

Athina Papachrysostomou, Nectanebo II and Philip II in Mythic Disguise: Comedy's Burlesque of History?

Menelaos Christopoulos, Athina Papachrysostomou & Andreas P. Antonopoulos (edd.), *Myth and History: Close Encounters = MythosEikonPoiesis*. 14 (Berlin - Boston, 2022) pp. 263-276.

Demonstrates how Greek Middle Comedy practises burlesque of contemporary history - with ensuing political ramifications - through the means of mythological parody. The argument is substantiated through the analysis of two exemplary cases from the fragmentarily surviving corpus of the fourth-century BC comic poet Ephippus, where contemporary historical figures are presented in mythical, albeit recognizable, disguise. It is argued that (i) in the play *Busiris* Ephippus uses the mythical persona of the title-figure as a disguise for the Egyptian pharaoh Nectanebo II, and (ii) in his *Geryon* the Macedonian king Philip II can be identified as the historical equivalent of the mythical title-figure.

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