

Class 7b

DYING FOR A LIFE: MARTYRDOM & GENDER

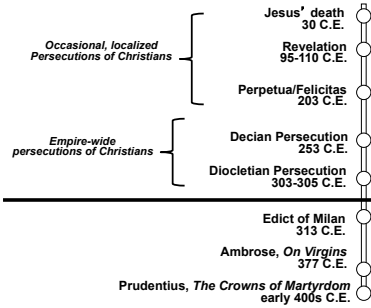
Outline

- Chronology of Martyrdom
- The Spectacle of Martyrdom
 - Types of spectacle
 - Archaeological evidence
- The Pierced Lamb of Revelation
- Dying for a Life: Gendering the Female Martyrs
 - Research Cluster presentations
 - Perpetua and Felicitas
 - Agnes in Ambrose and Prudentius' Accounts
 - Comparing the treatment of male and female martyrs

CHRONOLOGY OF MARTYRDOM



Chronology of Martyrdom



THE SPECTACLE OF MARTYRDOM

The Spectacle of Martyrdom

Types of Spectacle

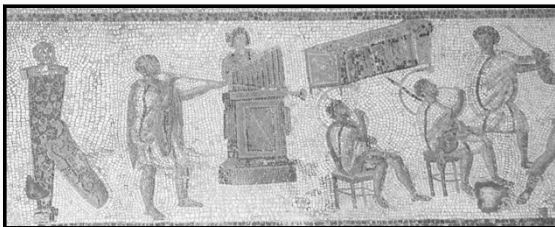
- Gladiatorial combat*
- Reenactments of famous naval battles*
- Venationes* – combats between beasts or between gladiators and beasts
- Mythological Reenactments* – Greek, Roman, or Egyptian myths familiar to the audience would be played out on stage
- Crucifixions, burnings, beheadings, etc.*



Exterior of Flavian Amphitheater, Rome



Interior of Flavian Amphitheater, Rome



Villa Di Dar Buc Ammera



Piazza Armerina, Sicily



Piazza Armerina, Sicily



Piazza Armerina, Sicily



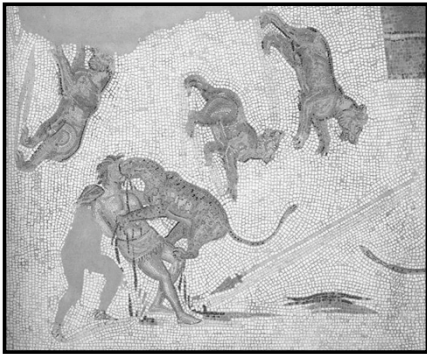
Piazza Armerina, Sicily



Villa Di Dar Buc Ammera



Villa Di Dar Buc Ammera



Domus Sollertiana, El Djem, Tunisia



Domus Sollertiana, El Djem, Tunisia



THE PIERCED LAMB OF REVELATION: VICTIM OR VICTOR?

The Pierced Lamb of Revelation Victim or Victor?

Frilingos' thesis: Revelation's spectacular, gruesome and graphic visions of the destruction of the Roman world and the triumph of the "new Jerusalem" mimic and thereby contest Rome's entertaining and gruesome demonstrations of power in its public spectacles (in which Christians were sometimes targets).

Revelation 11:1-2 – The two witnesses and the *venationes*

Revelation 13:1-18 – The beasts of sea and land vs. the Lamb

Revelation 17:1-18:24 – The death and cannibalization of whore Babylon

Revelation 19 – The great multitude in heaven

Revelation 13:1-18

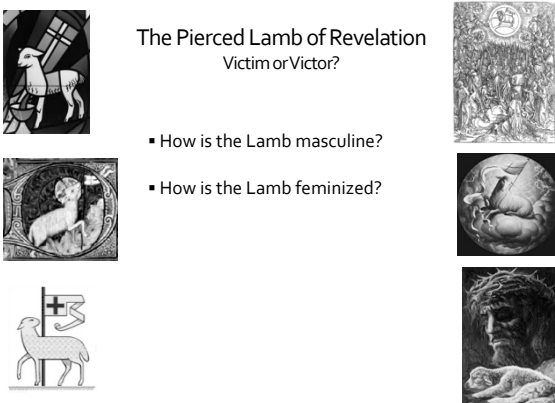
¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. ²And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of its heads seemed to have received a death-blow, but its mortal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. ⁴They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" ⁵The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

Revelation 5:6, 9-13

- ⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.... ⁹ They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."
¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"
¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

The Pierced Lamb of Revelation
Victim or Victor?

- How is the Lamb masculine?
- How is the Lamb feminized?



**DYING FOR A LIVE:
GENDERING THE FEMALE MARTYRS**

Research Cluster Presentations

Martyrdom in Carthage & Rome



Gendering the Female Martyrs

Perpetua and Felicitas



How do Perpetua and Felicitas go to their deaths as men? As women?

Is Perpetua's father portrayed as a man or as a woman?

Are the Roman executioners masculinized or feminized?



Gendering the Female Martyrs

Agnes in Ambrose and Prudentius' Accounts

How does Agnes go to her death as a man?

How is this teenage virgin's martyrdom account eroticized by Ambrose and Prudentius?

If these accounts celebrate virginity, why are they so erotic? What functions does that serve?

Gendering the Martyrs

Comparing the Treatment of Male and Female Martyrs



How is Jesus threatened?
How is his victory demonstrated and gendered?
What purpose might this serve?

*Are there similarities?
differences?*

How are the women martyrs threatened?
How is their victory measured and gendered?
What purposes might this serve?