

“A Herstory of Women Women in History”

A Comparative History
through the Ages and Civilizations

PART II

Piero Scaruffi (2006)

www.scaruffi.com

**Goddesses
Priestesses
Poetesses
Matrons
Witches
Entertainers
Supermodels
Stars**

Part 2: From Greece to the Middle Ages



Women in Greece



Women in Greece

- Gaia the Mother Earth, an early mother goddess who was worshipped at Delphi from prehistoric times

Women in Greece

- Greek goddesses correspond to the symbolism (lions, snakes, wild animals, birds, stars) of Crete's goddess
 - Athena
 - Artemis
 - Aphrodite
 - Demeter
- Greek male gods do not correspond to the symbolism of Crete's goddess
- The Greek pantheon may be a synthesis of Crete's matriarchal religion and of the Indo-European patriarchal religion

Women in Greece

- Goddesses
 - Aspects of womanhood
 - Hera, Zeus' wife: wife and mother
 - Aphrodite, goddess of love: lover
 - Artemis, daughter of the god Zeus and Leto and the twin sister of the god Apollo: virgin
 - Demeter, daughter of the Titans Cronus and Rhea
 - Persephone, daughter of Zeus, father of the gods, and of Demeter, abducted by Hades
 - Athena, Zeus' favorite child

Women in Greece

- Aphrodite
 - Semitic goddesses of war and love: Inanna, Ishtar/Astarte
 - Homer and Hesiod discard the “war” component
- Hesiod:
 - Aphrodite born in Cyprus out of the testicles of Uranus (castrated by his son Cronus, urged in turn by his mother Gaea)(Uranus’ castration story comes from the Enuma Elish)
 - Older than the other Olympians because
 - She has the power to deceive Zeus in person
 - Eros (desire) and Himeros (yearning) are her assistants

Women in Greece

- Aphrodite
 - Homer and Hesiod discard the “war” component
 - Homer:
 - Aphrodite is Zeus’ daughter (from Dione)
 - She causes the war by helping Paris (son of Priam, king of Troy) to seduce Helen (queen of Mycenaean Sparta) and abduct her to Troy
 - She makes sure that the war is not ended by the duel between Paris and Menelaus by spiriting Paris away
 - Aphrodite commits adultery with the war-god Ares (and her husband Hephaestus is ridiculed by the gods)
 - Aphrodite fails to rescue her son Aeneas (she is no longer a war goddess)

Women in Greece

- Aphrodite
 - Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite (7th c BC)
 - Aphrodite drives gods to mate with mortals
 - Aphrodite herself has sex with a young mortal, Anchises, and their son Aeneas guides the survivors of the Trojan War to Italy
 - Inanna and her mortal lover Dumuzi, Ishtar and her mortal lover Tammuz
 - Wolves, lions, bears and leopards follow her (like Cybele in Phrygia, the goddess of the wild beasts)
 - Popular myth
 - Aphrodite has sex with a young mortal, Adonis

Women in Greece

- Pandora
 - The first woman: before Pandora human beings are exclusively male
 - Pandora is sent by Zeus as punishment in retaliation for Prometheus' theft of fire (“the mind of a bitch and a thieving nature”)
 - Pandora opens the the mysterious jar that Zeus has given her, and its content (suffering) scatters all over the human world and still plagues men

Women in Greece

- Eros
 - Eros is a threat to society
 - Aphrodite: destructive power of sex (she causes the carnage of the Trojan war)
 - Pandora: symbol of female evil
 - Circe: symbol of how woman can enslave even the greatest of men
 - Medea: symbol of female power (protofeminist speech about the condition of women)
 - Diotima: desexualizes sex (origin of “Platonic love”)

Women in Greece

- Eros
 - Hesiod's Eros is a male god with no parents (like Gaea/ Earth and Tartarus/Underworld, all originated by the primordial Chaos)
 - Eros induces Gaea to generate her own husband Uranus/Sky, and that begins biological sex, with a female and a male joining to give birth to other gods
 - After Aphrodite is born out of Uranus' tentacles, Eros becomes a mere assistant to Aphrodite
 - Homer's eros is not a god but simply a common noun meaning sexual desire)

Women in Greece

- Homosexuality
 - Not mentioned by either Homer (Achilles and Patroclus are comrades, not lovers) or Hesiod
 - Prevalent in lyric poems of the 7th-6th c BC
 - Aeschylus and Plato treat Achilles as gay
 - Common in the age of Sparta and Athens but only as pederasty
 - 550 BC: Height of popularity of homoerotic scenes (mostly between adults, but the age of the erastes keeps declining)

Women in Greece

- Homosexuality
 - Pythagoras condemns it
 - Aristotle has an unsympathetic view of it (“Ethics”)
 - Plato condemns it in the “Laws”
 - Aristophanes condemns it

Women in Greece

- Prostitution
 - Pornai (ordinary prostitutes)
 - Hetairai/hetaerae (the Greek equivalent of geishas, cultured and sometimes rich companion)
 - Aspasia (5th c. BC) is the mistress of Pericles and hangs out with Phidias and Socrates - most famous woman of ancient Greece
 - Lais of Corinth (5th c BC) served distinguished men and charged exorbitant fees
 - Only hetaerae are known by name (respectable women are known as the daughter/wife/mother of a man)

Women in Greece

- Prostitution
 - Corinth's sacred prostitutes (women offered as sacrifice by families and individuals to the goddess Aphrodite)
 - Pederasty widely debated but prostitution rarely mentioned in classical Athens (like heterosexuality in general)
 - Hetairai appear in two Aristophanes plays ("Assemblywomen", 392 BC; "Wealth")
 - 390 BC - 320 BC: Several plays bear the name of a hetaera
 - Epicrates of Ambracia's "Antilais" (4th c BC) attacks and mocks Lais

