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## A study of Aphrodite in Greek sculpture

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A study of "aphrodite"

in Greek Sculpture.

Jessie Christian Brown  
June, 1900.

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Personal Observation and Notes Made in

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3. München - Glyptothek.
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5. London - British Museum.

(1)

## A Study of "Aphrodite" in Greek Sculpture.

Though Aphrodite is regarded in Greek mythology as one of the ten great divinities of Olympus, she is most probably not Hellenic in origin. She was not associated with any of the legendary families of Greece: her favorites were non-Hellenic, and more or less Asiatic in origin; her connection with Cyprus, - her sea-foam birth on the island and her name Kupris, - has been thought by many to indicate that her worship was based upon that of the Phoenician Astarte, goddess of the hearth, since the worship of Aphrodite Urania flourished in those parts of Greece where Phoenician influence was strongest. In earlier times she was worshipped as the spirit of love which brings all phases of life into one harmonious whole; in later times she became the patroness of sensual indulgence, the protectress of prostitutes. She was also a goddess of victory, equipped with the weapons of war. She was worshipped as a soothing influence on the sea, with the name θύειδα.

In the Spring were her principal festivals, where the Graces and the Seasons accompanied her. She was the

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goddess of physical beauty, the mother of Eros, the wife of Hephaestos. She inspired love for herself, as in the cases of Anchises and Pygmalion; or she herself loved mortals, as Adonis and Cinyras, the founder of her worship in Cyprus; or she caused passion between mortals, as Paris and Helen, Phaon and the Lesbian women.

The chief seats of her worship were Cyprus, Cythera, Cnidos, Paphos, Corinth, Rhodes, Sicily and Athens. At Cythera she appeared as an armed goddess. In Paphos, the oldest seat of her worship, she was worshipped under the image of a ball or pyramid surrounded by blazing torches. Her chief symbols were the tortoise, swan, goat, don, dolphin and hare.

The Roman goddess Venus became associated with Aphrodite of Greek worship after the time of the kings, having been introduced from Lavinium, Aedes and Sabine where she was connected with the advent of Aeneas into Italy.

In Greek sculpture, (supposed) statues of Aphrodite appear in the first half of the archaic period and continue with increasing frequency until late Roman sculpture, where her statues are merely portraits of some Roman lady of the court. The following types are

found; (1) the draped type, (2) the half-draped type, (3) nude, (4) armed, (5) sitting, each with various modifications, (6) heads.

### I. Draped Statues.

1. "Aphrodite with the dor", Museum of Lyons, (see Colignon I, 190). Figure discovered at Marseilles, belongs to first half of archaic period, 660-550 B.C. Undoubtedly of the Sorian school, analogous in type to the "Dorian statues". Lower half of body missing; body, arms, head heavy and ungraceful, left arm gone, right elbow curved, hand resting at waist line, supporting a dor. Broad face, archaic smile, prominent cheek bones, hair arranged in flat curls around forehead, falls in curls over shoulders, three on each side; low, plain crown; chiton crosses left shoulder, right shoulder and breast bare; folds of chiton thick and flat, arranged with mathematical precision. Interesting because of date and dor, though ugly.

2. Figure found on Acropolis of Athens. (Gardiner I, 105). Lower half of body, left arm, half of right missing; left hand held closely to breast, holding apple? (Some interpret as Persephone with pomegranate.) Body thin, waist small, thick neck, heavy jaw, flat features; hair marked on forehead by wavy lines, block on hind. Chiton folds faintly marked. Probably belongs to Samian school.

3. Relief on a small altar in alcove, National Museum. Of special interest because it is believed to be a copy of the Aphrodite Sozandra of Attic sculptor Calamis, in the first half of 5<sup>th</sup> century. (Omn. p. 1, 279) Gardner I, 236, opposes this theory. Lucian said that his ideal statue (mag. vi) should have the modest courtesy, noble unconscious smile of the Sozandra, and her drapery, save that her hair should be uncoined. In this relief figure is full front, head turned to right. Thin drapery showing outlines of figure. Features obliterated, hair in long curls, head half covered with thin veil, left hand holding a fold of the veil.

4. Knus Genetrix found at Trepis, now in Louvre, attributed by Collignon II, 118, 120 to Alcamenes, pupil of Phidias, and by Gardner II 506 to Aresilas who lived middle of 1st century B.C. Alcamenes most famous work was the "Aphrodite of the Gardens" said by some to have had the finishing touches from Phidias' own hand; reckoned by the ancients as one of the most beautiful statues in the world. Lucian takes from it the "round of the cheeks" and the hands. This so-called Knus Genetrix was found about the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. She stands, holding in her left hand an apple and catching in her right hand a fold of the garment above her right shoulder. End of garment wrapped about left arm.

