Telling Wonders

Telling Wonders

Ethnographic and Political Discourse in the Work of Herodotus

Rosaria Vignolo Munson

Ann Arbor
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

2004 2003 2002 2001 4 3 2 1

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

A CIP catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for ISBN 0-472-11203-1 (cloth : alk. paper)

To Paul and Louise Θώματα μέγιστά μοι

Preface

My first thanks go to Donald Lateiner, once my teacher and now my friend, most generous through the years with advice, support, and information of all kinds. He has just recently read this book in its final draft, but he has certainly had to hear a great deal about it for a long, long time: I hope he has not been disappointed. Last year William Turpin, in the busiest of all seasons for a department chairman, took the time to go through an earlier, bulkier version of my manuscript to help me decide how I could cut it down to about half its size. I am immensely grateful to him for his heroic help, as I am to Ellen Bauerle, then of the University of Michigan Press, for her wisdom in prescribing the shrinkage. Carolyn Dewald, my much admired fellow Herodotean and always a source of inspiration, has read all existing versions of this book. She made herself available for countless written and oral critiques of my work and for lengthy telephone discussions; she has been most generous in sharing her work in progress with me.

I also thank Deborah Boedeker, Gregory Nagy, Helen North, Martin Ostwald, David Potter, Gil Rose, Grace Ledbetter, David Konstan, Elaine Fantham, Eric Munson, and John Carleo for their support, suggestions, or criticism at various stages of this project. David Chamberlain, John Graham, Bruce Grant, André Lardinois, Anthony Podlecki, and Kurt Raaflaub have kindly made available to me various sources and resources or their unpublished and forthcoming work. Colin Day, Collin Ganio, and Jennifer Wisinski of the University of Michigan Press have been extremely helpful, prompt, and encouraging. I am especially grateful to my copyeditor, Jill Butler Wilson, with whom I have carried out a tacit dialogue through colored pencils: she has done everything she could possibly do to save me from my own imprecision.

This work could not have been completed without the generous leave policy and a Becker Fellowship from Swarthmore College. I owe a great deal to Stephe Bensch for proofreading the manuscript and suggesting numerous corrections. His sensitivity to language has made my prose somewhat less contorted and easier to read. My son, Paul, has also provided help in matters of style and a great deal of encouragement. My daughter, Louise, has been my closest companion while I was working on this project: she has tolerated my frequent absentmindedness with the gentle irony that is typical of her nature. I am also grateful to Luigi and Mariella Vignolo for following my progress and cheering me on from afar. Finally, I thank my beloved parents, Paolo and Mariarosa Vignolo: this book is a partial testimonial of how much they have done for me for so many years and a tribute to their memory.

Contents

Introduction 1	
Chapter 1 Narrative and Metanarrative	20
Chapter 2 Comparison 45	
Chapter 3 Interpretation and Evaluation	134
Chapter 4 Thoma 232	
Conclusion 266	
Bibliography 275	
General Index 293	
Index of Passages 309	