Women in Greece

- Sex in pottery
 - Relatively few: 150 out of more than tens of thousands of extant vases (less than 1% of all pottery)
 - 575-450 BC: Erotic and explicitly sexual scenes are common, but figures are stylized (not realistic), and portrayals of sex are often grotesque and/or obscene
 - 525 BC: The red-figure method replaces the black-figure method, portrayals of sex become more refined

Women in Greece

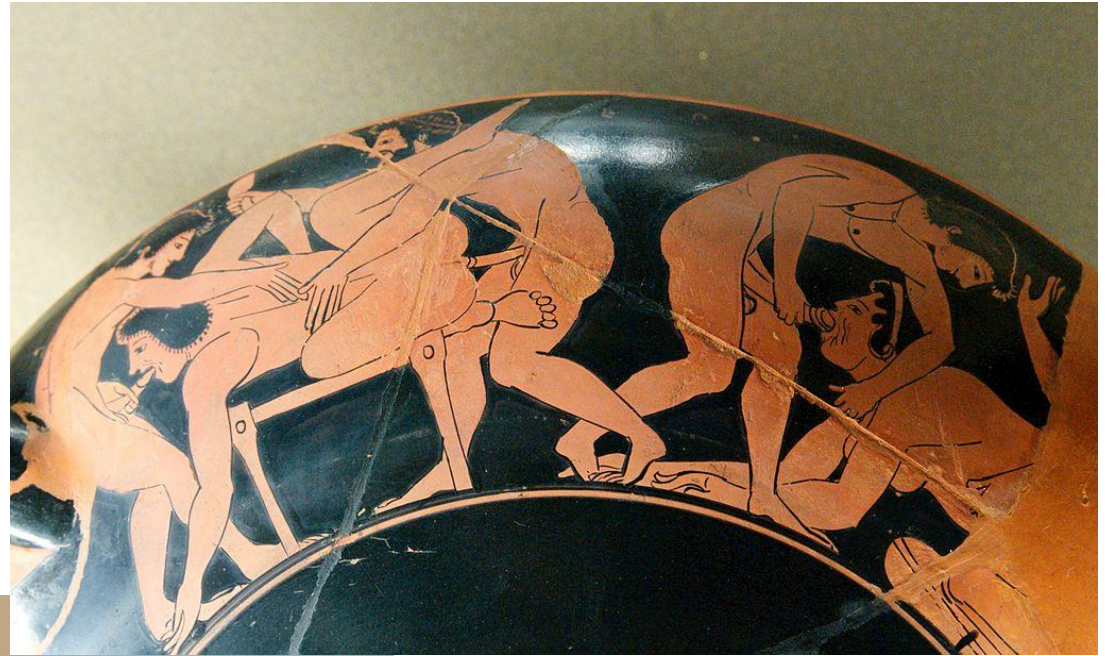
- Sex in pottery
 - Customers of the erotic vases: Etruria (where most of them were found) and the symposion (private drinking party of the aristocratic elite, the same place where erotic poetry is sung)
 - All women depicted on vases are either slaves or prostitutes: the customer does not buy these vases for his wife but for his symposion
 - Vases are made mostly by slaves (just like many of the women they depict) and they are made at the Ceramicus (which is also Athens' prostitution district)

Women in Greece

- Sex in pottery
 - Athenian democracy (490-338 BC)
 - 500 BC: In homoerotic scenes the erastes is often a teenager
 - 470 BC: Peak of love scenes with hetaeras
 - 450 BC and later: the Etrurian market has collapsed, erotic scenes are rare, respectable housewives in domestic settings become more common and figures are realistic
 - The peak of Athenian democracy is an age of sexual restraint and of family values

Women in Greece

- Sex in pottery



Kylix by the Pedieus Painter
(500 BC) (Louvre)
Middle-aged slave women
used by young men



Kylix by the Nikosthenes Painter (500 BC)

Women in Greece

- Cult of Dionysus: Female devotees (mainades/maenads) worship him in frenzied savagery, tearing children and animals limb from limb

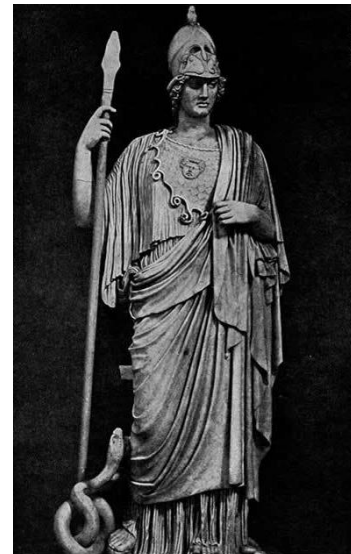


Women in Greece

- Virginity
 - Virgo: the goddesses who were immune to the temptations of Dionysus
 - Artemis, virgin goddess of the moon and the hunt
 - Hestia, virgin goddess of the hearth
 - Athena, virgin goddess of wisdom



Hestia (Vesta)



Athena



Hestia, Athena, Artemis

Women in Greece

- Origin of the cult of virginity
 - Virginity is the most unnatural state
 - Symbol of human control of nature
 - Symbol of human emancipation from the animal kingdom
 - Symbol of sacrifice
 - Athens (6th c) enacts a law that authorizes fathers to sell their daughters into slavery if they lost their virginity before marriage

Women in Greece

- Mythical women
 - Thetis, archaic sea-goddess
 - Pandora, first woman on Earth, created by the god Hephaestus at the request of the god Zeus to punish humans
 - Aphrodite (at different times) was the mother of Eros, Harmonia and Hermaphroditos... of all possible forms of love. The Greeks did not take sides. Aphrodite was both the goddess of promiscuous love and the goddess of pure love: a civil war between two conceptions of love that was eventually won by the Christians, the advocates of the latter.