Long tunic with out sleeves or belt slips from left shoulder leaning left breast bare, small folds of thin material follow lines of body and limbs; right leg slightly bent, resting on ball of foot. Face round, delicate colour, hair in small curls over forehead and temples and parted down middle. Expression sweet and gentle, eyes bent in worry, lips half smiling. Statue a remarkable study in drapery. For this reason Collignon deems it to "These Tates" or Victory untiring her scandal. Gardner recalls series of Imperial coins having similar figure which was designed for the Forum of Julius Caesar, and compares it with "Electra" known to by by Pasiteles, contemporary of Arcesilaus. Hair archaic, proof of early origin (?)

#### 5. Statue in Berlin Museum. Collignon II, 135. Draped torso.

Left leg bent at knee, foot resting on rather high support. Upper part of body in Doric Chiton, slightly slipping off left shoulder, down left arm, which is bent at elbow. Limbs clothed in heavy clinging drapery, second garment folded over upraised left thigh. Krucke restores it with goose under foot, don in right hand, leans left leaning on an archaic idol. Collignon compares its size and drapery with Parthenon figures. Krucke suggests as sculptor Agoracritus, contemporary of Phidias.

#### 6. Statuette from cornets now in Berlin (Körte-Wangler, p 71.)

Copy of Aphrodite Urania of Phidias (?).  
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Goddess leaning upon her own image, drawing veil aside with right hand represented in majestic repose. Both feet fully on ground, but left elegantly advanced. In one hand is small saucer. Drapery full, completely covers body, bracelet on right wrist, face gentle but serious.

7. Statue in the Louvre, considered by Furtwangler,<sup>323</sup> a poor reproduction of a Praxitelean statue, perhaps the one which the people of Kos preferred to a nude figure. Goddess wears long thin chiton girded about hips in Dorian style. Right shoulder lowered slightly, garment slips down shoulder. Leaning attitude characteristic of Praxiteles here retained, right thrown on right leg, left shoulder raised, right hip out. Left hand rests upon head of Eros of Roman origin. Head missing. Drapery very full, arranged in little folds with truthful precision.

8 Statue no. 22, Ephesian Room, British Museum.  
Draped torso from Cyrene. Head gone, arms crossed across front of body, hands laid on abdomen. Thin folds of garment reveal form. Familiar leaning type, probably late work, copy of earlier.

Completely draped figures are rarely found after Phidias. Greater freedom from artistic conventions, sensuous delight in physical perfection took the place of austere majestic representations of the gods. More of the body is allowed to be seen and draped.

9. Furtwängler, 378, 399 - a statue in the Palazzo Valentini, Rome, which Furtwängler assigns to the "generation after Phidias." A figure of rather heavy type; large form, heavy drapery. Body draped with thin chiton which is almost plain across the body and the left leg, but draped in fine folds the length of the right leg. A heavy himation hangs from the shoulders and crosses the thighs from right to left in heavy folds. Face full, eyes turned upward (resembling Monk head), hair thick, parted in the middle, and falling on each shoulder in curls. decidedly matronly type.

10. Statue in Dresden. Furtwängler 382 - Headless figure, left foot resting upon stone - chiton slipping off right shoulder, down right arm, caught with a brooch. Narrow belt below breasts. Loose outer garment hangs over left shoulder passing around figure in the back and crossing unraised left knee. Furtwängler calls this a "late Roman marble variant of the moten of the Melian Aphrodite; in no sense, however, a replica." Also (385, 386) he says "this type had to be used for portraits of Roman ladies, so that a fuller costume was indispensable. All copies when the heads are preserved are Roman portraits."

11. Statue in the Louvre - Escalier Gauche du Dara, No 571. This stately figure is evidently a late copy after Praxiteles' *Genetrix* as the pupils of the eyes are inclined and other traits of late work. One breast is exposed. The hair is rolled on the forehead like the hair of Apollon Belvedere. The eyes are looking upward.

12. Statue in the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. (Duny Vol IV, section II, p 451.) It was discovered in Epidaurus in 1886, and is a very beautiful piece of work. The lower part of the legs and drapery is missing, also the right arm below the elbow, and the surfaces are much mutilated, but the beauty of pose and drapery are still evident. A thin chiton reveals the curves of the upper body, falling low on the right arm and revealing the right breast. On this a himation falls from the left shoulder, covering the entire left side with heavy folds, but falling low on the right thigh. The drapery is exquisitely carved, revealing as it does the bodily forms. On the right shoulder, passing diagonally across <sup>under</sup> the left arm is a strap, tucked at the top of the right arm. Could it have been a sword strap? The face, which is quite mutilated, is grave and tender. The eyes look thoughtfully at some object held in the right hand, very probably a mirror.

