### GREEK AND LATIN POETRY OF LATE ANTIQUITY

Although Greek and Latin poetry from Late Antiquity each poses similar questions and problems, a real dialogue between scholars on both sides is even now conspicuously absent. A lack of evidence impedes discussion of whether there was direct interaction between the two language traditions. This volume, however, starts from the premise that direct interaction should never be a prerequisite for a meaningful comparative and contextualising analysis of both late antique poetic traditions. A team of leading and emerging scholars sheds new light on literary developments that can be or have been regarded as typical of the period, and on the poetic and aesthetic ideals that affected individual works, which are both classicising and 'un-classical' in similar and diverging ways. This innovative exploration of the possibilities created by a bilingual focus should stimulate further explorations in future research.

BERENICE VERHELST is Assistant Professor in Ancient Greek at the University of Amsterdam. She is the author of *Direct Speech in Nonnus' Dionysiaca* (2017) and the editor of the fourth *Nonnus in Context* volume (2022).

TINE SCHEIJNEN is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Literary Studies (Greek section) at the Ghent University. She is the author of *Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica: A Study in Heroic Characterization and Heroism* (2018).

# GREEK AND LATIN POETRY OF LATE ANTIQUITY

Form, Tradition, and Context

EDITED BY

BERENICE VERHELST

University of Amsterdam TINE SCHEIJNEN Ghent University, Belgium



#### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom One Liberty Plaza, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia 314–321, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge. It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

> www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316516058 DOI: 10.1017/9781009031769

> > © Cambridge University Press 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data NAMES: Verhelst, Berenice, 1987– editor. | Scheijnen, Tine, editor. TITLE: Greek and Latin poetry of late antiquity : form, tradition and context / edited by Berenice Verhelst, Universiteit Gent, Belgium ; Tine Scheijnen, Universiteit Gent, Belgium. DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index. IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022008928 (print) | LCCN 2022008929 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316516058 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009013673 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009031769 (epub) SUBJECTS: LCSH: Classical poetry–History and criticism. | BISAC: HISTORY / Ancient / General | LCGFT: Literary criticism. | Essays. CLASSIFICATION: LCC PA3019.G74 2022 (print) | LCC PA3019 (ebook) | DDC 881/.0109–dc23/eng/20220421 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022008928 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022008929 ISBN 978-1-316-51605-8 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

### Contents

	rt of Figures I st of Contributors	<i>bage</i> vii viii		
Introduction: Walking the Wire: Towards an Inclusive Approach to Latin and Greek Late Antique Poetry Berenice Verhelst and Tine Scheijnen				
PART I A 'LATE' PERSPECTIVE ON THE LITERARY TRADITION				
Ι	Rivalling Song Contests and Alternative Typhonomachies in Ovid and Nonnus: Revisiting the Issue of Latin Influence on Greek Poetry in Late Antiquity <i>Katerina Carvounis and Sophia Papaioannou</i>	13		
2	Greek and Roman Epigrammatists in the Later Imperial Period Ausonius and Palladas in Dialogue with the Classical Past <i>Silvio Bär</i>	d: 3 I		
3	Allusion and Referentiality in Late Antique Epic <i>Calum Maciver</i>	51		
4	Speaking from the Margins: Paratexts in Greek and Latin Poet <i>Aaron Pelttari</i>	ry 69		
PART 2 LATE ANTIQUE 'GENRES' AND 'GENRE' IN LATE ANTIQUITY				
5	The Implosion of Poetic Genre in Late Antiquity <i>Helen Kaufmann</i>	91		

vi	Contents	
6	Common Texts, (Un)Common Aesthetics: The Greek and Latin Cento in Dialogue <i>Brian Sowers</i>	115
7	A 'Revival' of the 'Epyllion' as a 'Genre'? Genre Awareness in Short Epic Narrative from Late Antiquity <i>Berenice Verhelst</i>	132
PAR	T 3 THE CONTEXT OF LATE ANTIQUITY	
8	Saying the Other: The Poetics of Personification in Late Antique Epic <i>Emma Greensmith</i>	153
9	Internal Audiences in the New Testament Epics of Juvencus and Nonnus <i>Laura Miguélez-Cavero</i>	174
10	Colluthus and Dracontius: Mythical Traditions and Innovations <i>Marcelina Gilka</i>	205
II	Objects of the Lusting Gaze: Viewing Women as Works of Art in Late Antique Poetry <i>A. Sophie Schoess</i>	222
12	Metamorphosis and Mutability in Late Antique Epic <i>Philip Hardie</i>	241
Bibl	Bibliography	
General Subject Index		290
Index Locorum		298