Women in Greece

- Muses/Mousai: Kalliope, epic poetry; Kleio, history; Ourania, astronomy; Thaleia, comedy; Melpomene, tragedy; Polyhymnia, religious hymns; Erato, erotic poetry; Euterpe, music; Terpsikhore, choral song and dance.
- The muses were daughters of Mnemosyne, goddess of memory
- Harmonia: goddess of harmony and concord

Women in Greece

- The women of Homer:
 - Helen (object of desire and symbol of power)
 - Penelope (faithful wife who waits for Ulysses)
 - Calypso (femme fatale who seduces Ulysses)
 - Nausicaa (Platonic love)
 - Circe (witch)
 - Thetis (mother of Achilles who saves Zeus from coup)
 - Andromache (the perfect wife)
 - Erinyes/ The Furies: deities of revenge (all women)

Women in Greece

- Women in literature have more power than women in real life
 - Half of all extant 5th century plays have powerful women in leading roles
 - Clytemnestra, Antigone, Iphigenia, Hecuba, Andromache, Medea, Alcestis, Elektra, Lysistrata
 - Aristophanes (450 BC): “Lysistrata” (411 BC) the women force the men to make peace by refusing them sex
- Remnants of a matriarchal society?

Women in Greece

- Eros
 - The Greeks saw eros as a threat to society
 - Aphrodite: destructive power of sex
 - Pandora: symbol of female evil
 - Circe: symbol of how woman can enslave even the greatest of men
 - Medea: symbol of female power (protofeminist speech about the condition of women)
 - Diotima: desexualizes sex (origin of “Platonic love”)
 - Romantic love is pervasive in literature, but seldom as the reason for a marriage

Women in Greece

Sappho (7th BC): first poetess of Europe, a lesbian



*Come back to me, Gongyla, here tonight,
You, my rose, with your Lydian lyre.
There hovers forever around you delight:
A beauty desired.*

Women in Greece

- Throughout Greece
 - Women are excluded from the Olympic games, but they compete every four years in their own games of Hera
 - Monogamy

Women in Greece



- Athens:
 - Women cannot own or purchase
 - No rights outside the household
 - Every woman has a "kyrios" (guardian): nearest male relative or husband
 - Land of the father divided among sons only (in case of no sons, the nearest male relative as the guardian of the daughters)
 - Typical marriage: 12/15 years old bride and 30+ years old bridegroom
 - Dowry (the woman "buys" a husband)
 - No wedding ceremony



Women in Greece



- Athens (5th c BC)
 - Only prostitutes, slaves and concubines are allowed to leave the house alone
 - Women can attend only special religious functions for women
 - Women cannot socialize with men
 - Women receive no education
 - Death penalty for adultery by a woman but not by a man (unless it is with a married woman)

Women in Greece



- Athens (5th c BC)
 - Stereotype: women have strong emotions and weak minds, thus they need to be protected from themselves and men need to be protected from them
 - Wives are assumed and expected to be dumb: hetaerae (call girls and courtesans) are providing the (intellectual, social, sexual) entertainment
 - "Teaching a woman to read and write? What a terrible thing to do! Like feeding a vile snake on more poison" (Menander)
 - Men can also use prostitutes, concubines and female slaves

Women in Greece

- Athens (5th c BC)
 - The priestess of Athena is Athens' most important religious dignitary
 - Pythia, priestess of Delphi, is the most influential religious figure (a virgin from a poor family)
 - Aspasia (450 BC) moves from Miletus to Athens, opens a school of philosophy, starts a “salon” at Pericles' house, and promotes the education of women

Women in Greece



- Sparta: Equality
 - Spartan women were taught reading and writing, and fighting (were expected to be able to protect themselves)
 - They could own and control their own property
 - Not expected to take care of the house or the children
 - They ran naked in the presence of their male counterparts at athletic events

Women in Greece

Kouros (male) and *Kore* (*female*) statues



590 BC (National
Museum, Athens)

530 BC (Acropolis
Museum, Athens)



Alexandros:
"Aphrodite of
Milo/ Venus of
Milo" (150 BC)
(Louvre Museum,
Paris)

Women in Rome



Women in Greece

- Women in Greek tragedy:
 - Clytemnestra
 - Cassandra
 - Antigone
 - Medea
 - Lysistrata
 - Captive Woman's Lament
- Chariton (1st c AD): novel "Chaereas and **Callirhoe**" (3# AD)
- Longus (1## AD): novel "Daphnis and **Chloe**" (1## AD)
- Heliodorus of Emesa (2##): novel "Aithiopica/
Theagenes and **Charicleia**" (2##)

Women in Rome

- Goddesses
 - Greek pantheon (Juno = Hera, Minerva = Athena, Venus = Aphrodite,...)
 - Vesta (non-Greek) symbolizes the fire of Rome (her temple is the only one to be round)



Women in Rome



- Monogamy
- Roman Republic: women have no political rights, just like in Athens
- Hortensia, 42BC: leads a revolt by women against tax laws
- Slaves are expected to take care of household chores and raising children
- Empire: women's literacy is relatively common
- Political intrigues by women close to the emperors
- Augustan reforms to restore morality