The hair wears close to the head and is confined by one fillet. The left hand is raised almost to the shoulder, and <sup>may have</sup> ~~possibly~~ held a ~~toiles~~ article. Still, if the strap were a sword strap, we might restore the figure leaning upon a shield with her right hand and holding a helmet in the left. The statue is a remarkable piece of work. Collignon II, 463 also pictures this statue and calls it "Aphrodite à l'épée," and restores it with both sword and lance. (See discussion of the armed type.)

B. Louvre, Escalier Baudouin du Dan, 276. A small statue, resting her right on her left foot; left hand holds the thick folds of drapery which float out like a shell; right hand back of the head; on top of the head is a roll of hair, and a fillet; eyes wider than usual.  
14. Same, No. 155. This figure holds the drapery in the right hand, the other end of the drapery thrown over left arm. The large folds of the drapery protect a small eros standing at the side of the figure. This statue is interesting on account of the drapery, but inferior in beauty and technique. Both 13 and 14 are evidently of Roman workmanship.

## 4. Half Draped Type.

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The so-called "Knu<sup>s</sup> of Ailes" in the Louvre is assigned by Collignon I, 270 sq. to the period of Praxiteles. "Found at Ailes in 1651, it was restored by the sculptor Gerardon who placed in its left hand a mirror, in the right an apple. One must correct the restoration of the right hand, making it come close to the head, as if the goddess had just completed 'dressing' her hair and were giving a last look to the mirror." In spite of some exaggerated points due to the copyist, Collignon views this as a work after Praxiteles, possibly the "ex-voto" of Thespis, for which Phryne posed. The goddess is nude to the waist, from which fall folds of a garment whose end is wrapped around the left arm. The body is rather flat, the breasts small and youthful. (None, the face is much too old for the bodily forms.) This statue is a new type, a departure from the draped 5th century type. As in the "Gnethix" the artist did not dare, evidently, to unveil the feminine form, so this half veiled figure paves the way for the entirely nude type, in which Praxiteles afterward reached the limit of his excellence. "More audacious, less religious, the art of the 4th century portrays the toilet of Aphrodite," and this "Knu<sup>s</sup> d'Ailes" marks the transition. The face is beautiful,

unconsciously coquettish and rather gay. The hair runs from the part, is bound by two ribbon fillets, and these fillets terminate in two ribbon "sheamers" which fall on either shoulder. This method of arranging the hair is decidedly unique.

2. The "Kneus of Capua" in Naples. (Furtwängler, 385-389) Furtwängler attributes the original of this statue to Scopas, and makes it the original from which all other half-draped types, including the Melos Statue, were copied. The figure rests her left foot on a helmet, resting weight of body on the right leg. A plain garment is wrapped around the lower limbs, slipping far down the right thigh, and high on left side. The body is turned toward the left, in order that the shield which she held might not cover the front of the body. The right shoulder is lowered and the right arm pressed close to the breast because the right hand held the lower edge of the shield. The left arm is raised horizontally, as the left hand held the upper edge of the shield. The head is bent to look into the reflecting surface, and the upper torso is nude, because it is this part of the body that the goddess wishes to see reflected. As the shield was of metal, it has left no trace on the drapery."

The bodily forms are beautifully modelled. (9.) The breasts are small, the head small. The hair parted as usual, is rolled back from the temples and gathered into a small knot rather high upon the head. On the forehead rests a small tiara. The face is gay and amiable, the cheeks round and full, the mouth small, rather pouting. In the absence of <sup>that</sup> gay coquetry, innocent pleasure in their own beauty and grace which distinguishes Praxitelean figures, this statue may be attributed very probably to Scopas.

3. The "Tounley Knas" (Furtwängler 320, 321.) This statue in the British Museum from Ostia, is in close connection with the Knas of Miles. The head is decidedly Praxitelean, probably a later work than the Knas of Miles. The attitude and action are less constrained, the free leg is drawn more back; and above all, the head, which is relatively smaller, is turned toward the free leg and raised, thus destroying all the repose and tranquillity of the earlier statue. The drapery is richer and more agitated, and falls down lower on the one side. The bodily forms are rounder, the chest is no longer so broad and flat, the breasts are larger and closer together, the neck is deeper, the whole figure more massive. The motion was certainly identical with that of the Knas d'Ales, the left hand held up a mirror and the right may have held some

other toilet requisite. The whole conception lacks the dignity and repose of the other statue; this maiden has a questioning, self conscious look, rejoicing in her own beauty she raises the mirror and cares not if her mantle slips a little bit lower. "This figure is very beautiful and gracious, but has no suggestion of power. Furtwängler says "It seems to me that the Phryne by Praxiteles must have looked just like this, - ideally beautiful and noble, yet different enough from a goddess. The statue of Phryne so famous in antiquity was the one at Delphi, much later than the Theopian offering. Was this statue that I imagine was the original of the "Tombly Venus":

