

60. Pericles herm

61. Pericles herm

62. Footed herm base of Peisistratos

63. Statue of Aeschines

64. Statue of “Hippokrates”

65. Hellenistic grave relief from Rheneia

66. Bronze portrait statue

67. Hellenistic grave relief from Rheneia
ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>Grave stele of Artemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>Detail, head of Artemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>Detail, head of older man on Artemon stele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>Grave naisskos of Prokles, found near the Dipylon Gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>Detail, figure of Prokleides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>Gravestone of Ktesileos and Theano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>Head of Alexos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>Grave monument of man in military dress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>Fragment of the grave naisskos of Polystrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.</td>
<td>Fragment of Attic document relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78.</td>
<td>Old man from the Ilissos stele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.</td>
<td>Head of old man from grave relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.</td>
<td>Delphi “Philosopher”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.</td>
<td>Statue from the Heraion on Samos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.</td>
<td>So-called Arundel Homer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.</td>
<td>Marble head, front (cat. B35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.</td>
<td>Marble head, right profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.</td>
<td>Kolotes–Lycurgus Type. Front, Tirana version (cat. A3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.</td>
<td>Kolotes–Lycurgus Type. Left, Tirana version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.</td>
<td>Sophocles Type III. Right profile, Naples version (cat. A2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88.</td>
<td>Sophocles Type III. Left profile, Naples version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.</td>
<td>Sophocles Type III. Right profile, London version (cat. A2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.</td>
<td>Sophocles Type III. Left profile, London version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91.</td>
<td>Marble head (cat. B74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.</td>
<td>Galleria Colonna–Vatican Type. Front, Galleria Colonna version (cat. A25.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.</td>
<td>Galleria Colonna–Vatican Type. Right profile, Galleria Colonna version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.</td>
<td>Aranjuez–Vatican Theophrastus Type. Front, Aranjuez version (cat. A26.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97.</td>
<td>Aranjuez–Vatican Theophrastus Type. Right profile, Aranjuez version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98.</td>
<td>Front, Madrid, Prado 14-E (cat. B49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99.</td>
<td>Right profile, Madrid, Prado 14-E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.</td>
<td>Alicibiades–Philip Type. Front, Copenhagen version (cat. A4.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101.</td>
<td>Alicibiades–Philip Type. Front, Vatican version (cat. A4.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102.</td>
<td>Marble herm from the Villa of the Papyri (cat. B69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103.</td>
<td>Torlonia–Vatican Type. Front, Torlonia version (cat. A17.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104.</td>
<td>Torlonia–Vatican Type. Right profile, Torlonia version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.</td>
<td>Copenhagen National Museum–Conservatori Type. Conservatori version (cat. A20.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106.</td>
<td>Marble head, front (cat. B85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107.</td>
<td>Marble head, right profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108.</td>
<td>Rieti-Type Euripides. Front, Terme version (cat. A5.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109.</td>
<td>Rieti-Type Euripides. Left profile, Terme version</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ILLUSTRATIONS

110. Copenhagen–Florence–Liverpool Type. Front, Naples version (cat. A6.6) 88
111. Copenhagen–Florence–Liverpool Type. Left, Naples version 88
112. Berlin–Copenhagen–Munich Eudoxos Type. Front, Berlin version (cat. A15.1) 89
113. Berlin–Copenhagen–Munich Eudoxos Type. Left profile, Berlin version 89
114. Marble herm, front (cat. B37) 89
115. Marble herm, right profile 89
116. Marble head, front (cat. B38) 90
117. Marble head, right profile 90
118. Marble head, front (cat. B97) 91
119. Marble head, right profile 91
120. Marble head, front (cat. B98) 91
121. Marble head, left profile 91
122. Striding Poet Type. Head, front, Vienna version (cat. A14.4) 92
123. Naples–Rome Type. Front, Naples version (cat. A23.1) 92
124. Naples–Rome Type. Left profile, Naples version 92
125. Berlin–Lateran Type. Lateran version (cat. A30.2) 93
126. So-called Hipponax: found in the Kerameikos 93
127. Tall marble herm, front (cat. B91) 94
128. Tall marble herm, right profile 94
129. Marble portrait of a poet (?) (cat. B46) 94
130. Statue of New Comedy poet Poseidippos; head reworked 95
131. Ennius–Vergil New Comedy Poet Type. Front, Copenhagen version (cat. A10.1) 96
132. Ennius–Vergil New Comedy Poet Type. Right profile, Copenhagen version 96
133. Marble portrait of wreathed poet, front (cat. B57) 96
134. Marble portrait of wreathed poet, right profile 96
135. Marble herm portrait of a poet, so-called Pseudo-Menander (cat. B48) 97
136. Marble statue of the Pseudo-Menander, head reworked 97
137. Marble herm from the Auditorium of Maecenas, front (cat. B87) 97
138. Marble herm from the Auditorium of Maecenas, left 97
139. Plan of Classical Athens 101
140. Plan of the Athenian Agora in about 300 BCE 103
141. Base for the portrait statue of the poet Menander 105
142. Base for the portrait statue of the philosopher Carneades 105
143. Reconstruction of the portrait statue of the general Chabrias 108
144. Grave stele of Chairdemos and Lykeas 108
145. Attic document relief: Herodoros crowned by Athena 109
146. Marble portrait of a strategos 109
147. Marble bust, front (cat. B67) 111
148. Marble bust, left 111
149. Cast reconstruction of the portrait statue of Epicurus 114
150. Marble statue of Chrysippus; head restored 114
151. Cast of lost bust of Carneades 115
152. Bronze philosopher on a column 117
ILLUSTRATIONS

153. Detail: bronze philosopher on a column
154. Marble statuette of so-called Cleanthes Type. Front, New York version
155. Marble statuette of so-called Cleanthes Type. Left, New York version
156. Aranjuez–Naples–Louvre Type. Front, herm restored Aranjuez version (cat. A21.1)
157. Copenhagen–Capitone Type with Toupee. Front, Copenhagen version (cat. A24.1)
158. Copenhagen–Capitone Type with Toupee. Right profile, Copenhagen version
159. Copenhagen–Capitone Type with Toupee. Left profile, Copenhagen version
160. Copenhagen–Capitone Type with Toupee. Front, Capitone version (cat. A24.2)
161. Copenhagen–Capitone Type with Toupee. Right profile, Capitone version
162. Copenhagen–Capitone Type with Toupee. Left profile, Capitone version
163. Copenhagen–Getty Poet with Fillet. Front, Copenhagen version (cat. A27.1)
164. Copenhagen–Getty Poet with Fillet. Right profile, Copenhagen version
166. Capitone–Getty Poet with Fillet. Left, Getty version
167. Seated poet from Claros
168. Seated statue of poet or philosopher
169. Votive relief of a seated poet, Acropolis west slope
170. Bronze head of a poet, front
171. Bronze head of a poet, right

xiii
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ABBREVIATIONS


**ABr** P. Arndt and F. Bruckmann, *Griechische und römische Porträts* (Munich, 1891-1942).

**Amelung** W. Amelung, *Die Skulpturen des Vatikanischen Museums, I* (Berlin, 1903); II (Berlin, 1908).


**Hekler** A. Hekler, *Die Bildniskunst der Griechen und Römer* (Stuttgart, 1912).


xix
ABBREVIATIONS


Neudecker, Villen  R. Neudecker, Die Skulpturenausstattung römischer Villen in Italien (Beiträge zur Erschliessung hellenistischer und kaiserzeitlicher Skulptur und Architektur 9; Mainz am Rhein, 1988).


