

Ancient Narrative
Volume 2 (2002)

ANCIENT NARRATIVE

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BARKHUIS &
THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY GRONINGEN
GRONINGEN 2003

Graphical design: Barkhuis
Printed by: Drukkerij Giethoorn ten Brink

ISSN 1568 3540
ISBN 90 807390 4 9

Table of contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Editorial note | VII |
| Articles | |
| JEAN ALVARES Utopian Themes in Three Greek Romances | 1 |
| MARIO ANDREASSI Il mimo tra ‘consumo’ e ‘letteratura’: <i>Charition e Moicheutria</i> | 30 |
| EWEN BOWIE The chronology of the earlier Greek novels since B.E. Perry: revisions and precisions | 47 |
| NINA V. BRAGINSKAIA From the Marginals to the Center: Olga Freidenberg’s Works on the Greek Novel | 64 |
| GOTTSKÁLK JENSSON The <i>Satyrical</i> of Petronius as a Roman Palimpsest | 86 |
| MAAIKE ZIMMERMAN Latinising the Novel. Scholarship since Perry on Greek ‘models’ and Roman (re-)creations | 123 |
| STEPHEN HARRISON Constructing Apuleius: The Emergence of a Literary Artist | 143 |
| WARREN S. SMITH, BAYNARD WOODS Tale of Aristomenes: Declamation in a Platonic Mode | 172 |

Bibliography

NINA V. BRAGINSKAIA

- Ancient Novel and Prose Fiction: Bibliography of Translations,
Commentaries and Studies by Russian Scholars. 194

Reviews

- M. ZIMMERMAN, *Apuleius Madaurensis Metamorphoses, Book X. Text, Introduction and Commentary*. Reviewed by Ellen Finkelpearl. 240

- A. KAHANE, A. LAIRD (eds.): *A Companion to the Prologue to Apuleius' Metamorphoses*. Reviewed by Luca Graverini. 251

- GIOVANNI REALE, *Botticelli. La "Primavera" o le "Nozze di Filologia e Mercurio"?* *Rilettura di carattere filosofico ed ermeneutico del capolavoro di Botticelli con la prima presentazione analitica dei personaggi e dei particolari simbolici*. Reviewed by Ilaria Ramelli. 263

- Werner Riess: *Apuleius und die Räuber: ein Beitrag zur historischen Kriminalitätsforschung*. Reviewed by Brent D. Shaw. 268

- Abstracts 280

- Indices 287

- Index locorum 287

- General index 288

Editorial note

The editors herewith present the second volume of *Ancient Narrative*, in which the articles and reviews that were pre-published in electronic version on the website of our journal during 2002, are collected and printed. Our sincere thanks go to all those who contributed to this volume: the authors, and the members of the advisory board whose thorough readings of and suggestions on earlier versions of the papers presented here have been of invaluable help in shaping these final publications.

We also thank those readers who have e-mailed the authors with remarks and suggestions while the papers were on the *AN* website. Here we would like to emphasize that pre-publication on the website of *Ancient Narrative* aims at encouraging discussion with colleagues and specialists. *AN* should in this way function as a kind of continuous conference. Authors and readers alike may profit from the discussions, contacts, and suggestions resulting from the pre-publications on the website. We feel that too few of our readers and subscribers are as yet aware of this aspect of *Ancient Narrative*, and we encourage all to accept the invitation to e-mail the authors of website papers. In order to demonstrate the advantage of *AN* as a medium for online presentation and discussion of papers before final publication, a set of papers on 'The Ancient Novel since Perry' was pre-published on the website of *AN* in November-December 2002. These papers were meant to function as starting points for a panel discussion at the Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association in January 2003, in New Orleans. The session was organized and presided by Gareth Schmeling. Those who attended it had had the opportunity to read the complete papers on the *AN* website, and at the panel session the authors only presented short summaries of their papers. This allowed for much more time for discussion. Two respondents, Alain Billault and Antonio Stramaglia, had been invited to open the discussion. Three of these papers (by Bowie, Harrison, and Zimmerman) are now published in the present volume. Given the theme of the panel discussion, it was obvious that all three papers were to deal predominantly with the history of scholarship (since Perry) on the ancient novels. It is a happy coincidence that two more

contributions in this volume, each in their own way, deal with the history of scholarship. One is by Jansson, who, besides pleading for a re-opening of the question of the Greek background of Petronius' *Satyrice*, offers an overview of the approaches to this topic by classical scholars of the 19th and 20th centuries. The other one is by Nina Braginskaia; this article is about the Russian scholar Olga Freidenberg, whose impressive studies on the ancient novels had hitherto sadly remained unknown to scholars in Western Europe. Olga Freidenberg worked in isolation, and Braginskaia's paper is, among other things, a passionate plea for opening up and broadening communication between Eastern and Western European scholarship. The editors are convinced that a medium such as *Ancient Narrative* could and should be of great help in promoting such communication.

The previous remarks on the functioning of *Ancient Narrative* in general have led to the highlighting of some of the contributions to this volume. It is, we think, not necessary to summarize all articles further, and we refer our readers to the abstracts and indexes at the end of the book.

As has been announced on our website, we have changed our method of publication: *Ancient Narrative* no longer appears in distinct electronic issues, but articles which have been accepted are published on the website as soon as they have gone through the process of peerreview and subsequent revision by the authors. They remain for at least two or three months on the website; during this period, readers are welcome to e-mail the authors for discussion and suggestions. Every autumn the articles which have figured on the *AN* website over the past year, appear, revised one more time by the authors, in print in the annual volumes, together with the year's book reviews and shorter notices. Of course, theme-oriented issues of *AN* will continue to be published on the website as separate issues of combined sets of articles; these are later printed in the separate series of *AN Supplementa*. But the opportunity to enter discussion as long as the papers of these theme-oriented issues are on the website remains the same as indicated above for the regular website-publications.

The editors. Autumn 2003