<sup>4</sup> The so called "Venus of Melos" in the Louvre (Collection 469 sq. - Furtwängler 367 sq) supposed by almost all critics to be a Venus, in the "Century" Vol I, P. 94, Professor Stillman writes a long article to prove this not a Venus, but a Nike by Scopas, the Nike Apteros of the Acropolis. The consensus of opinion is however that the statue is really an aphrodite. This well known figure greatly resembles the Venus of Capua in arrangement of drapery, pose, grace, beautiful face. Its bodily forms are also very similar. The position of the arms is of course a fruitful source of contention, and cannot be definitely decided; however, the right arm

was pressed closely to the side down to the elbow. Furtwängler 380 proposes a restoration which I think ugly and improbable. Personally, I think the motion is the same as that of the Capuan figure, - holding a shield and viewing her own reflection.) A well known passage in the Argonautica of apollonius (I.742) proves that the shield motion was invented before the middle of the 3rd century B. C." The drapery falls about the hips in almost a horizontal line. This gives the back more slender charm. The face of this Melian Venus is its great charm; calm, almost majestic, yet with kindly eyes and gentle expression; hair parted and waving around the ears till caught in a little knot at the back of the head, from which one lock falls down the neck; the whole head poised beautifully on a straight neck. If, as Furtwängler supposes, the Capuan figure is from the type of Scopas, certainly the Melian is also. The whole figure gives one the impression of maturity, self sufficiency, majesty which is still virginal.

This half draped type became very familiar after the "great period". In all European Museums are numerous copies varying in excellence, of this Aphrodite types. The copyist often changed accessories, changed the pose of the head or legs, but the type remains the same. Gardner II, 484, says that after the fourth century, a sculptor who had not the majesty of Phidias nor the grace of Praxiteles would not dare to represent the goddess nude. From this may we find the drapery getting scantier, the poses more sensuous, until in Roman times the type degenerates greatly in the hands of the copyists. Several famous statues in which the drapery is an interesting study are as follows.

### 5. The "Venus Anadyomene" in the Vatican.

The goddess is here represented as drying her hair. The right arm raised above her head, holds one strand of the waving hair, the other, bent upward at the elbow, holds another portion. This figure is rather matine, more slender at the waist line than the Melian figure. The drapery is gathered rather tightly across the legs and "bunched" below the knees in front. The drapery is gathered at the top into a rosette. The right rests upon the left leg and the knees are shrugged together as if to keep the drapery from falling. The statue still preserves the ideal

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character, but the softness of conception of the masters is absent. (See Baumeister I, 90.)

6. The Venus Urania in Florence (Century Vol I, P. 100.)

This statue shows much the same treatment of drapery as the Anadyomene. The motion is <sup>not</sup> the same, however. Here the goddess is evidently at her toilet, as she seems to be pulling the drapery up over her right hip with the left hand. The right hand is raised to her head as if she were putting the "finishing touch" to her hair. Upon her head she wears a small triad. This statue has dignity and an ideal character. I should place it earlier than the Roman period, when individual characteristics were more marked.

7. The "Venus of the Vatican" (Century I, 100.) decidedly shows degeneration. It is almost sensual. The drapery forms an elaborate background for the beautifully modelled legs. The drapery is fastened around the upper thighs, and floats aside and back in rich folds, leaving almost all the thighs bare. The goddess holds a strand of hair in her up-raised right hand, while in the left hand held in front of the right breast she holds a small vase of perfume or oil. The figure is beautiful as is the face; the latter, however, smiles affectedly and lacks the ideal features.

8. Similar to the latter is Fig 1787 - Escalier Gueche

in the Louvre. This is only the legs<sup>14</sup> and lower torso. The drapery is wound about the waist, falls to feet in back, leaving all of the legs exposed in front. The left hand holds the folds in place. This figure is from Tripolis.\*

2. Small statue No 185. 3rd Graeco-Roman room, British Museum. The figure rests on right leg, left loosely bent at the knee. The Drapery wrapped around right leg from the middle of the thigh and falls in loose folds to the ground, leaving the left leg entirely nude. The face and head are of the Praxitelean type, but the expression is not so sweet. The hair wears two fillets. The arms are probably correctly restored. The left hand is holding the handle of a mirror.