Women in Rome

- Roman Republic
 - Women are not allowed to hold any office
 - Women are usually known only by their clan's name (Cornelia, Julia, Claudia...)
 - All women are under male custody
 - Marriage is a simple agreement (no love)
 - Age of consent is 12 (14 for men)
 - The woman can retain her belongings
 - A woman can divorce
 - The wife of a citizen rarely works: she manages the slaves

Women in Rome

- Roman Republic
 - A paterfamilias is any man, married or unmarried, with or without children, who does not owe obedience to a paterfamilias of his own (ie., a father, grandfather, etc.)
 - A mater familias is any married or widowed woman (with or without children)
 - At marriage, a woman in the Republic goes from the authority of her father, or his paterfamilias, to the authority of her husband, or his paterfamilias
 - But a father has more rights than a husband over a woman
 - In practice, **due to continuous warfare, women enjoy greater prominence**

Women in Rome



- Roman Republic
 - Women virtually absent from religious life
 - Women forbidden to participate in sacrificial rituals
 - Vestal Virgins: strictly celibate priestesses of goddess Vesta for 30 years
 - Female slaves were at the mercy of masters
 - It was a very serious crime for a woman to have a sexual relationship with a slave, even if he was her own

Women in Rome



- Roman Republic
 - Lex Iulia de pudicitia et coercendis adulteriis (“The Julian Law of chastity and repressing adultery”, 18BC): marriage becomes an institution protected by the state
 - Both the father and the husband can kill an adulterous woman

Women in Rome

- Livia
 - Wife of Augustus and mother of Tiberius (not Augustus' son)
- Julia
 - Daughter of Augustus (his only child)
 - First married at 14
 - Wife of wealthy Agrippa (second marriage) and then of Tiberius (Augustus' stepson)
 - Many affairs
 - Banished by Augustus to an island

Women in Rome

- Agrippina
 - Wealthy great-granddaughter of Augustus
 - Niece and wife of Claudius and mother of Nero (not Claudius' son)
 - Killed by Nero after she helped him become emperor
- Julia Domna
 - Daughter of a high priest of the temple of Baal in Syria
 - Wife of emperor Septimius Severus
 - Mother of Lucius Septimius Bassianus (Caracalla)
 - Ruled the empire while her husband was at war
 - Created a literary salon and patronized the arts
 - Introduced Eastern elements into Roman life

Women in Rome

- Empress Faustina (2nd c AD)
 - Deified



Empress Faustina the elder (Rome, 160AD)
(Getty Villa)

Women in Rome

- Julia Maesa
 - De facto ruler of the Roman Empire during the reign of her grandson Elagabalus (219 AD)
- Zenobia
 - Ruled over Roman Syria (266-74) and conquered Anatolia from the Persians and Egypt from Rome itself before being defeated by Rome
- Blandina
 - Slave girl tortured to death for being a Christian (177 AD)

Women in Rome

- Cleopatra
 - Queen of Egypt under Roman occupation (69-30 BC)
 - Highly educated
 - Julius Caesar's lover (one child)
 - Mark Anthony's lover (three children)

Women in Rome

- Women in literature
 - Gaius Petronius (27 AD): "Satyricon Liber" (6# AD) the episode "Ephesus' widow"
 - Lyric poetry is mostly un-viril: the male poet is subjected to the power of the woman (Cornelius Gallus/ Lycoris, Catullus/Clodia, Propertius/Cynthia, Tibullus/Delia)
 - Poetess: Sulpicia

Women in Rome

- Women in art

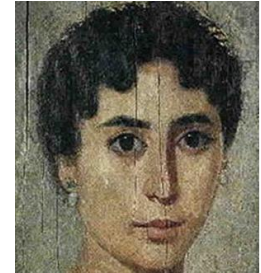
Roman Portraits: Faiyum portrait of a noblewoman

Goddess of Flowers (Museo Archeologico, Napoli)



Women in Rome

- Hypatia (4th c AD, Greek-language Egyptian of the Roman Empire)
 - mathematician, philosopher and astronomer
 - succeeds Plotinus in the Platonic school of the Byzantine Empire
- Diogenes Laërtius (3d c AD) includes a chapter on Hipparchia in his “Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers”



Women in Byzantium

- Justinian (527 AD)
 - Age of consent: seven
 - Incest forbidden
 - Prostitutes, procuresses, actresses, women working in a tavern and women convicted of adultery were permanently barred from marriage to a freeborn man
 - Divorce allowed under several conditions
 - A man could not have a concubine and a wife at the same time
 - Dowry not mandatory but very common
 - Sine manu marriage common: power over the woman is not transferred to the husband

Christian Women

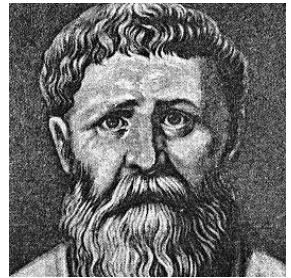
- Gospels: Virgin Mary (a virgin) and Mary Magdalene (a prostitute)
- Christianity: a religion of slaves, both males and females
- Martyrdom for both men and women
- The earliest Roman nobles to adopt Christianity were women (e.g., Constantine's mother)
- Gospels: no inherent distinction between males and females (unlike Old Testament)
- Monotheism, but Virgin Mary and saints also divine

Christian Women

- Saints
 - Perpetua and Felicitia (martyred 203 AD)
 - Apollonia (martyred 249)
 - Agata (martyred 251)
 - Agnese (martyred 258)
 - Cecilia (martyred 3rd c)
 - Lucia (martyred 304)
 - Caterina of Alexandria (martyred 310)
 - Helena, Constantine's mother (4th c)
 - Monica, Augustine's mother (4th c)
 - Brigida of Kildare (5th c)

Christian Women

- The Church in Rome banned polygamy in order to conform to the Graeco-Roman culture
 - St Augustine, "Now indeed in our time, and in keeping with Roman custom, it is no longer allowed to take another wife."

