

# *Love* AMONG THE RUINS

The Erotics of Democracy in Classical Athens



V I C T O R I A   W O H L

# Love Among The Ruins The Erotics Of Democracy In Classical Athens

**Steven Johnstone**



## **Love Among The Ruins The Erotics Of Democracy In Classical Athens:**

**Love among the Ruins** Victoria Wohl, 2009-02-09 Classical Athenian literature often speaks of democratic politics in sexual terms Citizens are urged to become lovers of the polis and politicians claim to be lovers of the people Victoria Wohl argues that this was no dead metaphor Exploring the intersection between eros and politics in democratic Athens Wohl traces the private desires aroused by public ideology and the political consequences of citizens most intimate longings *Love among the Ruins* analyzes the civic fantasies that lay beneath but not necessarily parallel to Athens's political ideology It shows how desire can disrupt politics and provides a deeper at times disturbing insight into the democratic unconscious of ancient Athens The Athenians imagined the perfect citizen as a noble and manly lover But this icon conceals a multitude of other possible figures sexy tyrants potent pathics and seductive perverts Through critical re readings of canonical texts Wohl investigates these fantasies which seem so antithetical to Athens's manifest ideals She examines the interrelation of patriotism and narcissism the trope of politics as prostitution the elite suspicion of political pleasure and the status of perversion within Athens's sexual and political norms She also discusses the morbid drive that propelled Athenian imperialism as well as democratic Athens's paradoxical fascination with the joys of tyranny Drawing on contemporary critical theory in original ways Wohl sketches the relationship between citizen psyche and political life to illuminate the complex frequently contradictory passions that structure democracy ancient and modern *Love Among the Ruins*, 2008 Classical Athenian literature often speaks of democratic politics in sexual terms Citizens are urged to become lovers of the polis and politicians claim to be lovers of the people Victoria Wohl argues that this was no dead metaphor Exploring the inter *Hope in Ancient Literature, History, and Art* George Kazantzidis, Dimos Spatharas, 2018-07-09 Although ancient hope has attracted much scholarly attention in the past this is the first book length discussion of the topic The introduction offers a systematic discussion of the semantics of Greek *elpis* and Latin *spes* and addresses the difficult question of whether hope ancient and modern is an emotion On the other hand the 16 contributions deal with specific aspects of hope in Greek and Latin literature history and art including Pindar's poetry Greek tragedy Thucydides Virgil's epic and Tacitus *Historiae* The volume also explores from a historical perspective the hopes of slaves in antiquity the importance of hope for the enhancement of stereotypes about the barbarians and the depiction of hope in visual culture providing thereby a useful tool not only for classicist but also for philosophers cultural historians and political scientists **The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy** George Klosko, 2011-05-26 The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy presents fifty original essays each specially written by a leading figure in the field covering the entire subject of the history of political philosophy They provide not only surveys of the state of research but substantial pieces that engage with and move forward current debates Part I addresses questions of method Contributors discuss the contextual method classically articulated by Quentin Skinner along with important alternative methods associated with Leo Strauss and his followers and contemporary

post modernism This section also examines the value of the history of political philosophy and the history of the discipline itself Part II Chronological Periods works through the entire history of Western political philosophy While most contributions address recognizable chronological periods others are devoted to more specialized topics including the influence of Roman Law medieval Arabic political philosophy Socialism and Marxism Aspects of the history of political philosophy that transcend specific periods are the subject of Part III Essays on topics such as democracy the state and imperialism trace theoretical developments over time The histories of major non Western traditions Muslim Confucian and Hindu are discussed in the final Part with special reference to their relationships to Western political thought

### **A History of Trust in Ancient Greece**

Steven Johnstone,2024-05-31 An enormous amount of literature exists on Greek law economics and political philosophy Yet no one has written a history of trust one of the most fundamental aspects of social and economic interaction in the ancient world In this fresh look at antiquity Steven Johnstone explores the way democracy and markets flourished in ancient Greece not so much through personal relationships as through trust in abstract systems including money standardized measurement rhetoric and haggling Focusing on markets and democratic politics Johnstone draws on speeches given in Athenian courts histories of Athenian democracy comic writings and laws inscribed on stone to examine how these systems worked He analyzes their potentials and limitations and how the Greeks understood and critiqued them In providing the first comprehensive account of these pervasive and crucial systems A History of Trust in Ancient Greece links Greek political economic social and intellectual history in new ways and challenges contemporary analyses of trust and civil society