3. Figure in the Louvre, No 154 Mollie Gallié. This figure has the same pose as the Melos, with Roman modifications. The drapery is looser than the Melos. The body is indifferent, but the head is beautiful, with a fillet and a small knot. The drapery rests on a pillar at the left. A small Eros on the pillar looks up at some object the figure holds in her left hand.

\* An interesting figure of this type is found in Duruy vol IV-II. p 503 - called the aphrodite of Syracuse. Head and portion of right arm are missing. This is evidently a late copy, as the bodily forms are quite voluptuous.

## The Nude Type.

There can not be, of course, such variations in the nude type as in the types with drapery. The only variations in different nude figures can be those of attitude and motif. Nude figures of Aphrodite do not appear before the fourth century, although she was doubtless so pictured before that in art. The first rude attempts at sculpture found in the island statuettes, etc., may have frequently represented the goddess; but we can not say positively that this is so.

<sup>I Pausanias</sup> ~~Laccon~~ I, 10, 2, says that on the throne of the statue of Zeus at Olympia, made by Phidias, was a representation of Aphrodite nude, emerging from the waves. But, in general, we may say that the Praxitelean period marks the beginning of the nude Aphrodite-type in sculpture.

I. The Aphrodite of Cnidos must be assigned to the middle period of Praxiteles' art. (see Fig. 322, Gardner 362). The best copy of it is in the Vatican, where it is now disfigured by a bronze drapery. The goddess is represented as preparing for the bath. She is dropping her drapery from her left hand upon a large marble vase, while she leans

to think from the exposure of her own  
 beauty even in the privacy of the bath." This  
 feeling is expressed in every line of face  
 and figure, while she is conscious of her  
 own beauty and delights in it." (G. 362.) The  
 body is soft, yet finely developed, the form  
 slender and rounded. The waist line is  
 high, the breasts close together. The right arm  
 is curved at the elbow, the lower part missing.  
 The head is one of extraordinary beauty, small  
 and turned slightly to the left; the face is  
 raised and the eyes look dreamily forward.  
 "In the expression we can realize what  
 Lucian meant when he spoke of the beautiful  
 line of forehead and brow, and the melting  
 eye full of joy and pleasure." (Gardner 363)  
 The mouth has an expression of serenity, yet  
 is not quite smiling. The texture of the hair  
 is very different from that of the skin; the  
 hair ripples over the ears and is gathered into  
 a small knot just at the nape of the neck.  
 The spirit of the figure is one of innocence  
 and kindness, as far removed from the stern  
 majesty of Phidian figures as from the shap-  
 tuous figures of late copyists. One can readily  
 believe that the Cnidians refused any price  
 rather than part with their goddess.

II. Torso in Naples (Finst. 358) This torso Furtwängler assigns to Euphranor. The head, lower legs and arms are missing. The right breast is upon the right leg, while the body curves toward the left. The breasts are small and far apart, the shoulders broad and rather flat. Compared with the Cnidian figure, this torso's outlines are very inferior. The figure is rather voluptuous, and not quite pleasing.

III. Louvre, Salle X. No 160. A small male torso, very graceful, attitude uncertain, but most probably not entering the bath. This torso is not at all voluptuous, but delicate. It is distinguished by a small twisted collar.

IV. British Museum, <sup>third</sup> ~~Second~~ Greek. Roman Room No 197, is a small torso of unusual pose. The body slopes over, the right arm reaching toward the ground; the left arm is gone. This figure was doubtless entering the bath. The head has been made of another piece and fitted to the neck. The anatomy of this beautiful little figure is perfect.

V. The "Venus de Medici" (Gardner 499) This celebrated figure is in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Praxiteles had represented the goddess as preparing for the bath with a gesture

of almost unconscious modesty. The attitude of the Medici figure is rather that of affected coquetry. The eyes are directed upon a certain spot, doubtless a spectator, of whose gaze she is conscious." It is true that there is not the least unconsciousness in this figure that characterizes the Cnidian figure, yet the Medici statue is very beautiful. The position of the hands is objectionable, but they have been restored, and in the original they may have been otherwise disposed. The hair is "tumbled," and gathered into a small knot, at the back of the goddess is a sporting dolphin, down whose back slides a small Cupid. This figure dates from the Graeco-Roman period and while very finely modeled, shows the deterioration from the lofty spirit of early nude figures. Collignon calls it "the apotheosis of human feminine beauty." Compare Lebrun Octobre '97, VI. The Capitoline Venus in the Capitol in Rome. (See Photographs.) This beautiful figure much resembles the Medici in pose. The body leans forward rather more, but the positions of hands and head are almost the same. Here, too, the goddess is just about to enter the bath. By her side is a tall urn

on which drops a shawl-like drapery. The hair is unusual in arrangement. In front it is parted in the middle and ripples on the ears to the back of the head whence it falls in curls down the shoulder. On the crown of the head is a large roll, wider than the head, crossing the head from one side to the other. The face is decidedly romanesque, with none of the goddess in it. The whole figure is rather mature, and though very nautical, shows evidences of its late origin in its degeneration from the early type.

