

Contents

Acknowledgements IX

List of Figures XI

Introduction. Preceding the Ascetic Type: Earliest Images of the Virgin Annunciate Spinning 1

- 1 The *Protevangelium of James*: A Contemporary Apocryphum 3
- 2 Methodological Considerations 8
- 3 Patristic Considerations 9

1 The Roots and Precedents: *Lanam Fecit* 14

- 1 Catacombs of Priscilla, Cubiculum P—the First Annunciation 17
 - 1.1 *Ancient Goddesses from Eastern Mesopotamia and Egypt* 25
 - 1.2 *Greek and Roman Goddesses* 27
- 2 Spinning and Roman Public Display: Minerva and Domitian's Forum Transitorium 33
- 3 Spinning in Legend 39
 - 3.1 *Helen of Troy* 40
 - 3.2 *Penelope* 42
 - 3.3 *Arete* 43
 - 3.4 *Lucretia* 43
- 4 Spinning Iconography amongst Elites and Non-elites in Roman Society 46
 - 4.1 *Livia Drusilla, an Elite Model* 46
 - 4.2 *Spinning in Non-elite Practice: Spinning, Marriage, and Roman Continuity* 47
- 5 The Attributes of Virtue: Spinning in Proverbs and the Jewish Tradition 53
- 6 Conclusions 58

2 The Maiden 61

- 1 The Domestic Cult of Mary: *Imitatio Mariae* and Spinning a Sacred Conversation 61
- 2 Mary the Maiden 62
- 3 Annunciation Iconography and the Domestic Cult of Mary 65
- 4 Maiden's Tools: Sacred, Profane, Mundane 70
- 5 The Maiden Imaged as the Ascetic 73
- 6 Marian Devotion as Counter-ascetic 81

- 7 Proclus and the Constantinopolitan Tradition of *Imitatio Mariae* 90
 7.1 *Proclus and the Empress Pulcheria* 93
- 8 *Imitatio Mariae* and the Syriac Tradition of the Domestic Annunciation 96
- 9 Conclusions: Work as a Sacred Conversation and a Life Pleasing to God 100
- 3 The Matron** 102
- 1 Marriage Art and Marriage Rings 104
- 2 The Annunciation as Privileged Iconography: Ring Descriptions 106
- 3 The Fifth-Century Legal Context and Family Life 113
- 4 The Paraphernalia of Married Fertility and Early Church Councils 116
- 5 Children, "An Inheritance of the Lord" 124
- 6 Conclusions 128
- 4 The Household** 130
- 1 Women in Purple: Privileged Patronage 132
- 1.1 *HELENA MATER* 133
- 1.2 *Aelia Flavia Flaccilla* 135
- 1.3 *Galla Placidia* 135
- 1.4 *Eudoxia* 136
- 1.5 *Pulcheria* 136
- 1.6 *Athenais Eudocia* 137
- 1.7 *Anicia Juliana* 137
- 2 Women in Linen and Wool: Domestic Piety and Patronage 138
- 3 Late Antique Textiles and the Domestic Sphere 155
- 4 Textile Patronage in Panopolis 162
- 5 The Abegg-Stiftung Mary Silk 164
- 6 A Linen Burial Cloth from the Victoria and Albert Museum 169
- 7 Later Comparative Textiles 172
- 8 Burial Garments and the Threshold of Death 178
- 9 Conclusions 180
- 5 Memorial** 182
- 1 Comparisons from the Grave: Other Roman Catacombs 184
- 2 The Pignatta Sarcophagus 188
- 2.1 *The Sarcophagus in Detail* 192
- 3 Patristics in Ravenna 201
- 4 Attitudes toward Death and Salvation 202

- 5 Phrygian Tombstones 205
- 6 Conclusions 210

Conclusion. The Virgin Annunciate Spinning: A Matronly Model, “In Whom All Opposites are Reconciled” 212

- 1 Santa Maria Maggiore 213
- 2 Final Thoughts 217

Bibliography 221

Index 235