Essays on Ancient Greek Literature and Culture

*Volume 1: Greek Poetry before 400 BC*

In this book one of the world's leading Hellenists brings together his many contributions over four decades to our understanding of early Greek literature, above all of elegiac poetry and its relation to fifth-century prose historiography, but also of early Greek epic, iambic, melic and epigrammatic poetry. Many chapters have become seminal, e.g. that which first proposed the importance of now-lost long narrative elegies, and others exploring their performance contexts when papyri published in 1992 and 2005 yielded fragments of such long poems by Simonides and Archilochus. Another chapter argues against the widespread view that Sappho composed and performed chiefly for audiences of young girls, suggesting instead that she was a virtuoso singer and lyre-player, entertaining men in the elite symposia whose verbal and musical components are explored in several other chapters of the book. Two more volumes of collected papers will follow devoted to later Greek literature and culture.

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Volume 1
Greek Poetry before 400 BC

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Places of Original Publication

The chapters in this volume were originally published as follows. I am very grateful to the holders of copyright who have given permission for republication in this volume.

List of Places of Original Publication

12 'Sex and politics in Archilochos' poetry', in D. Katsonopoulou, I. Petropoulos and S. Katsarou (eds.), Αρχιλόχος και η εποχή του / Archilochos and his Age, Athens, Ekdoseis Dikynnna 2008: 133–41.


Preface

I would like to use this preface to express my gratitude to the many institutions and individuals without whom this volume could not have been published. Among institutions to which I am grateful for providing financial support and an intellectually stimulating working environment Corpus Christi College, Oxford must take pride of place. Sharing ideas with brilliant and congenial colleagues and with very many gifted pupils, and constantly benefiting from the constructive criticism of both, had a decisive effect on how, during my time as E. P. Warren Praelector (1965–2007), I developed the ideas that are set out in this and in the remaining two volumes of *Essays*; and the College continues to offer me invaluable intellectual stimulus in my retirement. So too, of course, have my classical (and other) colleagues in the University of Oxford at large, as did Merton College (where I was a Harmsworth Senior Scholar 1962–3) and St John’s College (where I held a Woodhouse Junior Research Fellowship 1963–5). In later years some weeks as professeur invité at the École normale supérieure in rue d’Ulm, Paris, and as Seymour Reader at Ormond College, University of Melbourne, both in 2001, were important in introducing me to different academic communities, something that I also gained from teaching a quarter as Bonsall Visiting Professor at Stanford (2008), a semester at the University of Washington, Seattle (2009), and a semester at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. To my good friends and colleagues in all these places; to members of the Department of Philology in the University of Crete who to the benefits of their always congenial company have kindly added my election to a Visiting Professorship for 2020–21; and to many others who have invited me to their institutions to teach for shorter periods (including the University of Chicago, the University of Freiburg im Breisgau, and the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa), to give a single lecture, or to attend conferences, I continue to feel a gratitude that is especially warm in a period of Covid-19 restrictions on movement. Some such invitations that occasioned the writing of a paper are acknowledged in footnotes in this volume. But there are very many much-appreciated colleagues in Europe, the Americas, South Africa and Australasia whose names are not, and who are too numerous to list here despite their
friendship’s very great importance to me over decades. The process of gathering the texts of the papers in this and the remaining volumes was made easier by a four-month stay (February to May 2019) at the Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington DC, which generously extended to me, as the spouse of a Fellow, hospitality and full library rights. In scanning papers not then accessible online I was greatly helped by George Tsimpoukis. Others who have given me assistance of various sorts in writing my introduction and in preparing versions of the papers suitable for submission to Cambridge University Press – much of that assistance indispensable in the conditions of last eighteen months – and whom I would here like to thank are Lucia Athanassaki, Luisa Breglia, Paul Cartledge, Vanessa Cazzato, Daniela Colomo, Jasper Gaunt, Liz Irwin, George Kavvadias, Roland Mayer, Oswyn Murray, Peter Parsons, John Petropoulos, David Sider, Jenny Vaphopoulou-Richardson, Mary Whitby and Graciela Zecchin. In Cambridge University Press itself I would like to thank Michael Sharp for deciding to publish these Essays and for securing the agreement of the Syndics, and to express my gratitude to him and to his team – Katie Idle, Natasha Burton and my indefatigable copy-editor Juliet Wilberforce – for their hard work and sharp eyes in the many stages of production. Finally the (hopefully) mens sana in corpore sano which is a prerequisite for getting things done is something I owe both to my supportive sons, Orlando and Ben, and above all (sine fine) to my wife Lucia.
Editions and Abbreviations


- *ad. el.* adespota elegiaca
- *ad. ia.* adespota iambica
- *Aes.* Aeschylus
- *AR* Archaeological Reports
- *Bacchyl.* Bacchylides
- *Ch.* Chariton
- *FdD* *Fouilles de Delphes* Vol. iii. Épigraphie. Paris 1909–.
- *Eur.* Euripides
### List of Edition and Abbreviations

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<td>fr. el.</td>
<td>fragmenta elegiaca</td>
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<td>G. Kaibel (ed.), <em>Epigrammata Graeca ex lapidibus conlecta</em>, Berlin 1878.</td>
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<td>LGPN</td>
<td>P. M. Fraser, E. Matthews, R. Catling, <em>et al.</em> (eds.), <em>A Lexicon of Greek Personal Names</em>, Oxford 1987–.</td>
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<td>Soph.</td>
<td>Sophocles</td>
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<td>tri</td>
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<td>X.Eph.</td>
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