

## THE MOON IN THE GREEK AND ROMAN IMAGINATION

The Moon exerted a powerful influence on ancient intellectual history, as a playground for the scientific imagination. This book explores the history of the Moon in the Graeco-Roman imaginary from Homer to Lucian, with special focus on those accounts of the Moon, its attributes and its ‘inhabitants’ given by ancient philosophers, natural scientists and imaginative writers including Pythagoreans, Plato and the Old Academy, Varro, Plutarch and Lucian. Ní Mheallaigh shows how the Moon’s enigmatic presence made it a key site for thinking about the gaze (erotic, philosophical and scientific) and the relation between appearance and reality. It was also a site for hoax in antiquity as well as today. Central issues explored include the view from elsewhere (*selēnoskopia*), the relation of science and fiction, the interaction between the beginnings of science in the classical *polis* and the imperial period, and the limits of knowledge itself.

KAREN NÍ MHEALLAIGH is Professor of Greek in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Exeter. She is the author of *Reading Fiction with Lucian: Fakes, Freaks and Hyperreality* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

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*Myth, Literature, Science and Philosophy*

KAREN NÍ MHEALLAIGH

*University of Exeter*



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*νυκτιφάες περι γαῖαν ἀλώμενον ἀλλότριον φῶς*  
*night-shining, wandering around Earth, alien light*  
*Parmenides, 5th century BCE*

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## *Abbreviations, Text References and Translations*

### Abbreviations

- BNJ = *Brill's New Jacoby* (edited by I. Worthington, Brill Online)
- CVA = Adolf Greifenhagen, *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*, Deutschland. 22. 3. Berlin. Antiquarium, München 1962.
- DG = Diels, H. (ed.) 1879. *Doxographi Graeci*. Berlin.
- DK = Diels, H. and Kranz, W. (eds) 1951–1966. *Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*. Dublin and Zürich.
- EK = Edelstein, I. and Kidd, I.G. (edd.) 1989. *Posidonius. Vol. I: the fragments*.<sup>2</sup> Cambridge.
- FGrH = Jacoby, F. (ed.) 1961–1999. *Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker*. Leiden.
- FGH = Müller, K. (ed.) 1841–1872. *Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum*. Paris.
- G = Graham, D.W. (ed. and trans.) 2010. *The Texts of Early Greek Philosophy: The Complete Fragments and Selected Testimonies of the Major Presocratics*. Cambridge and New York.
- IP = Isnardi Parente, M. 2012.<sup>2</sup> *Senocrate e Ermodoro: Testimonianze e Frammenti, Edizione Rivista e Aggiornata a Cura di Tiziano Dorandi*. Naples.
- LIMC = *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*.
- LM = Laks, A. and Most, G.W. (edd.) 2016. *Early Greek Philosophy*, vols. I–IX. Cambridge, MA.
- PGM = Preisendanz, K. and Henrichs, A. (edd.), *Papyri Graecae Magicae*, vol. 2.<sup>2</sup> Stuttgart.
- PMG = Page, D.L. 1963. *Poetae Melici Graeci*. Oxford.
- SH = Lloyd-Jones, H. and Parsons, P. (eds) 1983. *Supplementum Hellenisticum*. Berlin.

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SVF = Arnim, H.F.A. (ed.) 1859. *Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta*, vol. I. Stuttgart.

### Note on Text References

#### *DK, G and LM*

Where I quote ancient philosophical texts and testimonies, the first reference I provide in the footnote indicates the edition I have used. Where possible, I have also supplied references to other editions, i.e. the classic Diels-Kranz (DK) reference, along with more recent editions and translations by Graham (G) and Laks and Most (LM). This is to help readers locate the text as easily as possible. Full concordances with DK are available in Part II of Graham 2010, pp. 939–956, and in vol. I of the *Early Greek Philosophy* Loeb series by Laks and Most (pp. 89–191).

DK uses numbers to identify the philosopher, e.g. DK 11 refers to Thales; DK 59 refers to Anaxagoras etc. There is no such identification by number in either Graham's edition or that of Laks and Most. Rather than supply the philosopher's name every time, all 'G' and 'LM' references should be understood to relate to whichever philosopher is under discussion at any given time. For example, in a discussion of Thales, 'G1' directs the reader to the first *Thales* lemma in Graham 2010; if the discussion relates to Anaxagoras, however, 'G1' in that context will direct the reader to the first *Anaxagoras* lemma in Graham 2010 etc. The same holds true for Laks and Most, who organize their *lemmata* into the categories of 'D' (Doctrine), 'P' (Person) and 'R' (Reception).

### Translations

Translations are my own, unless otherwise stated.

### Note on Text

An earlier version of a section of Chapter 5 ('Astro-poetics: *Icaromenippus*, the Moon and Lucianic *mixis*') appeared as ní Mheallaigh, K. 2018. 'Lucien et l'Astropoétique: le Voyage à travers les Genres,' (tr. A. Billault), in E. Marquis and A. Billault (eds), *Mixis: Le Mélange des Genres Chez Lucien de Samosate*. Paris, 49–69.

An earlier version of Chapter 6, '*Selēnoskopia*: The View from the Moon', appears as ní Mheallaigh, K. 2019. '*Looking Back in Wonder*:

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