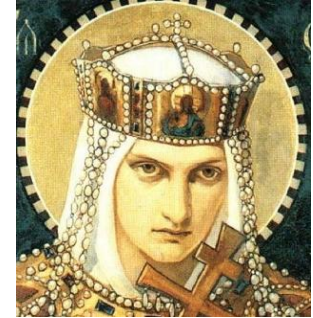


Early Medieval Women

- Boethius' "Consolation of Philosophy" is an imaginary dialogue between himself and philosophy, with philosophy being personified by a woman (the female figure of wisdom)

Early Medieval Women

- Olga of Kiev (945-962)



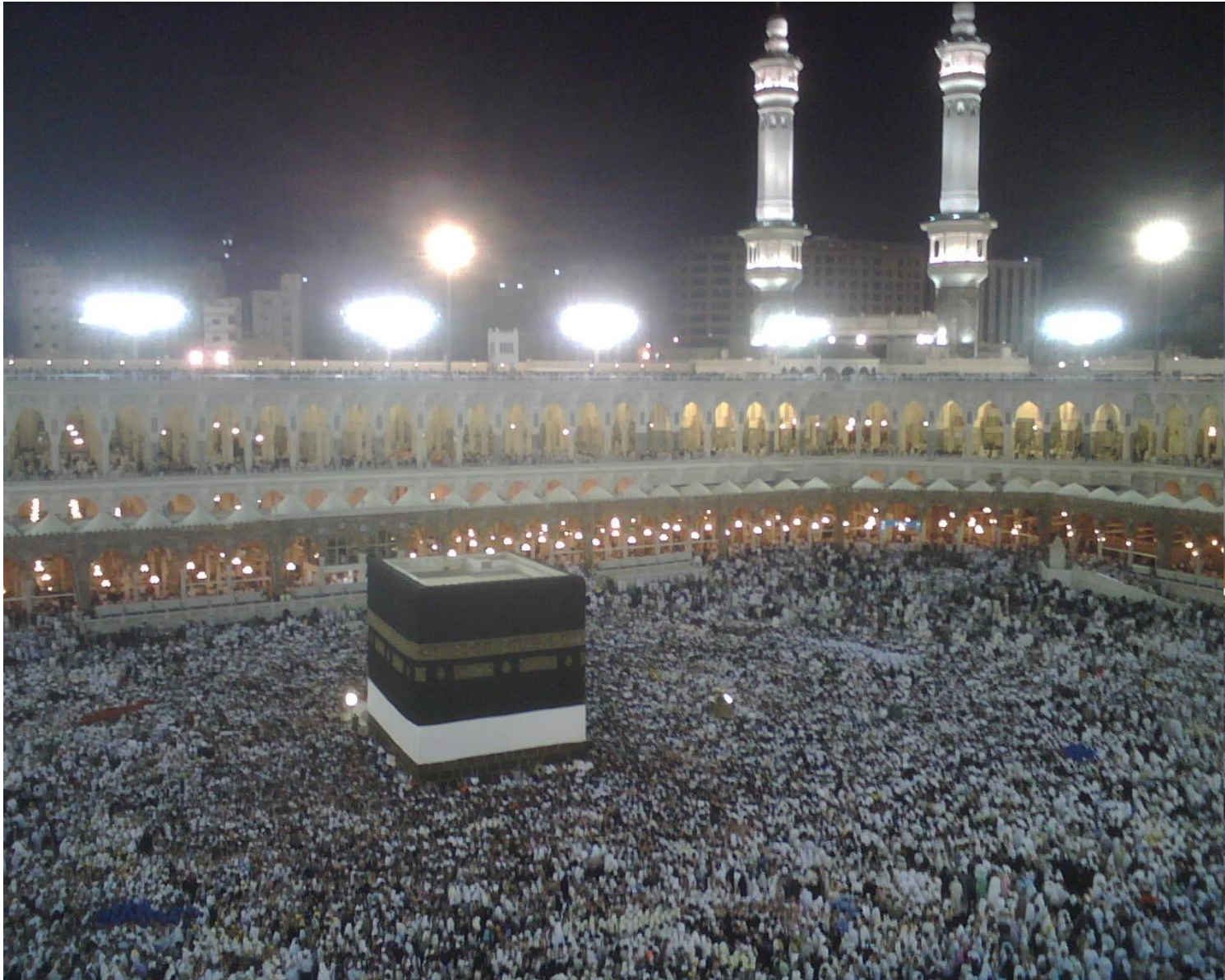
Early Medieval Women

- Myth
 - Ireland: "The Pursuit of Diarmada and Ghrainne" (11##)
 - Iceland: Brynhild in "Volsunga Saga" (129#)
 - Iceland: unhappily married women of "The People of Laxardal" (125#)
 - Iceland: Hallgerd in "Njal's Saga" (128#)
 - Norway: "Tristram and Isond" (122#)

Early Medieval Women

- Fiction:
 - Eustathios Makrembolites (11##): "Ysmine and Ysminias" (11##)
 - Konstantinos Manasses (11##): "Aristandros and Kallithea" (11##)
 - "Kallimachos and Chrysorrhoe" (13##)
 - Guivenere in "Lancelot do Lac" (121#) and Arthurian cycle
 - Isond in "Prose Tristan" (1230)
 - "The Story of King Florus and of the Fair Jehane" (120#)
 - Jean d'Arras (14##): "The Book of Melusine" (1393)