A Handbook to the Reception of Thucydides Christine Lee,2015-01-20 A Handbook to the Reception of Thucydides offers an invaluable guide to the reception of Thucydides with a strong emphasis on comparing and contrasting different traditions of reading and interpretation Presents an in depth comprehensive overview of the reception of the Greek historian Thucydides Features personal reflections by eminent scholars on the significance and perennial importance of Thucydides work Features an internationally renowned cast of contributors including established academics as well as new voices in the field

**The Tragedy of the Athenian Ideal in Thucydides and Plato** John T. Hogan,2020-07-01 John T Hogan s The Tragedy of the Athenian Ideal in Thucydides and Plato assesses the roles of Pericles Alcibiades and Nicias in Athens defeat in Thucydides Peloponnesian War Comparing Thucydides presentation of political leadership with ideas in Plato s Statesman as well as Laches Charmides Meno Symposium Republic Phaedo Sophist and Laws it concludes that Plato and Thucydides reveal Pericles as lacking the political discipline sophrosune to plan a successful war against Sparta Hogan argues that in his presentation of the collapse in the Corcyraean revolution of moral standards in political discourse Thucydides shows how revolution destroys the morality implied in basic personal and political language This reveals a general collapse in underlying prudential measurements needed for sound moral judgment Furthermore Hogan argues that the Statesman s outline of the political leader serves as a paradigm for understanding the weaknesses of Pericles Alcibiades and Nicias in terms that

parallel Thucydides direct and implied conclusions which in Pericles case he highlights with dramatic irony Hogan shows that Pericles failed both to develop a sufficiently robust practice of Athenian democratic rule and to set up a viable system for succession

*The Ancient Emotion of Disgust* Donald Lateiner, Dēmos G. Spatharas, 2017 The study of emotions and emotional displays has achieved a deserved prominence in recent classical scholarship The emotions of the classical world can be plumbed to provide a valuable heuristic tool Emotions can help us understand key issues of ancient ethics ideological assumptions and normative behaviors but more frequently than not classical scholars have turned their attention to social emotions requiring practical decisions and ethical judgments in public and private gatherings The emotion of disgust has been unwarrantedly neglected even though it figures saliently in many literary genres such as iambic poetry and comedy historiography and even tragedy and philosophy This collection of seventeen essays by fifteen authors features the emotion of disgust as one cutting edge of the study of Greek and Roman antiquity Individual contributions explore a wide range of topics These include the semantics of the emotion both in Greek and Latin literature its social uses as a means of marginalizing individuals or groups of individuals such as politicians judged deviant or witches its role in determining aesthetic judgments and its potentialities as an elicitor of aesthetic pleasure The papers also discuss the vocabulary and uses of disgust in life Galli actors witches homosexuals and in many literary genres ancient theater oratory satire poetry medicine historiography Hellenistic didactic and fable and the Roman novel The Introduction addresses key methodological issues concerning the nature of the emotion its cognitive structure and modern approaches to it It also outlines the differences between ancient and modern disgust and emphasizes the appropriateness of projective or second level disgust vilification as a means of marginalizing unwanted types of behavior and stigmatizing morally condemnable categories of individuals The volume is addressed first to scholars who work in the field of classics but since texts involving disgust also exhibit significant cultural variation the essays will attract the attention of scholars who work in a wide spectrum of disciplines including history social psychology philosophy anthropology comparative literature and cross cultural studies

*A Companion to Classical Receptions* Lorna Hardwick, Christopher Stray, 2011-04-12 Examining the profusion of ways in which the arts culture and thought of Greece and Rome have been transmitted interpreted adapted and used A Companion to Classical Receptions explores the impact of this phenomenon on both ancient and later societies Provides a comprehensive introduction and overview of classical reception the interpretation of classical art culture and thought in later centuries and the fastest growing area in classics Brings together 34 essays by an international group of contributors focused on ancient and modern reception concepts and practices Combines close readings of key receptions with wider contextualization and discussion Explores the impact of Greek and Roman culture worldwide including crucial new areas in Arabic literature South African drama the history of photography and contemporary ethics