# Figures

4.I	P.Oxy. xxii 2331	page 84
4.2	Vat. Lat. 3225, fol. 39v, following Aen. 4.583	85
4.3	Vat. lat. 3867, fol. 14r, beginning of <i>Ecl.</i> 6	86
4.4	Paris. Lat. 8085, fol. 55v, beginning of <i>Psychomachia</i>	87
5.1	E. Hilgemann, <i>Three Graces</i> (2011)	93

## Contributors

- SILVIO BÄR is Professor of Classics at the University of Oslo. His research areas and interests include Greek epic (especially of the imperial period), tragedy, lyric, the novel, mythology, rhetoric, the Second Sophistic, intertextuality, transtextuality, diachronic narratology, and the reception of antiquity in English literature and popular culture. He has published widely on Quintus of Smyrna's *Posthomerica* and on the character of Heracles in Greek epic and beyond.
- KATERINA CARVOUNIS is Assistant Professor in Ancient Greek Literature at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. Her main research interests include early Greek hexameter poetry, the Greek epic tradition (especially Homer, Quintus and Nonnus), and Greek literature in the Roman Empire. Among her recent publications is *A Commentary on Quintus of Smyrna, Posthomerica 14* (with Oxford University Press).
- MARCELINA GILKA received her PhD from the University of Exeter. Her thesis examined the classical tradition and late antique reception of the mythical events leading up to the Trojan War. She has also taught a range of language and literature modules at Exeter and King's College London. Previously, she had completed a BA at Exeter and an MSt at Balliol College, Oxford. She currently works in Research Funding at Wellcome, managing grants related to cultural and social contexts of health.
- EMMA GREENSMITH is Associate Professor of Classical Languages and Literature at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of St John's College. She specialises in imperial Greek literature, and is particularly interested in epic, poetics, and religious culture. Her recent book, *The Resurrection of Homer in Imperial Greek Epic: Quintus Smyrnaeus*'

viii

### List of Contributors

*Posthomerica and the Poetics of Impersonation* (Cambridge University Press 2020), offers a new reading of the role of epic and the reception of Homer in Graeco-Roman culture. She has also written recent articles on Nonnus, Gregory of Nazianzus, and the Sibylline Oracles, and is editing a new Cambridge Companion to Greek Epic.

- PHILIP HARDIE is a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Honorary Professor Emeritus of Latin, University of Cambridge. His most recent book is *Classicism and Christianity in Late Antique Latin Poetry* (University of California Press).
- HELEN KAUFMANN worked in Classics at universities in Switzerland, the US, and the UK before she came to Germany in 2019. She currently holds a Humboldt research fellowship at the University of Erlangen. Her research has focused on the Latin poetry of late antiquity, and she is the author of a commentary on Dracontius' Medea (Heidelberg 2006). She has also published articles on intertextuality, the reception of Statius and Vergil in late antiquity, and poetic unity and has more recently been working on the link between identity and place in the Latin poetry of the late Roman empire and post-Roman world.
- CALUM MACIVER is senior lecturer in Classics at the University of Edinburgh. He has published on a wide range of the literatures (Greek and Latin) of the Roman Empire, especially Greek epic poetry. In the long term he plans to write a second monograph on Greek poetry of the Imperial period (with a focus on Nonnus' *Dionysiaca*), after his current shorter projects on Statius' Achilleid and Lucian of Samosata's literary aesthetics.
- LAURA MIGUÉLEZ-CAVERO (Complutense University of Madrid) specialises in Late Antique epic poetry, mainly in Egyptian authors who wrote in Greek, such as Triphiodorus of Panopolis (she published a commentary on *The Capture of Troy* in 2013) and Nonnus of Panopolis (see her contributions to the Nonnus in Context conferences, as well as *Symbolae Osloenses* 93.1 [2019], *GRBS* 53.2 [2013], *Mnemosyne* 63.1 [2010], *GRBS* 49.4 [2009]). Her contribution to this volume seeks to broaden her horizons and understanding of how Christian poetry came into existence in the fourth and fifth centuries CE.
- SOPHIA PAPAIOANNOU is Professor of Latin at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. Her research interests