Women in Arabia



Women in pre-Islamic Arabia

- Matrilineality in pre-Islamic Arabia
 - Amirites of Yemen
 - Nabateans in Northern Arabia
- Allat, Manat, and al-‘Uzza
- Muhammad's first wife: Khadijah, a successful businesswoman

Women in Islam

- Al-Khansa: 6th c Arab poetess, specializing in funeral elegies
- Shahrazad protagonist/narrator of “Thousand and One Nights”
- Allah’s wife and two daughters in Mecca

Women in Islam



- From the Quran:
 - Men are allowed to marry up to four wives and to sleep with their slave maids and keep as many captive women as they like (4:3)
 - Women cannot enter a tribunal (2:282)
- Mohammed married at least 9 women and up to 25
- After a “revelation” from Allah, Mohammed forced Zeinab, his cousin, to divorce her husband Zeid, his adopted son, and then married her
- In 624 Mohammed (then 54) was engaged to the six-year old daughter of Abu Bakr and married her when she was nine

Women in the Islamic world

- Islamic strategy to subdue women
 - Role of women embodied in Islam
 - Make women faithful Muslims

Women in the Islamic world

- Rabi'a Al Dawiyya (717 AD, pre-sufist)
 - Slave-girl
 - Extinction of the ego in mystical unity with God
 - Trust in God, and acceptance of his will (“rida”), is the only attitude that makes sense
 - Fear of punishment or hope of reward are meaningless
 - “Sidq”: sincerity of love (love God not because of Paradise/Hell but only because of sincere love)
 - “I am too busy loving God to find any time to hate Satan”

Women in the Islamic world

- **Fatima al-Fihri**
 - **Founded the first university: University of al-Qarawiyyin or al-Karaouine in Fes, Morocco (859 AD)**

Women in the Islamic world

- Walladah Bint Mustakfi (11th c): poetess, daughter of the caliph of Cordoba, Spain
- Asma (11th c), wife of Ali al-Sulayhi, founder of Fatimid rule in Yemen
- Arwa (11th c), queen of Yemen, daughter-in-law of Asma
- 'A'ishah al-Ba'uniyyah (Syria, 16th c) , sufi philosopher

Women in the Far East



Women in the Far East

- Politics
 - Empress Wu Zetian, China (Tang dynasty)
 - Empress Koten of Japan (749-770)
 - Lady Murasaki Shikibu, Japan (Heian period)
 - Queen Sondok (or Sonduk), Korea (Silla dynasty)

Women in the Far East

- Arts
 - Poetess Li Qingzhao, China (Song dynasty)
- Women in male literature
 - "Ochikubo Monogatari/ Lady Ochikubo" (Japan, 98#)

Women in the Far East

- Japanese female writers
 - Murasaki Shikibu, Japan: "Genji Monogatari" (1010)
 - "Kagero Nikki/ Gossamer Years" (Japan, 99#)
 - Izumi Shikibu (Japan, 974): "Poems" (100#)
 - Murasaki Shikibu (Japan, 973): "Genji Monogatari" (100#)
 - Most of the hundreds of monogatari written in the following centuries
 - Lady Sarashina (Japan, 1003): "Sarashina Nikki" (106#)
 - "Hamamatsu Chunagon Monogatari" (Japan, 107#)
 - "Yoru no Nezame/ Tale of Nezame" (Japan, 108#)

Women in India

- Mahabharata and the Ramayana (400 BC - 400 AD)
 - Progressive integration of goddesses into the Hindu pantheon
 - The goddesses are mythological not metaphysical figures
 - Mostly wives of the male gods

Women in India

- Puranas (400 AD)
 - Shakti theology (the “Devi Gita” of the “Devi-Bhagavata Purana”)
 - Female mythology mutates into female metaphysics
 - A single great goddess, who includes within her self other forms of the goddess
 - Independent of male gods
 - Subsuming the roles of creator, maintainer and destroyer, normally associated with Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva respectively
 - The feminine power (shakti) as the energy which empowers the deity
 - Mahavidyas goddesses that represent different aspects of Devi

Women in India

- Devi-Mahatmya, chapters 81-93 of the Markendeya Purana (6th c AD)
 - Three stories illustrating the greatness of the goddess
 - Devi is referred to as both the creator and the destroyer
 - Devi interacts with Brahma and empowers Vishnu to slay the demons
 - Devi is formed as a powerful warrior by the combined mental power of Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma to fight a demon

Women in India

- Devi
 - The “Goddess”
 - The prime mover, who commands the male gods to do the work of creation and destruction
 - Durga, slayer of demons
 - Kali, goddess of death
 - Shakti, the female power
 - Lakshmi, the wife of Vishnu
 - Parvati, the wife of Shiva (daughter of the Himalayas)
 - Uma, the mother
 - Violent and erotic: Kali, Tara, Bhairavi, Chinamasta
 - Domestic: Laksmi, Sita, Sarasvati, Tripurasundari

Women in India

- Tantrism (10th-14th c AD)
 - Female-centered sex-worship
 - Adoration of the lingam-yoni, sign of the male and female principles in conjunction (the god Shiva and the goddess Kali)
 - Woman possesses more spiritual energy than man
 - Man can achieve unity with the divinity through sexual union with a woman
 - Goal: to imitate Shiva, the god in perpetual union with the goddess

Women in India

- Akka Mahadevi (Karnataka, 12th c), philosopher of the Virasaiva movement (female equality)

