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Abstracts

M. Björk, *Ovid's Heroides and the ethopoeia*, PhD thesis, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University 2016

The elegiac poems of Ovid's *Heroides*, fictitious love letters written by heroines from Graeco-Roman mythology, have often been referred to as *ethopoeiae*. An *ethopoeia* was a rhetorical exercise which aimed at capturing the voice of a speaker in a certain situation. This description has had, however, a pejorative overtone, for which reason it has not been explored further in any depth. In this study, the author argues that Ovid's poems were influenced by the *ethopoeia*. One chapter is devoted to an examination of the formal conditions of the *ethopoeia* in the *Heroides*, and another to the characterization, the *ethos*, of some of the heroines. Furthermore, this dissertation argues that the concept of the *ethopoeia* needs to be reassessed. Instead of regarding it as a mere exercise, the *ethopoeia* should be understood as a particular model for both writing and speech, and a tool for literary composition. This examination finds potential roots of the *ethopoeia* in Greek tragedy, pointing to ethopoetic elements in dramatic monologues, elements which also occur in extant school *ethopoeiae* and in Ovid's *Heroides*.

P. Klingborg, *Water and risk in ancient Greece, 600–50 BC*, PhD thesis, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University 2017

Greek cisterns: Water and risk in ancient Greece, 600–50 BC explores cisterns in the Greek world based on a representative body of archaeological material of 410 cisterns from 49 sites presented in a catalogue, and the literary and epigraphic evidence. The aim is to investigate when and how cisterns were constructed, how they were used and functioned in ancient Greek society, and why they were used only at certain times.

The first part of the study creates a framework for the investigation of cisterns, examining the installations, the chronology, and the ancient terminology. The variation in shape and construction and various features used to improve functionality are treated. Chronologically, the study discusses methodological questions related to the dating of cisterns as well as when cisterns were constructed. It is shown that cisterns existed in the Archaic period but were rare, while during the 4th century BC they became more popular, and remained so until the last century BC.

Based on the framework established in the first part, the study investigates how cisterns were used, from construction to abandonment, and how the use was both formed by, and formed interaction between cisterns and humans. Cisterns are then studied on a micro-, meso- and macro-level, as these three perspectives reveal different aspects of how cisterns were used and functioned in the Greek world. Finally, the study explores the way in which cisterns were viewed in comparison to other water sources and how this affected their relation to the humans using them. It is argued that cisterns were connected to passivity and control, and that this enabled them to be used as a risk-management strategy.

P. Partanen, *Navigating female power: (De-)constructing the space of the immortal threat in Homer's Odyssey*, Department of Theology: History of Religions, Uppsala University 2016

The purpose of this study is to locate spatial manifestations of power, and acts of agency, by conducting a subversive reading of the female immortal threats in Homer's *Odyssey*. With an aim to question preconceived notions on sexuality, gender, and power, I draw on the theoretical perspectives of gender theorists J. Butler and J. Halberstam in my reading of non-

normative female displays of power. The material in question comprises the adventures in the *Odyssey* that present female immortals, functioning as antagonists in the epos' narrative structure. Space and power make the foundation in the deconstruction of these adventures. I approach the subject using analytical tools from the spatial methodology of K. Knott. Starting with 'location' I apply analytical categories such as 'physical space', 'social space', 'properties of space', and 'spatial aspects' in order to critically analyse spatial manifestations of power in each adventure.

By placing the female immortal in the subject position, this work shows how she utilizes her space in order to dominate the mortal man she encounters. This is conducted through non-normative acts such as isolation and restriction. The study highlights the problem of putting 'sex' as the only,

or dominant, focus in the reading of these adventures. The female immortals that Odysseus encounters can by spatial analysis be shown to act autonomously toward mortal intruders that enter their territory. They present themselves as having the right to take a mortal man for a husband, as well as kill him or keep him as a prisoner. This suggests that their status as immortal exceeds Odysseus' male gender, whilst still being restricted by the gender hierarchy of their immortal society. The spatial analysis show that the female immortal possesses the agency of the mortal female *as well as* of the mortal male within in their *oikos*. The female immortal displays power by sustaining her space, as well as by regulating the movements of the mortal man, in and out of, and sometimes beyond, her space.