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978-0-521-55435-0 - Greeks Bearing Gifts: The Public Use of Private Relationships in the Greek World, 435-323 BC

Lynette G. Mitchell

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Using models from social anthropology as its basis, *Greeks bearing gifts* takes a new look at the role of personal relationships in classical Greece and their bearing on interstate politics. It begins with a discussion of what friendship meant in the Greek world of the classical period, and then shows how the models for friendship in the private sphere were mirrored in the public sphere at both domestic and interstate levels. As well as relations between Greeks (in particular those with Athens and Sparta), Dr Mitchell looks at Greek relations with those on the margins of the Greek world, particularly the state of Macedon, and with neighbouring non-Greeks such as the Thracians and the Persians. She finds that these other cultures did not always have the same understanding of what friendship was, or practise the same kinds of exchange, and that this led to misunderstandings and difficulties in the relations between non-Greeks and Greeks. This book revises the current orthodoxy that personal friendships worked against the interests of the *polis*, and instead sees such relationships as playing an important part in political activity. In discussing how these trends differed in Athens and Sparta, it argues that personal 'aristocratic-style' friendships were integral to *polis* ideology.

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Lynette G. Mitchell

*British Academy Post-doctoral Fellow,  
Oriel College, Oxford*



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**For Stephen**

*φίλτατος ἀνὴρ*

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## Preface

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This book is based upon my doctoral dissertation which I completed at Durham University. I wish to thank most warmly the Department of Classics at Durham for their support during my time there, as well as the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the British Council for their financial support. I am most grateful to all those who helped me with the thesis, and hope they will accept collectively my sincerest thanks. In particular, I owe much to Professor P. J. Rhodes, who supervised the thesis, and who has been an unfailing source of help and encouragement. I would also like to thank Associate Professor G. R. Stanton and Associate Professor P. G. Toohey, both of the University of New England, Australia, who started me thinking about *philia*.

The preparation of the book for publication has been completed while I have been a British Academy Post-doctoral Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford, and I would like to thank the British Academy for sponsoring this project, and also the Provost and Fellows of Oriel College for hosting the award. The staff of the Bodleian and Ashmolean libraries have also dealt sympathetically and patiently with my many requests.

A large number of people have also discussed my work with me, and have provided me with many valuable insights into problems and ways forward. Warmest thanks must go to the many friends and colleagues with whom I have had many interesting and enlightening discussions. I am particularly grateful to those who in the final stages waded through drafts of chapters and made many helpful comments and suggestions. Ms B. Dignas read chapter one and allowed me to use her as a sounding board for many ideas, and Dr S. Phillippo commented on points of style. Professor J. Davis helped me to see new ways of looking at the anthropological material. Professor R. Parker read a number of chapters, and discussed many points with me. Dr S. Hornblower read the whole at different stages, while Professor R. G. Osborne and Dr C. B. R. Pelling read the penultimate draft, and all made a number of invaluable suggestions concerning both content and structure. Dr Hornblower, Dr L. Foxhall, Dr J. C. Trevett, Dr Pelling and Professor Rhodes also allowed

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me to see material ahead of publication. All of these people have contributed to making this book what it is, but none of course is responsible for any errors of fact or interpretation, or any other deficiencies that remain.

Special thanks belong to my husband Stephen, who crossed oceans for me and cheerfully endured this to the end. It is to Stephen that this book is dedicated.

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## Abbreviations

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The following abbreviations for ancient authors should be noted:

Ael.	Aelian
Aen. Tact.	Aeneus Tacticus
Aesch.	Aeschylus
Aeschin.	Aeschines
Andoc.	Andocides
Ar.	Aristophanes
Arist.	Aristotle
Aristeides	Aelius Aristeides
Athen.	Athenaeus
Dein.	Deinarchus
Dem.	Demosthenes
Diod.	Diodorus Siculus
Dion. Hal.	Dionysius of Halicarnassus
D. L.	Diogenes Laertius
Eur.	Euripides
Hdt.	Herodotus
<i>Hell. Oxyrh.</i>	<i>Hellenica Oxyrhynchia</i>
Hyg.	Hyginus
Isoc.	Isocrates
Lys.	Lysias
Paus.	Pausanias
Plut.	Plutarch
Q. C.	Quintus Curtius
Soph.	Sophocles
Th.	Thucydides
Xen.	Xenophon

In citing Pausanias, I divide the chapters into sections as in the most recent Teubner edition of M. H. Rocha-Pereira; in citing Plutarch's *Lives*, I divide the chapters into sections as in the Teubner edition.

Periodicals are abbreviated as in *L'Année Philologique*, with the usual

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English divergences (e.g. *AJP* for *AJP*). Note also the following abbreviations for modern sources (for full publishing details of items listed here except standard collections of texts and reference works refer to the Bibliography):

Beloch G. G. <sup>2</sup>	K. J. Beloch, <i>Griechische Geschichte</i> <sup>2</sup>
CAH v/ v <sup>2</sup> /VI <sup>2</sup>	<i>Cambridge Ancient History</i> v/v <sup>2</sup> /VI <sup>2</sup>
FGrHist	J. Jacoby, <i>Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker</i>
HCT	A. W. Gomme, A. Andrewes and K. J. Dover, <i>A Historical Commentary on Thucydides</i> , 5 vols.
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> , 14 vols.
IvO	W. Dittenberger and K. Purgold, <i>Die Inschriften von Olympia</i>
Jacoby Supp. I/II	J. Jacoby, <i>Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker</i> Dritter Teil b (Supplement) I/II
Kock	T. Kock, <i>Comicorum Atticorum Fragmenta</i> , 3 vols.
ML	R. Meiggs and D. M. Lewis, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the end of the Fifth Century</i>
OCD <sup>2</sup>	N. G. L. Hammond and H. H. Scullard (edd.), <i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> <sup>2</sup>
<i>Olympia Bericht</i>	E. Kunze and H. Schleif, <i>Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Olympia</i> , vol. IV
PA	J. Kirchner, <i>Prosopographia Attica</i> , 2 vols.
PCG	R. Kassel and C. Austin, <i>Poetae Comici Graeci</i>
PL	P. Poralla, <i>Prosopographie der Lakedaimonier bis auf die Zeit Alexander des Grossen</i>
RE	<i>Real-Encyclopädie der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft</i>
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>
Staatsverträge	H. Bengtson, <i>Die Staatsverträge des Altertums</i> , 3 vols.
Tod	M. Tod, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions</i> , 2 vols.
W.	M. B. Walbank, <i>Athenian Proxenes of the Fifth Century</i>

When referring to epigraphical sources, ‘=’ does not always mean direct equivalence, but that the section of the inscription discussed can be found in both places.

**Note on the spelling of Greek words**

I have used the latinised equivalents for most Greek names, although I have used a transliterated form (with the nearest English equivalents) of a few more specialised terms, such as *philia*, *philos*, *xenia*, etc. Special note should be made of the use of the accented *xénia* (gifts of hospitality) in order to differentiate it from *xenia* (ritualised-friendship).