VII, VIII. Escalier Gauche du Dau, Louvre, 385, 336. Two figures with the same motif as the Capitoline figure, with the hair arranged in the same roll. In both figures the jar is replaced by dolphins. On one of these dolphins an Eros stands on the other an Eros slides down the dolphin's back.

IX. Collignon, II, 585; pictures a nautical and unique statuette in bronze in the British Museum. Unfortunately, much of the body is broken away, but the head youthful and gay, remains intact. The bodily forms are slender and youthful. The right rests upon the right foot, but the left leg, bent at the

knee, is raised high. The upper parts of the body stoop to meet it, and Collignon restores it with the right hand rapidly untying the sandal, while the left arm is thrown up to maintain the equilibrium. The goddess here is doubtless preparing for the bath. There is great beauty and daintiness in the figure, and the head is especially charming.

X. The so-called Equestrian Venus (Collignon II 68). This has been commonly accepted as a Venus, but Collignon does not accept this view. He says perhaps a priestess of Isis. Except for its extreme youth, it has all the characteristics of an Aphrodite, in the familiar attitude of preparation for the bath. Both arms are missing but were probably both raised to the back of the head, where she is twisting her hair into a knot. There is a youthful charm about this figure, and a modest shrinking from the exposure of her figure. By her right side is a vase on which hangs a loose garment. The hair is archaic, arranged in regular flat curls across the forehead and bound with a close fillet. The face is gay and thoughtful. Collignon places the statue late in the Roman period.

From these familiar types many statues have been copied, which may be seen in all the museums of Europe. Praxiteles made his Aphrodites half draped and nude, and accounted for their unripling by representing them at the bath or at the toilet. Later sculptors went further and represented them nude for the sake of nudity. Two instances of this class are as follows.

1. Furtwängler 381. a delicate bronze statuette in Dresden. The goddess leans with her left elbow on a tall pillar. The left hand loosely holds an apple. The upraised right hand holds a lock of hair. There is no conscious modesty, nor yet coquetry. She is calmly nude, and makes no excuses for her nudity. The figure is beautiful and graceful.

2. Collégio II-279. a bronze statuette in the Habich collection, at Cassel. This ugly little figure is evidently a copy of a famous original called the *Pselionumene*. The goddess is evidently fastening a colla about her neck. If one overlooks the ugly features of this little copy, he may see traces of master workmanship.

A natural step from the Aphrodite preparing for the bath is the representation of her in the bath.

## The Bathing Type.

There are few statues that portray the goddess in the bath. Duruy III, 602, pictures a coin of Nikaea bearing upon it the Venus crouching as in the bath. Collignon II, 584 says "Pliny, Nat. Hist. 36, 35 says that Daedalos made a Venus bathing herself." Not the Daedalos of Acrya, pupil of Polyclitos, but a sculptor of Bithynia, created this type. The goddess was represented crouching in the bath, while attendants poured perfume upon her back. Collignon II, 584 portrays one of these figures.

I. The head and arms of this figure are missing. The right knee is lowered, the left raised as the figure slopes low. Collignon calls this a "beautiful marble" and calls attention to the care of its execution; but to the ordinary student, this figure lacks beauty and dignity. There are no fine lines; the figure is ungraceful in pose, and realism is carried too far, for instance in the rolls of flesh across the side and the swelling muscle on the inside of the left thigh. The foot and toes are too prominent. A small hand, probably that of Eros, remains on the back. Collignon restores it with the left hand on the knee, the right to the breast.

In the Salle des Caryatides of the Louvre are two figures of this type, almost exactly alike. (Nos. 1354, 1305.)

In the Salle de Coyzerox, Louvre, is an interesting figure, the torso copied exactly after these figures, the head beautiful, half turned aside, the hands crossed on the breast. This figure is beautiful in itself and modifies the unpleasant impression made by the headless and mutilated figures mentioned.

VI. Hall of the Macks, Vatican - No 427 - is a "crouching Knos" of this type. The head turned toward the right, the arms folded over breast and abdomen.

### The Armed Type.

This type is extremely rare, and very interesting as representing the goddess of war in armor. We know <sup>that</sup> she was worshipped as Aphrodite in Lycosy in the Peloponese from the following references.

Plutarch, Customs of the Lacedaemonians.

Pausanias III - 15, 10. III, 23, 1. III, 17, 5. VIII, 9, 6.

Strabo VIII, 379.

