Contents

Acknowledgements

List of Abbreviations

Introduction

1 The Pais of Paizō: Children, Intoxication, and Play in Ancient Psycho-physiology 20
2 Why Plato Needs Play 49
3 Plato’s Play and the Tragic Paradox 74
4 What Do Pleasure-Objects Do? An Inquiry into Toys 97
5 Aristotle’s Demotion of Play 122
6 Play vs. Mimesis in Aristotle’s Aesthetics 143
7 Serious Play as Goal-Oriented Play 162
8 The Value of Serious Things before and after Death 182

Conclusions: Toward a Pleasure-Model of Play 204

Bibliography

Index