The Feminine Matrix of Sex and Gender in Classical Athens

In *The Feminine Matrix of Sex and Gender in Classical Athens*, Kate Gilhuly explores the relationship between the prostitute, the wife, and the ritual performer in Athenian literature. She suggests that these three roles formed a symbolic continuum that served as an alternative to a binary conception of gender in classical Athens and provided a framework for assessing both masculine and feminine civic behavior. Grounded in close readings of four texts, “Against Neaira,” Plato’s *Symposium*, Xenophon’s *Symposium*, and Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata*, this book draws on observations from gender studies and the history of sexuality in ancient Greece to illuminate the relevance of these representations of women to civic behavior, pederasty, philosophy, and politics. In these original readings, Gilhuly casts a new light on the complexity of the classical Athenian sex/gender system as she demonstrates how various and even opposing strategies worked together to articulate different facets of the Athenian subject.

Kate Gilhuly is an assistant professor in the Department of Classical Studies at Wellesley College.
THE FEMININE MATRIX OF SEX AND GENDER IN CLASSICAL ATHENS

Kate Gilhuly
Wellesley College
This book is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Kilby Howard.
Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS  page ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS  xi

1 Introduction 1
2 Collapsing Order: Typologies of Women in the Speech “Against Neaira” 29
3 Why Is Diotima a Priestess? The Feminine Continuum in Plato’s Symposium 58
4 Bringing the Polis Home: Private Performance and the Civic Gaze in Xenophon’s Symposium 98
5 Sex and Sacrifice in Aristophanes’ Lysistrata 140
   Conclusion 180

BIBLIOGRAPHY 189
INDEX LOCORUM 199
SUBJECT INDEX 205
Acknowledgments

This book has been a long time in the making, and Leslie Kurke has been generous with her insight and guidance every step of the way. I owe her special thanks. Carol Dougherty has given me crucial assistance and support in the final stages of writing. She has read many drafts and seemed to know what I was trying to say even when I did not. Mark Griffith commented on some of these chapters in their earliest versions. The Mellon Foundation supported a year of postdoctoral work at Northwestern University. Victoria Wohl and Florence Dore have given me helpful comments and encouragement when I really needed it. Bryan Burns, Carolyn Dewald, Vincent Farenga, Tom Habinek, Amy Richlin, Greg Thalmann, and Phiroze Vasunia contributed to a lively intellectual environment at the University of Southern California in which this book first took shape. Rebecca Jamin helped prepare the manuscript. Anne Gilhuly has read and edited much of this work; all of the jargon that remains is my own. Thanks to Anabel and Aidan Bush for sharing their mother with this project. Finally, I am grateful to Mark Bush, whose love and support helped bring this book into the light of day.
Abbreviations

ABSA  Annual of the British School at Athens
Ach.  Acharnians
AE    Archaiologike Ephemeris
Aes.  Aeschylus
Aeschin.  Aeschines
Ag.   Agamemnon
AJAH  American Journal of Ancient History
AJP   American Journal of Philology
Alc.  Alcibiades
Ap.   Apology
Ar.   Aristophanes
ARV   J. D. Beazley, Attic Red Figure Vase-Painting (Oxford, 1956)
AS    Ancient Society
Ath.  Athenaios
Ath. Deipn.  Athenaios’ Deipnosophistai
Av.   Birds
Bibl.  Bibliotheca
CA    Classical Antiquity
CJ    Classical Journal
CP    Classical Philology
CQ    Classical Quarterly
Cr.   Crito
CR    Classical Review
Cyr.  Cyropaedia
Ekkl. Aristophanes’ Ekklesiazousai
Eur.  Euripides
Fr.   Aristophanes’ Frogs
FrGrH F. Jakoby et al., eds., Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker (Berlin, 1923–)
GRBS  Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies
xii Abbreviations

Hell. Hellenica
Herod. Herodotus
Hist. Histories
Hom. b. Apbr. Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite
HThr Harvard Theological Review
IG F. H. de Gaertingen et al., eds., Inscriptiones Graecae, 2nd ed. (Berlin, 1924–)
Il. Homer’s Iliad
Int. of Dreams Interpretation of Dreams
Iph. in Tauris Iphigenia among the Taurians
JHS Journal of Hellenic Studies
Mem. Memorabilia
Men. Menander
Nic. Nicias
O. Olympian
Od. Odyssey
Oik. Oikonomikos
Pi. Pindar
Plut. Plutarch
Pyth. Pythian
RE G. Wissowa et al., Paulys Realencyclopaedie der classischen Altertumswis-
senschaft (Munich, 1903–78)
Rep. Republic
Rh. Rhetorica
Sch. Ar. Av. Scholia on Aristophanes’ Birds
Symp. Symposium
TAPA Transactions of the American Philological Association
Theog. Theogony
Thesmo. Thesmophoriazousai
Thuc. Thucydides
W.D. Works and Days
Xen. Xenophon
YCS Yale Classical Studies