

## Abstracts and Autobiographical Notes

Syene as face of battle:

Heliodorus and late antique historiography

ALAN J. ROSS

Although it has long been recognised that Heliodorus imbues his novel with verisimilitude via intertextual engagement with earlier historians, particularly Herodotus, this article argues that Heliodorus looked to contemporary, late antique exponents of historiography to provide stylistic models for his narrative of the siege of Syene in Book 9 of the *Aethiopica*. Conversely, this article also demonstrates that some historians, particularly Ammianus Marcellinus, composed their narratives of historical sieges based upon narrative topoi, and not exclusively, as has sometimes been suggested, on their personal experience of battle.

Alan J. Ross currently holds a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship at University College Dublin. Previously he completed a doctorate at the University of Oxford and held a postdoctoral fellowship in South Africa. His research focuses mainly on late antique historiography and he has a forthcoming monograph on Ammianus Marcellinus.

Da Lesbo al New England:

*Dafni e Cloe* di Longo e *Praying for Sleep* di Jeffery Deaver

LUCA GRAVERINI

Longus in his *Daphnis and Chloe* and the contemporary best-selling writer Jeffery Deaver in his *Praying for Sleep* (1994) describe two very similar episodes, where an insect (respectively, a cicada and a bee) offers a boy a welcome pretext to fondle his girlfriend. Both stories involve the main characters' difficult and sometimes traumatic attainment of their full sexual awareness.

Besides these and other parallelisms, there are several hints that Deaver, despite explicitly addressing his novels to a consumer audience that does not

necessarily possess a thorough scholarly education, has some knowledge of Classical literature. It is therefore likely, although hard to prove with certainty, that he has read Longus and used *Daphnis and Chloe* as a direct source of inspiration. Rather intriguingly, contemporary best-sellers can contribute a chapter to the long history of the reception of ancient narrative. This clearly does not mean that there is a seamless continuity between ancient and contemporary novels. A comparison between the two scenes allows us to draw some conclusions about the different systems of expectations in the intended audiences of two novels separated by such a long time span.

Luca Graverini teaches Latin literature in the University of Siena. He has published extensively on the ancient novel, including the monograph *Literature and Identity in Apuleius' Metamorphoses* (Columbus, OH 2012; or. ed. Pisa 2007) and the volume, written with Wytse Keulen and Alessandro Barchiesi, *Il romanzo antico. Forme, testi, problemi* (Rome 2006). He has edited, with Marcos Carmignani and Benjamin T. Lee, *Collected Studies on the Roman Novel – Ensayos sobre la novela romana* (Cordoba, Arg. 2013) and, with Benjamin T. Lee and Ellen Finkelpearl, *Apuleius and Africa* (New York-London 2014). He has also contributed to the latest *Groningen Commentary on Apuleius' Metamorphoses* Book 11 (Brill 2014), edited by Wytse Keulen and Ulrike Egelhaaf-Gaiser.

### Beauty as Fiction in *Leucippe and Clitophon*

NICHOLAS KAUFFMAN

In this paper, I argue that Achilles Tatius' *Leucippe and Clitophon* questions the apparently fabulous beauty of its heroine. While the other novelists tend to present their protagonists as intrinsically and objectively beautiful, Achilles allows the reader to see the ways in which Leucippe's beauty is constructed within and by the narrative itself. In so doing, he can be understood as both criticizing the narrator—who is thus revealed to be even more partial and unreliable than has been recognized—and offering commentary on the genre itself.

Nicholas Kauffman recently earned his PhD from the Department of Classics at Johns Hopkins University, with a dissertation entitled *Rereading Death: Ethics and Aesthetics in the Ancient Reception of Homeric Battle Narrative*. He is currently a Lilly Postdoctoral Fellow at Valparaiso University.

Epona Salvatrix?:  
Isis and the Horse Goddess in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*

JEFFREY T. WINKLE

This essay attempts to add its voice to the handful of scholars who have seen *specific clues* in Books 1-10 of Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* which directly or indirectly point to the "surprise" Isiac ending. The following pages suggest that we might read (or more specifically, a second century audience would have read) Lucius' encounter (immediately following his transformation) at the shrine of the horse goddess Epona (3.27)—and other passages in the novel which may recall this goddess—as a direct foreshadowing of and link to the appearance of Isis in Book 11. Literary and material evidence roughly contemporary with Apuleius (while not exactly abundant) suggest that Isis and Epona were indeed linked in the Roman era—largely because of their shared connections with fortune, abundance, maternity, and liminality—to the point of even being syncretized into facets of the same goddess. Would the mention of Epona have triggered an association with Isis in the minds of the novel's original audience?

Jeffrey Winkle received his PhD from Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois, USA) with a dissertation entitled *Daemons, Demiurges, and Dualism: Apuleius' Metamorphoses and the mysticism of late antiquity*. Since then he has presented several papers on various religious and philosophical aspects of the Apuleian novel at many conferences around the globe (including ICAN IV in Lisbon, Portugal) and is currently working on articles concerning Gnostic influences on Apuleius as well as the role of the horse goddess Epona in the *Metamorphoses*. Since 2005 he has been an assistant professor of Classics at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.

Steadfast and shrewd heroines: the defence of chastity in the Latin  
post-Nicene passions and the Greek novels

ANNELIES BOSSU

This article discusses a considerable number of Latin post-Nicene passions of the martyrs and aims to demonstrate that these little-known narratives qualify as an interesting component of the network of ancient narrative texts. To underpin this claim, I analyse the passions' handling of the literary *topos* of the defence of chastity. This analysis reveals, firstly, that the passions are not mere

copies of one another: variation can be detected within the topical elaboration. Secondly, the passions bear remarkable similarities to the ancient Greek novels within this thematic realm. Both novelistic and hagiographical heroines safeguard their chastity for their beloved and do so in strikingly similar ways. The authors of the Greek novels and the post-Nicene passions, it seems, shared a common literary culture.

Annelies Bossu received her Ph.D. from Ghent University (Belgium) in 2014, with a dissertation entitled *Quick-witted Women. Literary Studies of female martyrs in the Latin post-Nicene passions of the martyrs*. Forthcoming publications on the late antique passions include articles on the *passio Caeciliae*, *passio Susannae* and *passio Chrysanthi et Dariae*.