ix

х

#### List of Contributors

embrace Ancient Epic, Latin poetry and Roman Comedy, and ancient performance, and she has published widely on these topics. Recent publications include: *Intertextuality in Seneca's Philosophical Writings*, Routledge 2020 (co-edited with Myrto Garani and Andreas Michalopoulos); *Elements of Tragedy in Flavian Epic*, De Gruyter 2021 (co-edited with Agis Marinis); and most recently the *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Ancient Rhetoric* 2022 (co-edited with Andreas Serafim and Michael Edwards). Currently she is working on a book project that traces awareness of the Latin tradition in Nonnus' *Dionysiaca*.

- AARON PELTTARI is Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Edinburgh, where he studies the literary culture of Late Antiquity and is editing the *Cambridge History of Later Latin Literature*. He has published *The Psychomachia of Prudentius* (Oklahoma 2019) and *The Space that Remains: Reading Latin Poetry in Late Antiquity* (Cornell 2014).
- TINE SCHEIJNEN is a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University (Belgium), where she obtained her PhD in 2016. Her research interests lie in the field of ancient, late antique and medieval Troy literature and heroism. She has published widely on Quintus of Smyrna, among which a 2018 monograph on *Quintus of Smyrna's Posthomerica, a Study in Heroic Characterization and Heroism* (Brill). She currently explores the reception and evolutions of heroic characterisation in Middle English Troy romances.
- A. SOPHIE SCHOESS is Associate Lecturer in Classics at the University of St Andrews. Her research interests include late antique epic poetry, Greek and Latin intertextuality, the relationship between image and text in the ancient world, and the reception of classical myth from Late Antiquity through Modernity. Her doctoral thesis (University of Oxford, 2018) traced the reception of Ariadne's myth in literature and the visual arts from antiquity through the Renaissance. Her current research focusses on Christian interpretations and appropriations of classical myth in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages.
- BRIAN P. SOWERS is Assistant Professor of Classics at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. His diverse research interests focus on early Christianity, late antique literature, and gender and reception studies. He has published on late Latin reading communities, early Christian female martyrs, saints, and poets (Perpetua, Felicitas, Thecla, Justina, Aelia Eudocia, Ausonius, and Proba) and the use of

### List of Contributors

ancient literature to resist systemic racism and white supremacy in the US. His first book, *In Her Own Words: The Life and Poetry of Aelia Eudocia* (2020, Center for Hellenic Studies), examines the poetry of Aelia Eudocia, one of antiquity's best surviving female authors.

BERENICE VERHELST is Assistant Professor of Classics (UD) at the University of Amsterdam. She is interested in late antique epic and primarily specialises in the Greek authors, especially Nonnus' massive *Dionysiaca* and the shorter epyllia and ekphrastic poems of the so-called Nonnian poets. She has published (among other topics) on epic speech (*Direct Speech in Nonnus' Dionysiaca*, Brill 2017), allusions and intertextuality in Nonnus and Ovid (*Latomus* 77.3 [2018]), genre and characterisation in Greek epyllia (*Symbolae Osloenses* 93.1 [2019] and on the Nonnian narrator (*Nonnus in Context III* [2020]; *Studies in Nonnus' Paraphrasis* [forthcoming]). She is also editing the fourth Nonnus in Context volume (Peeters, expected 2022).

xi