

Aelius Aristides and the Poetics of Lyric in Imperial Greek Culture

This book is the first study of the persistence and significance of ancient lyric in imperial Greek culture. Redefining lyric reception as a phenomenon ranging from textual engagement with ancient poems to the appropriation of song traditions, it reconsiders the view of imperial culture (*paideia*) as dominated by Homer and fifth-century Attic literature. It argues that textual knowledge of lyric allowed imperial writers to show a more sophisticated level of *paideia*, and the analysis further reveals how lyric traditions mobilised distinctive discourses of self-fashioning, local identity, community-making and power crucial for Greeks under Rome. This is most evident in the works of Aelius Aristides, who reconfigured ancient lyric to shape his rhetorical persona and enhance his speeches to imperial communities. Exploring Aristides' lyric poetics also changes how we interpret his reconstruction of the classical tradition and his involvement in the complex politics of the Empire.

FRANCESCA MODINI is Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick.

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*A mio nonno Franco,
mia mamma Marilena
e mia figlia Silvia Rodica*

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Editions, Translations and Abbreviations

Aristides' text is based on Trapp (2017a) and (2021) for *Orr.* 1–4, and on Keil (1898) for *Orr.* 17–53. Translations of Aristides are adapted from Trapp (2017a) and (2021) for *Orr.* 1–4, and Behr (1981) for *Orr.* 17–53. Translations of lyric texts and testimonia are based on the Loeb Classical Library, unless otherwise stated; the same applies to the texts and translations of other Greek and Latin authors. Slight changes have been made where I have felt it appropriate.

Abbreviations of literary sources follow the fourth edition of *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (ed. S. Hornblower, A. Spawforth and E. Eidinow (Oxford, 2012)); or, where the *OCD* is lacking, *LSJ* for Greek authors (H. G. Liddell and R. Scott, *A Greek–English Lexicon*, 9th ed. (Oxford, 1940)). Journal titles follow those in *L'Année Philologique*. Inscriptions are abbreviated according to the bibliographical list of the Searchable Greek Inscriptions project by the Packard Humanities Institute (inscriptions.packhum.org).