

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-61204-0 — Creative Lives in Classical Antiquity
Richard Fletcher, Johanna Hanink
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CREATIVE LIVES IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

Poets, Artists and Biography

What happened when creative biographers took on especially creative subjects (poets, artists and others) in Greek and Roman antiquity? *Creative Lives* examines how the biographical traditions of ancient poets and artists parallel the creative processes of biographers themselves, both within antiquity and beyond. Each chapter explores a range of biographical material that highlights the complexity of how readers and viewers imagine the lives of ancient creator-figures. Work in the last decades has emphasized the likely fictionality of nearly all of the ancient evidence about lives of poets, as well as of other artists and intellectuals; this book now sets out to show what we might nevertheless still *do* with the rich surviving testimony for ‘creative lives’ – and the evidence that those traditions still shape how we narrate modern lives, too.

RICHARD FLETCHER is Associate Professor of Classics at The Ohio State University. He specializes in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy and the dynamic between classics and contemporary art. He is the author of *Apuleius’ Platonism: The Impersonation of Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2014) and is co-editor (with Wilson Shearin) of *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Philosophy*.

JOHANNA HANINK is Associate Professor of Classics at Brown University. She has published widely on ancient traditions about the Athenian tragedians, which also feature in her monograph *Lycurgan Athens and the Making of Classical Tragedy* (Cambridge, 2014).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-61204-0 — Creative Lives in Classical Antiquity
Richard Fletcher, Johanna Hanink
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

General editors

R. L. HUNTER, R. G. OSBORNE, M. J. MILLETT,
G. BETEGH, G. C. HORROCKS, S. P. OAKLEY,
W. M. BEARD, T. J. G. WHITMARSH

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-61204-0 — Creative Lives in Classical Antiquity
Richard Fletcher, Johanna Hanink
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CREATIVE LIVES IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

Poets, Artists and Biography

Edited by

RICHARD FLETCHER

Ohio State University

JOHANNA HANINK

Brown University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-316-61204-0 — Creative Lives in Classical Antiquity
 Richard Fletcher, Johanna Hanink
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd 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/9781316612040

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 2016

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 2016

First paperback edition 2021

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

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Names: Fletcher, Richard, 1979– editor. | Hanink, Johanna, 1982– editor.

Title: Creative lives in classical antiquity : poets, artists and biography /
 [edited by] Richard Fletcher ; Johanna Hanink.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2016. | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016010912 | ISBN 9781107159082 (Hard back)

Subjects: LCSH: Classical biography—History and criticism. | Biography as a literary form.

Classification: LCC PA3043 .C74 2016 | DDC 880.09—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016010912>

ISBN 978-1-107-15908-2 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-61204-0 Paperback

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

<i>List of contributors</i>	page vii
<i>List of illustrations</i>	ix
Part I Opening remarks	I
1 Orientation: what we mean by ‘creative lives’ JOHANNA HANINK AND RICHARD FLETCHER	3
2 ‘Lives’ as parameter: the privileging of ancient lives as a category of research, c. 1900 CONSTANZE GÜTHENKE	29
Part II Reviving dead poets	49
3 Close encounters with the ancient poets BARBARA GRAZIOSI	51
4 Recognizing Virgil ANDREW LAIRD	75
Part III Lives in unexpected places	101
5 A poetic possession: Pindar’s <i>Lives</i> of the poets ANNA UHLIG	103
6 What’s in a <i>Life</i> ? Some forgotten faces of Euripides JOHANNA HANINK	129
7 Lives from stone: epigraphy and biography in classical and Hellenistic Greece POLLY LOW	147

Contents

Part IV Laughing matters and <i>Lives</i> of the mind	175
8 On bees, poets and Plato: ancient biographers’ representations of the creative process	177
MARY LEFKOWITZ	
9 The life of Aristippus in the <i>Socratic epistles</i> : three interpretations	198
KURT LAMPE	
10 Imagination dead imagine: Diogenes Laertius’ work of mourning	219
RICHARD FLETCHER	
Part V Portraits of the artist	241
11 ‘It is Orpheus when there is singing’: the mythical fabric of musical lives	243
PAULINE A. LEVEN	
12 The artist as anecdote: creating creators in ancient texts and modern art history	274
VERITY PLATT	
13 Freud and the biography of antiquity	305
MIRIAM LEONARD	
Envoi	327
JOHN HENDERSON	
<i>Works cited</i>	334
<i>Index</i>	369

CONTRIBUTORS

RICHARD FLETCHER, Associate Professor of Classics, The Ohio State University.

BARBARA GRAZIOSI, Professor of Classics, Durham University.

CONSTANZE GÜTHENKE, Associate Professor of Greek Literature, Oxford University, and E.P. Warren Praelector, Corpus Christi College.

JOHANNA HANINK, Associate Professor of Classics, Brown University.

JOHN HENDERSON, Emeritus Professor of Classics, University of Cambridge, and Life Fellow of King's College.

ANDREW LAIRD, John Rowe Workman Distinguished Professor of Classics and Humanities and Professor of Hispanic Studies, Brown University.

KURT LAMPE, Senior Lecturer in Classics, University of Bristol.

MARY LEFKOWITZ, Professor Emerita of Classical Studies, Wellesley College.

MIRIAM LEONARD, Professor of Greek Literature and its Reception, University College, London.

PAULINE A. LEVEN, Associate Professor of Classics, Yale University.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-61204-0 — Creative Lives in Classical Antiquity
Richard Fletcher, Johanna Hanink
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Contributors

POLLY LOW, Senior Lecturer in Ancient History, University of Manchester.

VERITY PLATT, Associate Professor of Classics and History of Art, Cornell University.

ANNA UHLIG, Assistant Professor of Classics, University of California, Davis.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1.1	Attic red-figure <i>kalathos</i> depicting Sappho and Alcaeus, attributed to the Brygos Painter, c. 470 BC. Staatliche Antikensammlung, Munich, Germany. Credit: Art Resource, NY.	page 12
12.1	Jean-Léon Gérôme, <i>Phryné devant l'Aréopage</i> , 1861. Oil on canvas, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany. Credit: Art Resource, NY.	275
13.1	Leonardo da Vinci, <i>St Anne with Two Others (The Virgin and Child with St Anne)</i> , 1508. Oil on wood. Louvre, Paris. Credit: Erich Lessing / Art Resource, NY.	318
13.2	Reworking of Figure 13.1, with a tracing of Oskar Pfister's 'vulture'. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.	321