Mackail's Greek Anthology, Section 4, No 39.

She was also worshipped in connection with Ares. - Pausanias I, 8, 4 II, 25, 1.

Apollonius Rhodius, Argonautica I, 742.

I. The aphrodite of Epidaurus - (see P.  
68c. of this thesis) undoubtedly was a  
sword strapped across the right shoulder. This  
would certainly place her in the "armed"  
class, as her beautiful drapery entitles  
her to a place in the study of full draped  
figures.

II. No 370. Escalier Gauche du Dau - a nude  
Aphrodite removing her armor. The goddess here  
has laid aside her helmet, and a small  
boy at her side is trying it on his head. The  
goddess unbuttons the sword strap on her  
right shoulder. This is a beautiful slender  
figure with youthful form and small  
breasts. The face is gay, the hair is  
pinned closely to the head. The best example  
of the armed type I have seen, though  
this is evidently a Roman copy of an earlier  
figure. Compare Baumeister vol I p 623 - also I, 93.

III. Ephesian Room of the British Museum -  
No 21. is an interesting statuette of which  
the head is missing, also left arm. The body  
rests its weight upon the right leg and leans  
against a pedestal on which are parts of  
a drapery, a shield and a spear. The right  
arm is bowed to meet the upraised left  
leg. The hand was probably taking off a

green, while the left arm probably leaned upon the pedestal for support.

The cultus of the armed Venus was, according to Tertius Anger, pre-Dorian. It flourished in mainland Laconia, so that it is not surprising that so few remains of the armed Aphrodite in sculpture are left.

(In the Louvre, in the collection of Roman portrait plaques and busts, is a group of "Mars and Venus", portrayed by a Roman lady and gentleman of high rank. It may argue from this, that they were posing after some famous group.

#### Heads and Busts of Aphrodite.

There are in European museums many han-  
tiful heads, having unmistakable evidence  
of Aphrodite heads. The general features  
which characterize these heads are: (1) oval  
contour, (2) long eyes rather narrowly opened,  
sweet expression of mouth, (4) hair in simple  
hairs, usually bound with a fillet, (5) a head  
rarely set "squarely" on the shoulders, but  
gracefully bent to one side or the other.  
The principal points of difference are  
(1) age, whether youthful or matronly,  
(2) expression, whether smiling or grave,  
dignified or coquettish.

I. Baumeister's Denkmäler, vol II P. 1087.  
 An Aphrodite head from Olympia. This head  
 while not altogether pleasing in some respects,  
 shows advanced progress, evidently made in the  
 beginning of the "great period." The cheeks are very  
 full, the mouth small, the eyes prominent. The  
 full neck is a touch of unexpected realism. The  
 hair is roughly ground. Yet the whole head is  
 important and interesting as an early example of  
 what became the accepted Aphrodite features.

II. Closely allied to the above head in style and  
 appearance is a beautiful but mutilated  
 head from the S. slope of the Acropolis.  
 (Gardner II, 418) Collignon II 248.) This head  
 bears, it seems to me, unmistakable traces of  
 Scopas. The face is simple and oval in form,  
 with a mouth half open, showing the line  
 of the teeth; the eyes are rather wide open,  
 with a passionate expression, set deeply  
 under the brows. The cheek is full and firm.  
 The hair is bounded with a fillet, which  
 does not allow the hair to escape on the  
 forehead, but lets it fall down on the  
 ears. "The inflated nostrils, as well as eyes and  
 mouth, seem to show a passionate nature  
 in repose. True the head is, simplicity and  
 dignity are most impressiv." The whole head

was evidence of master workmanship: <sup>27</sup>  
and, far removed as it is from Praxiteles,  
less closely allied with the Tegean heads  
of Scopas. To him I would attribute this head.

Furtwängler P. 67, 68, figs. 20 B, 21 B. A  
nearly head, whose type Furtwängler attributes  
to Phidias. This head is half of a double  
head in Madrid. The face is turned square  
toward the spectator. The chin is rather  
heavy, the mouth full, the expression grave.  
The fillet allows no hair to escape over the  
forehead, but the curls break out over the  
ears, and fall over the shoulders in archaic  
style, two long thin strands on either shoulder.  
The arrangement of the fillet over the  
forehead gives a severe cast to the face, as  
does here would give a softer line. "This  
we may claim to have recovered an Aphro-  
dite from Phidias. It has the majestic and  
elevated beauty, combined with winning  
qualities of expression; a goddess still,  
not a mortal woman with feelings and  
hopes, as Praxiteles was to conceive her."

