

## GREEK EPIGRAM AND BYZANTINE CULTURE

Sexy, scintillating, and sometimes scandalous, Greek epigrams from the age of the Emperor Justinian commemorate the survival of the sensual in a world transformed by Christianity. Around 567 CE, the poet and historian Agathias of Myrina published his *Cycle*, an anthology of epigrams by contemporary poets who wrote about what mattered to elite men in sixth-century Constantinople: harlots and dancing girls, chariot races in the hippodrome, and the luxuries of the Roman bath. But amid this banquet of worldly delights, ascetic Christianity – pervasive in early Byzantine thought – made sensual pleasure both more complicated and more compelling. In this book, Steven D. Smith explores how this miniature classical genre gave expression to lurid fantasies of domination and submission, constraint and release, and the relationship between masculine and feminine. The volume will appeal to literary scholars and historians interested in Greek poetry, late antiquity, Byzantine studies, early Christianity, gender, and sexuality.

STEVEN D. SMITH is Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at Hofstra University, New York. His publications include *Greek Identity and the Athenian Past in Chariton: The Romance of Empire* (2007) and *Man and Animal in Severan Rome: The Literary Imagination of Claudius Aelianus* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).

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GREEK EPIGRAM AND  
BYZANTINE CULTURE

*Gender, Desire, and Denial in the Age of Justinian*

STEVEN D. SMITH

*Hofstra University, New York*



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*For Dick*

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## *A Note on Names and Abbreviations*

For the names of the Byzantine poets and other Byzantine figures, I have adopted the conventions of the *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*. For the names of classical and Hellenistic authors, figures from myth, familiar historical personages, and familiar place names, I have adopted the conventions of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. Less familiar names I have transliterated from the Greek. The titles of various Roman offices and positions receive their traditional Latin spellings (*decurio*, *magister officiorum*, *curator civitatis*, etc.). Abbreviations of the names of classical Greek and Latin authors and their texts are those used in the *Greek–English Lexicon* of Liddell, Scott, and Jones and the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*. Other abbreviations are as follows:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>AJP</i>      | <i>American Journal of Philology</i>  |
| <i>Anth.Gr.</i> | Waltz, P., et al. (eds.) (1929–2011) <i>Anthologie Grecque</i> , tomes <i>i–xiii</i> . Paris. This abbreviation is used only to refer to the editors' introductions, translations, and notes; references are by Roman numeral volume followed by page number(s). For references to individual epigrams, see <i>AP</i> and <i>APL</i> below. |
| <i>AP</i>       | Epigrams from Books 1–15 of the Palatine Anthology, as numbered in <i>Anth.Gr. i–xii</i> .  |
| <i>APL</i>      | Epigrams from the Planoudes Anthology, as numbered in <i>Anth.Gr. xiii</i> .  |
| Beckby          | Beckby, H. (1965) <i>Anthologia graeca, I–V</i> . Munich.   |
| <i>ByzZ</i>     | <i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>  |
| C&C             | Cameron, Alan, and Cameron, Averil (1966) "The Cycle of Agathias," <i>JHS</i> 86:6–25.  |
| <i>CJ</i>       | <i>Classical Journal</i>  |
| <i>CQ</i>       | <i>Classical Quarterly</i>  |
| <i>DOP</i>      | <i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i>  |

*A Note on Names and Abbreviations*

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- FGrH* Jacoby, F., *et al.* (eds.) (1998–2000) *Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker*. Leiden and Boston.
- GRBS* *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies*
- JHS* *Journal of Hellenic Studies*
- JRS* *Journal of Roman Studies*
- K.-A. Kassel, R., and Austin, C. (eds.) (1983–1995) *Poetae comici Graeci*, vols. 1–8. Berlin and New York.
- Paton Paton, W. R. (ed.) (1916–2014) *The Greek Anthology, volumes i–v. Loeb Classical Library*. Revised by M. A. Tueller. Cambridge, MA. This abbreviation is used only to refer to the introductions, translations, and notes; references are by Roman numeral volume followed by page number(s). For references to individual epigrams, see *AP* and *APL* above.
- PLRE* Martindale, J. R. (ed.) (1980) *Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire, volumes iiiia & iiib*. Cambridge.
- TAPA* *Transactions of the American Philological Association*
- ZPE* *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*

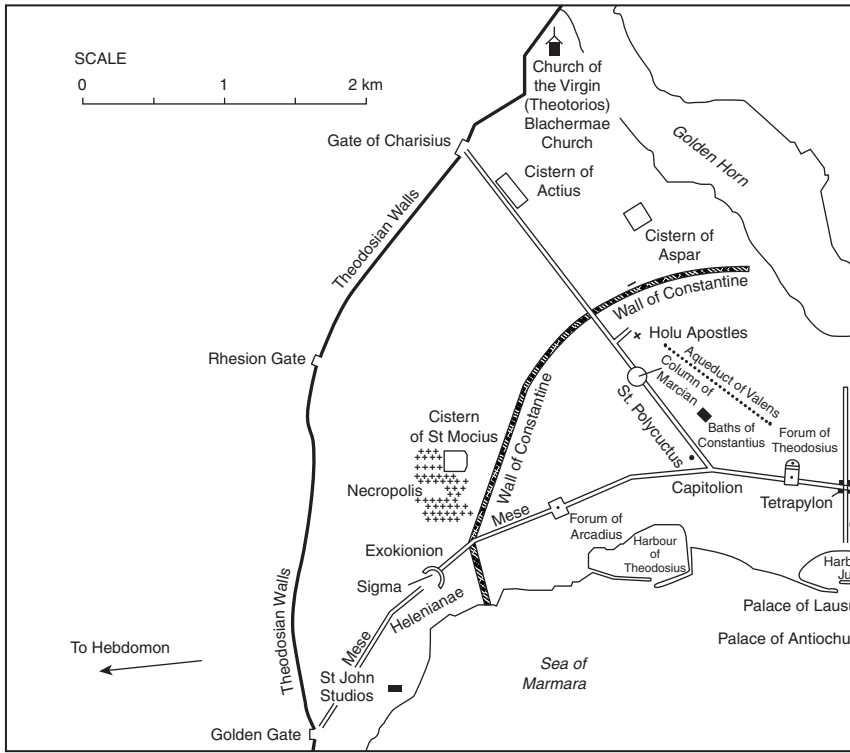


Figure 1 Map of Justinian's Constantinople