*Sex in Antiquity* Mark Masterson, Nancy Sorkin Rabinowitz, James Robson, 2018-02-05 Looking at sex and sexuality from a variety of historical sociological and theoretical

perspectives as represented in a variety of media Sex in Antiquity represents a vibrant picture of the discipline of ancient gender and sexuality studies showcasing the work of leading international scholars as well as that of emerging talents and new voices Sexuality and gender in the ancient world is an area of research that has grown quickly with often sudden shifts in focus and theoretical standpoints This volume contextualises these shifts while putting in place new ideas and avenues of exploration that further develop this lively field or set of disciplines This broad study also includes studies of gender and sexuality in the Ancient Near East which not only provide rich consideration of those areas but also provide a comparative perspective not often found in such collections Sex in Antiquity is a major contribution to the field of ancient gender and sexuality studies

**Diachrony** José M. González, 2015-12-14 Not a few of the more prominent and persistent controversies among classical scholars about approaches and methods arise from a failure to appreciate the fundamental role of time in structuring the interpretation of Greek culture Diachrony showcases the corresponding importance of diachronic models for the study of ancient Greek literature and culture Diachronic models of culture reach beyond mere historical change to the systemically evolving dynamics of cultural institutions practices and artifacts The papers collected here illustrate the construction and proper use of such models They emphasize the complementarity of synchronic and diachronic perspectives and highlight the need to assess how well diachronic models fit history The contributors to this volume strive to be methodologically explicit as they tackle a wide range of subjects with a variety of diachronic approaches Their work shows both the difficulty and the promise of diachronic analysis Our incomplete knowledge of Greek antiquity throughout time and the Greeks own preoccupation with the past in the construction of their present make diachronic analysis not just invaluable but indispensable for the study of ancient Greek literature and culture

**Thucydides and the Shaping of History** Emily Greenwood, 2015-03-02 Thucydides work was one of the most exciting creations in the cultural history of Greece in the fifth century BC one of only two monumental prose works to have survived and it still poses fresh and challenging questions about the writing of history In the twenty first century it still challenges the reader there is a marked tension in Thucydides History between his aim to write about contemporary events and his desire that his work should outlast the period in which he composed it Thucydides and the Shaping of History addresses two important issues how contemporary was the History when it was written in the fifth century and how contemporary is it now This book approaches the shaping of history from three different angles the way in which Thucydides shaped history and how his narrative shapes our experience as readers of the History the relationship between Thucydides work and contemporary institutions such as the theatre and the role that ancient readers and modern scholars have played in shaping how we perceive the History This book combines a close analysis of Thucydides narrative with a discussion of its intellectual motivation it examines how the historian attempted to determine the way in which readers would respond to his conception of the events of the Atheno Peloponnesian War and to ensure the continuing influence of his ideas

**Tyranny and Theater in the Ancient World** Anne Duncan, 2025-05-01

Exploring persistent connections between absolute rulers and dramatic performance in Greek and Roman drama and history Anne Duncan offers the reader a comprehensive insight into the juxtaposition between tyranny and theater in the Greco Roman world From the mad kings of Greek and Roman tragedy to the relationships that Greek tyrants and Roman emperors cultivated with actors and playwrights absolute power has had an inescapably theatricalising effect on ruler and regime Traversing various Greco Roman playwrights such as Euripides Sophocles and Seneca this book analyses the dangerous unstable tyrants of ancient tragedy alongside the dangerous unstable tyrants of ancient historiography in order to map out the ancient world s discourses about the allure and peril of absolute power Duncan argues that while any kind of political display has theatrical qualities it is tyranny that has an especially theatrical mode Her conclusion is that tyrants and playwrights began to influence each other over the course of Greco Roman antiquity so that tragedy tyrants began to resemble real rulers and real rulers began to style themselves after tragedy tyrants each trying to tap into the other s power to command audiences

**How to Do Things with History** Danielle Allen,Paul Christesen,Paul Millett,2018-07-30 How to Do Things with History is a collection of essays that explores current and future approaches to the study of ancient Greek cultural history Rather than focus directly on methodology the essays in this volume demonstrate how some of the most productive and significant methodologies for studying ancient Greece can be employed to illuminate a range of different kinds of subject matter These essays which bring together the work of some of the most talented scholars in the field are based upon papers delivered at a conference held at Cambridge University in September of 2014 in honor of Paul Cartledge s retirement from the post of A G Leventis Professor of Ancient Greek Culture For the better part of four decades Paul Cartledge has spearheaded intellectual developments in the field of Greek culture in both scholarly and public contexts His work has combined insightful historical accounts of particular places periods and thinkers with a willingness to explore comparative approaches and a keen focus on methodology Cartledge has throughout his career emphasized the analysis of practice the study not for instance of the history of thought but of thinking in action and through action The assembled essays trace the broad horizons charted by Cartledge s work from studies of political thinking to accounts of legal and cultural practices to politically astute approaches to historiography The contributors to this volume all take the parameters and contours of Cartledge s work which has profoundly influenced an entire generation of scholars as starting points for their own historical and historiographical explorations Those parameters and contours provide a common thread that runs through and connects all of the essays while also offering sufficient freedom for individual contributors to demonstrate an array of rich and varied approaches to the study of the past