Women in the West

- Three ages from the Medieval to Digital times
 - Age of cooperation: the wife and the husband work together out of a home-work unit
 - Age of discrimination: only the husband is allowed to “work” (outside the home) while the wife is restricted to the home
 - Age of imitation: the wife works like the husband outside the home

Women in Medieval Europe

- Medieval dresses

Italy, 14th c



Europe, 15th c



Women in Medieval Europe

- Powerful women
 - Theodora, empress of Byzantium who restored the icons (843)
 - Adelaide of Burgundy, empress of Ottonian empire (962)
 - Zoe, (1045-1055) - empress of Byzantium
 - Eleanor of Aquitaine, queen of England and of France, 1122-1202
 - Anna Comnena, Byzantine historian (12th c)



Women in Medieval Europe

- Powerful women
 - Razia Sultana of Delhi Sultanate, the first Muslim ruler (1236-1240)
 - Shagrat al-Durr, sultan of Egypt (1250)

Women in Medieval Europe

- Powerful women
 - Dorotea Bocchi takes the chair of medicine at the University of Bologna (1390)
 - Denmark, Sweden, and Norway are united under Queen Margrete I (1397)
 - Joan of Arc, leader of the French resistance against the British (1412-31)
 - Isabella I of Castilla, queen of Spain (1451-1504)
 - Margaret of Anjou (War of the Roses, Queen of England 1445-61)
 - Jane Shore (concubine of Edward IV)



Women in Medieval Europe

- Early Medieval times
 - Sexual ethics based on procreation, not pleasure
 - Little emphasis on chastity or modesty
 - Brothels run or authorized by the city hall

Women in Medieval Europe

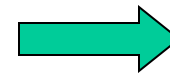
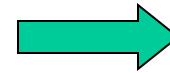
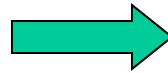
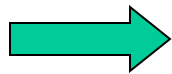
- Changing sexual habits
 - Bisexuality repressed
 - Sexual abstinence the chief distinguishing feature of the clergy
 - Marriage as an indissoluble sacrament of faith
 - Love separate from marriage
 - Marriage defines the place of a woman in society

Women in Medieval Europe

- **The image of woman**
 - **Eve is not a saint**
 - **Angels are male (in theory sexless)**
 - **Very few female saints until 13th c**

Women in Medieval Europe

- The image of woman
 - Eve as the ultimate sinner, and all women inherit her sin
 - Virgin Mary as the ultimate good, the highest possible state of humanity, as close as possible to divine
 - All women are between Eve and the Virgin Mary
 - Mary Magdalene as the typical Eve on her way to becoming a Virgin Mary
 - Nuns as imitations of the Virgin Mary



Women in Medieval Europe

- Jobs
 - Equal opportunity employment
 - Farming: 50% of chores
 - Textile: 50% of chores
 - Handicraft: 50% of chores
 - Local trade: 50% of chores
 - Only long-distance commerce was mostly male



Women in Medieval Europe

- Jobs
 - Cooperative home-based workplace
 - Farming
 - Weaving, spinning, yarn preparation
 - Etc
 - Production and reproduction are complementary
 - The workplace “is” the home

Women in Medieval Europe

- Literacy
 - Women are as literate as men, perhaps more
 - Germany:
 - Hrotsvitha/Rosvita von Gandersheim (93#)
 - Hildegard of Bingen (1098)
 - France:
 - Heloise (1101, mathematician and physician)
 - Christine de Pisan (1364)
 - Sweden: Bridget's "Visions" (1373)
 - Holland: Gertrude van der Oosten's "Het Daghet in den Oosten/ Day Breaketh in the East" (135#)

Women in Medieval Europe

- Literacy
 - Italy:
 - Abella (physician),
 - Bettina d'Andrea (lawyer),
 - Novella d'Andrea (lawyer),
 - Dorotea Bocchi (professor of medicine),
 - Constanza Calenda (eye surgeon),
 - Calrice di Durisio (physician),
 - Jacobina Felicie (physician),
 - Alessandra Giliani (anatomist),
 - Rebecca de Guarna (physician),
 - Maria Incarnata (surgeon),
 - Thomasia de Mattio (physician),
 - Mercuriade (surgeon),
 - Trotula di Salerno (physician), ...

Women in Medieval Europe

- Science
 - Women are not allowed in the clergy.
 - The reforms of Charlemagne and Gregory VII assign higher education to the clergy.
 - The official language of higher education is Latin, a dead language not used by ordinary people
 - Therefore women are excluded from higher education and even from its language (Latin)



Women in Medieval Europe

- Convent life
 - Beguines
 - Cistercians, Franciscans, Dominicans spin off religious orders and convents for women only
 - 1350: more than 3,000 nuns in England
 - Nuns more cultivated than other women and even of men
 - The convent is the place where a woman is allowed to be as erudite and intelligent as a man

Women in Medieval Europe

- Love
 - Idealized (Platonic) love
 - Spiritual element
 - Allegorical element
 - Conventions of love discourse and behavior

Women in Medieval Europe

- Amour courtois
 - How love for God turned into love for the woman (similarity with the transition from gospel music to soul music)
 - Love of the Virgin Mary
 - Love-based ethics of the knights
 - San Franciscan love of the world
 - Love as the main force of the world
 - Love as the meaning of life
 - Note: most often love between knight and mistress, but not between husband and wife

Women in Medieval Europe

- Chivalry (12th-14th c)
 - Courtly love: devotion to a lady (mostly adulterous love)
 - Knights embrace poetry and music to romance their lady
 - Heroism and Love
 - Asceticism and Eroticism
 - Tournaments as proof of valor and devotion

