Menander in Antiquity

The comic playwright Menander was one of the most popular writers throughout antiquity. This book reconstructs his and his plays' afterlife from his lifetime until the end of antiquity, employing a broad range of sources such as portraits, illustrations of his plays, papyri preserving their texts and inscriptions recording their public reperformances. These are placed within the context of the three social and cultural institutions which appropriated his comedy, thereby ensuring its survival: public theatres, dinner parties and schools. Dr Nervegna carefully reconstructs how each context approached Menander's drama and how it contributed to its popularity over the centuries. The resultant highly illustrated book will be essential for all scholars and students not just of Menander's comedy but, more broadly, of the history and iconography of the ancient theatre, ancient social history and reception studies.

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Frontispiece  Mosaic pavement: Menander, Glykera, Spirit of Comedy (Komodia), late third century AD. Stone, h. 225.0 cm, w. 135.0 cm, d. 11.1 cm (88 9/16 × 53 1/8 × 4 3/8 in.).
Menander in Antiquity

The Contexts of Reception

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Contents

List of figures [page viii]
Acknowledgements [xii]
List of abbreviations [xiv]

Introduction [1]

2 Menander in public theatres [63]
3 Menander at dinner parties [120]
4 Menander in schools [201]

Conclusion: Menander, survival and loss [252]

Appendix 1 Roman palliatae and their Greek models [261]
Appendix 2 Paintings and mosaics illustrating New Comedy [264]
Appendix 3 Paintings and mosaics illustrating tragedy [268]
Appendix 4 Menander papyri [271]

References [280]
Index [306]
Figures


1, 2, 3  Reconstruction of the Early-Hellenistic statue of Menander set in the Theatre of Dionysus in Athens. Courtesy of the Archäologisches Institut der Universität Göttingen. Photo: Stephan Eckardt.  [14]


9b  Plokion mosaic from Chania. Courtesy of Stravroula Markoulaki.  [139]

List of figures


10b Wall painting from Pompeii probably reproducing Samia. Bonn, Akademisches Kunstmuseum E 108. Photo: Museum. [141]

10c Fragmentary mosaic from Avenches. Site et Musée romains d’Avenches. Photo: Fibbi-Aeppli, Grandson. [142]


11b Synaristosai mosaic from Zeugma. Courtesy of the Centre Henri Stern de Recherche sur la mosaïque (UMR 8546, ENS/CNRS, Paris). Photo: Mrs Anne-Marie Manière-Lévêque. [144]

11c Synaristosai mosaic from Daphne. Reproduced by Mike Bishop. [144]


13b Theophoroumene mosaic from Daphne. Reproduced by Mike Bishop. [148]

13c Terracotta figurine from Myrina (Asia Minor) reproducing the cymbal player from Theophoroumene. Athens, National Museum 5060. All rights reserved. Photo: D-DAI-ATH-NM 194. [149]


13e Theophoroumene wall painting from Stabiae. Naples, Museo Archeologico Nazionale 9034. Photo: Museum. [151]
List of figures


13g Fragmentary wall painting from Pompeii reproducing an excerpt from *Theophoroumene*. Ufficio Scavi di Pompei 20545. After *Pompeii Picta Fragmenta*. Turin: 1997: n. 60. [153]


17a *Sikyonioi* wall painting from Ephesus. Courtesy of Volker Michael Strocka. Photo: Jan Roewer. [157]

17b Fragmentary mosaic from Chania, probably reproducing *Sikyonioi*. Courtesy of Stavroura Markoulaki. [158]

17c Terracotta figurine from Tomb C in Myrina, possibly reproducing the protagonist of *Sikyonioi* and probably dated to the second half of the first century BC. Paris, Musée du Louvre (Myr 321). Photo: Museum. [159]

17d Comic mosaic from North Africa, possibly reproducing *Sikyonioi*. Sousse 57.010. Reproduced by Mike Bishop. [160]

18a *Perikeirômene* wall painting from Ephesus. Courtesy of Volker Michael Strocka. Photo: Volker Michael Strocka. [160]

18b *Perikeirômene* mosaic from Daphne. Reproduced by Mike Bishop. [161]

19 *Achaioi* mosaic from Ulpia Oescus, Bulgaria. Courtesy of the Pleven Regional Historical Museum. Photo: Museum. [161]
20 Philadelphoi mosaic from Daphne. Reproduced by Mike Bishop. [162]


23 Miniature from an illustrated manuscript of Terence. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 7899 (P) fol. 120. Photo: Bibliothèque Nationale de France. [247]

24 Miniature from an illustrated manuscript of Terence. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 7899 (P) fol. 110v. Photo: Bibliothèque Nationale de France. [248]
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Abbreviations


IG  (1913–) *Inscriptiones Graecae*. Berlin.


Unless otherwise stated, all testimonia and fragments by Menander and other comic poets are cited according to the edition by Kassel and Austin (K-A). Menander’s texts are cited according to Arnott’s edition (1997a–2000).
Abbreviations for editions of papyri, ostraka and tablets follow J. F. Oates *et al.*, *Checklist of Editions of Greek and Latin Papyri, Ostraka and Tablets* (BASP Supp. 7, 1992). The online and expanded edition is available at http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/scriptorium/papyrus/texts/clist.html. Ancient authors and works are typically abbreviated according to the lists in the *OCD*². Journals are abbreviated according to the list in the *American Journal of Archaeology* 104 (2000) 10–24. The journals that are not included in this list are cited according to *L’Année philologique*. 