[The Cambridge Companion to Greek Comedy](#) Martin Revermann,2014-06-12 This book provides a unique panorama of this challenging area of Greek literature combining literary perspectives with historical issues and material culture

[The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides](#) Ryan Balot,Sarah Forsdyke,Edith Foster,2017-02-10 The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides contains newly commissioned essays on Thucydides

as an historian thinker and writer It also features chapters on Thucydides intellectual context and ancient reception The creative juxtaposition of historical literary philosophical and reception studies allows for a better grasp of Thucydides complex project and its intellectual context while at the same time providing a comprehensive introduction to the author s ideas The volume is organized into four sections of papers History Historiography Political Theory and Context and Reception It therefore bridges traditionally divided disciplines The authors engaged to write the forty chapters for this volume include both well known scholars and less well known innovators who bring fresh ideas and new points of view Articles avoid technical jargon and long footnotes and are written in an accessible style Finally the volume includes a thorough introduction prefacing each paper as well as several maps and an up to date bibliography that will enable further study The Oxford Handbook of Thucydides offers a comprehensive introduction to a thinker and writer whose simultaneous depth and innovativeness have been the focus of intense literary and philosophical study since ancient times

**Satyr Drama** George W. M. Harrison, 2005-12-31 The esteem in which satyr drama was held in antiquity still arouses curiosity and controversy Twelve new papers generated in North America by a distinguished cast of scholars explore questions central to the genre How did satyr drama relate to comedy and tragedy how closely was it tied to its tragic trilogy How did the Athenians react to pro satyric drama such as the *Alcestis* How far did satyr plays reflect contemporary political life Fresh conclusions are adduced from the fragments particularly those of Aeschylus and there is special study of Euripides *Cyclops* not least for its possible reflection of the fifth century sophists

**Greek Political Imagery from Homer to Aristotle** Roger Brock, 2013-07-18 An investigation of the political imagery found in ancient Greek history literature and culture *The Politics of Form in Greek Literature* Phiroze Vasunia, 2021-12-16 The Politics of Form in Greek Literature explores the relationship between form and political life specifically in Greek textual culture In the last generation or so classicists and their counterparts in other disciplines have begun to pay greater attention to the socio historical contexts of literary production and sought to historicize aesthetic practice However historicism and in particular New Historicism is only one mode of approaching the question of form which is increasingly brought into dialogue with a number of other issues e g gender Bringing together contributions from a range of experts this volume examines these and other related approaches assessing their limitations and discussing possibilities for the future Individual chapters discuss an array of ancient authors including Homer Sophocles Euripides Plato Aristotle Callimachus and more and sketch out the specifically Greek contribution to the debate as well as the implications for other disciplines What emerges from this book are new ways of thinking about form and indeed about politics that will be of value to scholars and students across the humanities and social sciences

**Style and Necessity in Thucydides** Tobias Joho, 2022-10-20 Ancient literary critics were struck by what they described as Thucydides nominal style a term that refers to Thucydides fondness for abstract nominal phrases As this book shows Thucydides frequently uses these phrases instead of approximately synonymous verbal and personal constructions

These stylistic choices tend to deemphasize human agency people find themselves in a passive role exposed to incidents happening to them rather than being actively in charge of events Thus the analysis of the abstract style raises the question of necessity in Thucydides On numerous occasions Thucydides and his speakers use impersonal and passive language to stress the subjection of human beings to transpersonal forces that manifest themselves in collective passions and an inherent dynamic of events These factors are constitutive of the human condition and become a substitute for the notion of divine fatalism prevalent in earlier Greek thought Yet Thucydidean necessity is not absolute It stands in the tradition of a type of fatalism that one finds in Homer and Herodotus In these authors the gods or fate tend to settle the outcome of the most significant events but they leave leeway for the specific way in which these pivotal events come to pass Thus the Greeks endorsed a malleable variant of necessity so that considerable scope for human choice persists within the framework fixed by necessity Pericles turns out to be Thucydides prime example of an individual who uses the leeway left by necessity for prudent interventions into the course of events

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