NARRATIVE AND IDENTITY
IN THE ANCIENT
GREEK NOVEL

The Greek romance was for the Roman period what epic was for the archaic period or drama for the classical: the central literary vehicle for articulating ideas about the relationship between self and community. This book offers a fresh reading of the romance both as a distinctive narrative form (using a range of narrative theories) and as a paradigmatic expression of identity (social, sexual and cultural). At the same time, it also emphasises the elasticity of romance narrative, its ability to accommodate both conservative and transformative models of identity. This elasticity manifests itself partly in the variation in practice between different romancers, some of whom are traditionally Hellenocentric and others more challenging; but ultimately, it is argued, it reflects a tension in all romance narrative, which characteristically balances centrifugal against centripetal dynamics. This book will interest classicists, historians of the novel, and students of narrative theory.

Tim Whitmarsh is a leading literary and cultural critic of the Greek world during the time of the Roman empire. A specialist in both ancient texts and modern theories, he has written over fifty articles and five books, including Greek Literature and the Roman Empire (2001) and The Second Sophistic (2005); he has also edited or co-edited four books, and edits two book series.
GREEK CULTURE IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Editors
SUSAN E. ALCOCK, Brown University
JAŞ ELSNER, Corpus Christi College, Oxford
SIMON GOLDFILL, University of Cambridge

The Greek culture of the Roman empire offers a rich field of study. Extraordinary insights can be gained into processes of multicultural contact and exchange, political and ideological conflict, and the creativity of a changing, polyglot empire. During this period, many fundamental elements of Western society were being set in place: from the rise of Christianity, to an influential system of education, to long-lived artistic canons. This series is the first to focus on the response of Greek culture to its Roman imperial setting as a significant phenomenon in its own right. To this end, it will publish original and innovative research in the art, archaeology, epigraphy, history, philosophy, religion, and literature of the empire, with an emphasis on Greek material.

Titles in series:

Athletics and Literature in the Roman Empire
Jason König

Describing Greece: Landscape and Literature in the Periegesis of Pausanias
William Hutton

Religious Identity in Late Antiquity: Greeks, Jews and Christians in Antioch
Isabella Sandwell

Hellenism in Byzantium: The Transformations of Greek Identity and the Reception of the Classical Tradition
Anthony Kaldellis

The Making of Roman India
Grant Parker

Philostratus
Edited by Ewen Bowie and Jaš Elsner

The Politics of Munificence in the Roman Empire: Citizens, Elites and Benefactors in Asia Minor
Arjan Zuiderhoek

Saints and Church Spaces in the Late Antique Mediterranean: Architecture, Cult, and Community
Ann Marie Yasin

Galen and the World of Knowledge
Edited by Christopher Gill, Tim Whitmarsh and John Wilkins

Local Knowledge and Microidentities in the Imperial Greek World
Edited by Tim Whitmarsh

Homer Between History and Fiction in Imperial Greek Literature
Laurence Kim

Epiphany and Representation in Graeco-Roman Culture: Art, Literature, Religion
Verity Platt

Narrative and Identity in the Ancient Greek Novel
Tim Whitmarsh
NARRATIVE AND IDENTITY IN THE ANCIENT GREEK NOVEL

Returning Romance

BY

TIM WHITMARSH
Keen are the ratiocinations of lovers, and quick to suspect; clever at guessing, and inspired at predicting.

Iamblichus fr. 60.
# Contents

*Preface*  
*List of abbreviations*  
*Introduction*  

**PART I  RETURNING ROMANCE**  
1  First romances: Chariton and Xenophon  
2  Transforming romance: Achilles Tatius and Longus  
3  Hellenism at the edge: Heliodorus  

**PART II  NARRATIVE AND IDENTITY**  
4  *Pothos*  
5  *Telos*  
6  *Limen*  
*Conclusion*  

*Appendix: The extant romances and the larger fragments*  
*References*  
*Index*
This book marks the end of a long and serpentine journey. Versions of these chapters have been tested on audiences patient and inspirational in Atlanta, Berkeley, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Dublin, Exeter, Fresno, Geneva, Groningen, Leuven, Ljubljana, Lisbon, Liverpool, Los Angeles, Manchester, Michigan, Milan, Nottingham, Oxford, Paris, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Stanford, St Andrews, Swansea, Uppsala and Utrecht; I have also benefited immeasurably from the Welsh KYKNOS group (particularly meetings at Gregynog), the Cretan RICAN team led by Michael Paschalis, and participants in my own *Romance between Greece and the East* workshops.

I have aimed to transliterate Greek names in their most familiar forms for ease of reading, accepting that no system of transliteration is perfect. Translations are mine, but I acknowledge my debt to other translators, especially those of Reardon (1989). For Achilles Tatius I have modified my own translations from Whitmarsh (2001). For details of texts used please consult the appendix (divergences are noted throughout, where they occur). Iotas are printed adscript throughout; I have preferred BCE/CE to BC/AD.

I gratefully acknowledge the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which (in its former life as a ‘Research Board’) awarded me research leave to allow me to complete a first version of this book. The Research Council also funded the *Romance Between Greece and the East* workshops alluded to above. Brill Academic Publishers generously allowed me to rework parts of Whitmarsh (2003) in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 contains material that originated in Whitmarsh (1998): thanks to the Cambridge Philological Society.

Heartfelt thanks too, for multiple reasons, to Cliff Ando, Lucia Athanasaki, Siam Bhayro, Ewen Bowie, Camilla Chorfi, Irene de Jong, Elizabeth Dollins, Konstantin Doulamis, Jaś Elsner, Dana Fields, Chris Gill, Maud Gleason, Simon Goldhill, Stephen Harrison, Owen
Preface

Hodkinson, Christopher Jones, Daniel King, Jason König, Rebecca Langlands, Anna Lefteratou, John Ma, Francesca Martelli, Stephen Mitchell, Silvia Montiglio, Helen Morales, John Morgan, Hannah Mossman, Karen ní Mheallaigh, Steve Nimis, Daniel Ogden, Boo Onion, Jim Porter, Ian Repath, Michael Sharp, Estelle Strazdins, Susan Stephens, Edmund Thomas, Stuart Thomson, Gail Trimble, Benet Walsh, and Froma Zeitlin. My gratitude to Francesca Stavrakopoulou, to my parents (Judy and Guy), brother (Ben), sister (Kate), and children (India and Soli) goes beyond words. Here’s to happy endings.
Abbreviations

ACM  

ANRW  
Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Berlin, 1972–.

AP  
Palatine Anthology.

APM  

CA  

DK  

FGrH  

GCN  
Groningen Colloquia on the Novel.

HU  

IE  

IG  
Inscriptiones Graecae, 2nd edn. Berlin, 1924–.

KA  
R. Kassel and C. Austin eds, Poetae comici Graeci. Berlin, 1983–.

KAF  

LGPN  
P.M. Fraser et al., A lexicon of Greek personal names. Oxford, 1987–.

LIMC  
List of abbreviations

LS

LSJ

MUSJ
Mélanges de l’Université Saint Joseph. Beirut, 1906–.

Pack

Pap. Mil. Vogl.
A. Vogliano et al. eds, Papiri della R. Università di Milano. Milan, 1937–.

P. Fay.

P. Michael.

P. Oxy.
The Oxyrhynchus papyri. London, 1898–.

P. Tebt.

PMG

PSI
Papiri greci e latini: pubblicazioni della Societá Italiana per la ricerca dei papiri greci e latini in Egitto. Florence, 1912–79.

RG

SVF

SW

TGF
B. Snell et al. eds Tragicorum graecorum fragmenta. Göttingen, 1971–.

Wehrli