Ancient Greek ekphrasis: Between description and narration

Koopman, N.

Citation for published version (APA):
Ancient Greek Ekphrasis: Between Description and Narration

Niels Koopman
Ancient Greek Ekphrasis: 
Between Description and Narration

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. D.C. van den Boom
ten overstaan van een door het college voor promoties
ingestelde commissie,
in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Aula der Universiteit

op vrijdag 21 november 2014, te 11:00 uur

door Niels Koopman

deboren te Naarden
Promotiecommissie

Promotor: prof. dr. I.J.F. de Jong
Copromotor: dr. mr. R.J. Allan

Overige leden: prof. dr. M.A. Harder
prof. dr. C.H.M. Kroon
prof. dr. A.P.M.H. Lardinois
prof. dr. A. Rijksbaron
dr. M.A.J. Heerink
dr. C.C. de Jonge

Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Acknowledgements

This book could not have been written without the help and support of a number of institutions and people.

I thank the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), which have funded the project *Ancient War Narrative. A Combined Discourse-Linguistic and Narratological Approach*. This thesis has been written as part of this project. I also want to thank the Institute of Culture and History (ICG) at the University of Amsterdam for providing a hospitable working environment. I thank OIKOS, the National Research School in Classical Studies in the Netherlands, for giving me the opportunity to follow various courses and to participate in other academic activities.

I thank my supervisor Irene de Jong, who hired me as her PhD student and who constantly supported me during the writing of this book. Not only her acute comments, but also her approach to scientific research has greatly improved my work. I also thank my co-supervisor Rutger Allan, whose invaluable feedback has contributed greatly to this thesis.

I thank the other members of the *Ancient War Narrative* project, Caroline Kroon, Suzanne Adema, and David Stienaers for their comments on earlier drafts of chapters of this thesis.

I thank Susanne Borowski, Jacqueline Klooster, Frank Müller, Laura Roling, David Rijser, Saskia Willigers, and the members of the ‘Amsterdamse Hellenistenclub’ for their comments on various chapters of this thesis.

I thank my roommates Baukje van den Berg, Mònica Colominas Aparicio, Ron Grijters, Jo Heirman, David Kromhout, Paul van Uum, and Rogier Visser, who made working on this thesis in PCH337 good fun. Baukje, Jo, and Paul also helpfully commented on various chapters of this thesis.

I thank the members of our ‘Privatissimum Homericum’, Jori Castricum, Raphaël Hunsucker, Charles Hupperts, and Elsa Lucassen for the many pleasant hours we spent together reading ancient Greek. Charles not only taught me how to read and enjoy ancient Greek, but also supported me consistently during the writing of this thesis.

I thank my parents and family for their support and confidence. Lastly, I am deeply grateful to Maarten for always being there. You are a thing of beauty – a joy for ever.

Cover image: *The Theocritus Cup* (1812/13). Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014
Contents

1. Introduction: Ekphrasis, Narration, and Description 1
   1.1 The ‘Problem’ of Ekphrasis: To Narrate or to Describe? 1
   1.2 A Definition of Ekphrasis 2
   1.3 Ekphrasis: Description and/or Narration? 6
      1.3.1 Preliminaries 6
      1.3.2 State of the Art 10
      1.3.3 Concluding Remarks 16
   1.4 Narration 17
      1.4.1 Introduction 17
      1.4.2 Narration, Narrative and Narrativity 18
      1.4.3 Verbal and Visual Narrative 29
      1.4.4 Concluding Remarks 40
   1.5 Description 40
      1.5.1 Introduction 40
      1.5.2 Description and Descriptivity 41
      1.5.3 Concluding Remarks 50
      1.5.4 Verbal and Visual Description 50
   1.6 Ekphrasis, Narration, and Description: Conclusion 52

2. Methodology, Test Cases, and Corpus 55
   2.1 Introduction 55
   2.2 A Model for Analysis 55
      2.2.1 Introduction 55
      2.2.2 The Discourse Modes 57
   2.3 The Harbour of Phorcys and the Cave of the Nymphs (Od. 13.96-112) 60
      2.3.1 Introduction 60
      2.3.2 Analysis 62
   2.4 Agamemnon arms for Battle (ll. 11.15-46) 69
      2.4.1 Introduction 69
      2.4.2 Analysis 72
      2.4.3 Patroclus arms for Battle (ll. 16.131-44) 81
   2.5 Conclusion 83
   2.6 Corpus 84