Women in Medieval Europe

- Spiritual love and physical love
 - Chrétien de Troyes' Guinevere
 - Robin and Marion
 - Dante's Beatrice (female figure of wisdom)
 - Petrarca's Laura
 - Geoffrey Chaucer's Lady Nature in "The Parliament of Fowls" (female figure of wisdom)
 - Chaucer's "Wife of Bath" (1400)
 - Many female protagonists of tales, romances, poems

Women in Medieval Europe

- Spiritual love and physical love
 - Boccaccio
 - “Decameron” (1353): dedicated to women for the purpose of entertain them because they are being wrongfully neglected
 - “De Claribus Mulieribus” (1374): a collection of lives of the most famous women from ancient times to Middle Ages (parallel to Petrarch's book on the most illustrious men)
 - Elegia di Madonna Fiammetta

Women in Medieval Europe

- Virginitiy
 - Most popular woman in the Western world: the Virgin Mary
 - Most respected women in Western history up until the French revolution: the Christian virgin martyrs
 - The reproductive role of women symbolizes slavery, while virginity represents freedom
 - Ancient belief that virgins mediate between the natural and the supernatural
 - The first feminist heroines were virgins



Cimabue 98

Women in Medieval Europe

- Virginitv
 - Spiritual movements led by women: e.g., Caterina da Siena (14th c)

Women in Medieval Europe

- Syphilis (1490s)
 - Sex = sin

Women in Medieval Europe

- Marriage
 - Britain in 15th/16th century
 - Girls can marry at 12 and boys at 14 (even without parents' consent)
 - Love marriages are the exception not the norm
 - Divorce is forbidden
 - Adultery is widespread
 - Very promiscuous age

Women in Medieval Europe

- Witch Hunts
 - While Christianity competed with Pagan religion, **priests had to compete with witches in supernatural powers**
 - 9th c: Saint Boniface curses the belief in witches as pagan superstition; emperor Charlemagne decrees that the burning of witches is illegal
 - Identification of witchcraft with heresy
 - Mass persecutions encouraged by the Church

Women in Medieval Europe

- Witch Hunts
 - First mass trial of witches: 1397-1406 at Boltinger (Switzerland)
 - 1428: France
 - Papal Bull of 1484 “Summis desiderantes”
 - Heinrich Institoris’ “Malleus Maleficarum” (1486), antifeminine ideology linking witchcraft and women

Women in Medieval Europe

- Prostitution
 - Prostitution viewed as a lesser evil than rape or adultery
 - Prostitution as a bulwark of marriage
 - Venezia/Venice, 1526: 4,900 prostitutes out of 55,000 people
 - Firenze and Venezia: red-light districts (Mercato Vecchio and Rialto)
 - City-controlled brothels: Munich (1433), Strasbourg (1469), Sevilla (1469)

Women in Medieval Europe

- Women in male literature
 - Francois Villon's "Ballades de Dames du Temps Jadis" (146#)

Women in Medieval Europe

- Women in painting

Cimabue



Painting of the Virgin Mary,
Monastery of Jasna Gora,
Czestochowa, Poland,
Byzantium 6th to 9th c

Duccio



Women in Medieval Europe

- Women in painting

Jan van Eyck

Piero della Francesca



Medieval Japan



Medieval Japan

- **Ancient times: Japanese society ordered largely according to **matrilineal lines****
- **15th c Japan: **the samurai ethos, Confucian influence and Zen Buddhism create discrimination towards women****
 - **Samurai: a male-only profession**
 - **Confucianism: a woman's duty towards her father, her husband and her son**
 - **Buddhism: salvation is not possible for women**

Piero Scaruffi

www.scaruffi.com

- A Herstory of Women:
 - Part 1: Prehistory and Early History
 - Part 2: From Greece to the Middle Ages
 - Part 3: Renaissance and Enlightenment
 - Part 4: 20th and 21st centuries

Piero Scaruffi

www.scaruffi.com

Thinking about Thought

the structure of life and the meaning of matter

BRAIN

Volume 1
in the "Thinking about Thought" series

piero scaruffi

Thinking about Thought

the structure of life and the meaning of matter

LIFE

Volume 2
in the "Thinking about Thought" series

piero scaruffi

A History of Rock and Dance Music

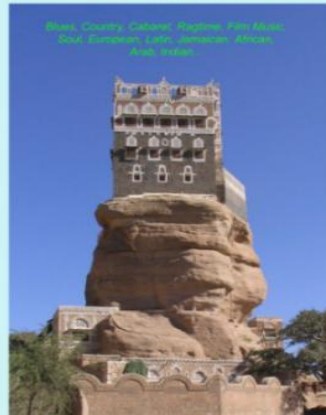
From the Guitar to the Laptop
From Chicago to Shanghai

Volume 1 (1951-1989)

piero scaruffi

**A History of Popular Music
Before Rock Music**

Black Country, Cabaret, Ragtime, Hill Music,
Soul, European, Latin, American, African,
Arab, Indian...



**Intelligence
is not Artificial**



*Why the Singularity is not coming
any time soon and other Meditations
on the Post-Human Condition
and the Future of Intelligence*

piero scaruffi

A Brief History of Knowledge

from 3000 BC to 2001 AD



piero scaruffi

**A History of Jazz Music
1900-2000**



piero scaruffi

**A Visual History
of the Visual Arts**



piero scaruffi

Synthesis

Essays, Photographs, Poems



piero scaruffi

Piero Scaruffi

**A History of
Silicon Valley
1900-2015**

Almost a third edition! 2015 update