I had in the Leomfield Collection (Furtwängler  
33 - 346) which Furtwängler pens to his own  
satisfaction to be an original head by Praxiteles,  
his favorite goddess, and a product of his  
later period. This head is in two pieces and

has originally placed on another statue, possibly of inferior marble. Furt. says, 343, that nothing is worthy to compare with this head except an original such as the "Hermes." The hair is deeply drilled, and has the effect of natural hair, gathered into a small knot just above the neck, and loosely bound with a fillet. "A breakage behind each ear shows perhaps where a ribbon hung down, as in the "Kneus q. Aries." The face is oval, with a "high triangular forehead," an expression of great earnestness, limpid eyes, rounded chin with a dimple. The head is unmistakably Praxitelean, and very "appealingly" beautiful. Furtwängler pronounces it an original by the technical peculiarities of its carving.

V. Furtwängler. P 390, - a head in the Palazzo Caetani, Rome. This head bears traces of both influence of both Scopas and Praxiteles; Scopas, in its strength and gravity, Praxiteles in its grace and earnestness. The hair is pinned closely to the head in the back and confined in front with a plain band. The head greatly resembles the "Kneus of Capua" save that it has far more strength and expression. The eyes are gazing thoughtfully down: hence the upper eyelids are rather prominent."

II. Collignon - II - 477 - A beautiful bronze head  
in the British Museum. (See also Plate XI,  
British N. catalogue) This head was found  
in Armenia, at Erzindjan, and was evidently  
wrenched off a large statue. A hand, hold-  
ing drapery has found with it. The eyes had  
been inlaid with some vitreous material. The  
head is in a broad, noble style, yet wholly  
womanly. The soft hair has been crowned by  
a tiara, and falls in curls down the neck.  
The dilated nostrils, calm features and  
mild expression remind me of a Scopas head.  
The tiny curls on the forehead are unusual.

I do not agree with Collignon as to the "peculiar  
fullness of the cheeks." There is nothing unusual  
about all the head; rather pathos is expressed.  
III. Furtwängler, 393, a head of "rich stony beauty,"  
attached to a Juno in the Capitol, having unmis-  
takable proofs of Aphrodite; a mature face,  
with earnest upraised eyes, beautiful hair,  
noble expression. From a Scopasian original.

IV. Furtwängler, 397, a beautiful head from  
Traalles, in Lygma. This face is very youthful,  
the expression so sweet as to be almost vacant.  
The head is decidedly inclined toward the left.  
The hair is "Hellenistic"; and I do not agree with  
Furtwängler that it is Scopasian in character.

In the British Museum are several beautiful heads; the finest ones as follows: (1) Mausoleum Room, No 11, an aphrodite from the Pontalis collection. This is a broad, noble head, with great suavity of expression. The hair ripples back from the low forehead and is confined in a loose knot. This noble head gives one the same impression as does the Melos figure: repose, dignity, majesty, combined with gentle knightly. (See photograph.)

(2) Ephesian Room, No 29. heroic head with traces of coloring on face and hair; noble type, back of head cut away as if for a helmet.

(3) Second Græco-Roman Room, No 137 - large head, heavy in style; wavy hair brought low over temples, and rags falls down the neck in loose coils.

In the Louvre the following heads are notable. Salle X - no number. A small beautiful head of Parian marble; head bent toward <sup>the left</sup>, end of nose and chin gone. Beautiful hair, arranged like the Cuidos; pensiveness expression, small ears.

Escalier Gauche du Darn - an undoubted Aphrodite head - bust of colored marble, but head made of white marble; expression very sweet; hair arranged in a roll like the Apollo Belvedere.

American Journal of Archaeology Second Series, Vol I, No 3, p. 241 - a beautiful Aphrodite head found at Gorlyná in 1896. This head Praxitelean in style, probably dates from the 4th century. The head is typical, languid turn of neck, half closed eyes, sweet expression. This head comes from Crete, where the English School is making excavations, and is the last addition to the Aphrodite collections.

### Conclusion.

After making this study of Aphrodite types, my conclusion is as follows. Up to the time of Scopas and Praxiteles, the sculptors represented the goddess as majestic and powerful, divine; then the feeling of the artist overcame the religious sentiment, and soft feminine statues representing the fairest types of physical woman were produced. As the public morals declined, and no return was made to previous religious ideals, this latter type prevailed and suffered degeneration in the hands of copyists. In Roman days, the dissolute court women posed as Venus, and these figures lack any element of divinity, and often lack physical perfection. I think there is no doubt, that Aphrodite was the favorite subject of sculpto-

In vase paintings she frequently appears; in reliefs she is met with frequently; and as we have seen, single figures in the round are very numerous, and must have been made in great numbers in the artistic periods of Greece and Rome. This is a significant fact also, that very few of these Aphrodite figures, whether nude or draped, are offensive and sensual; and in almost every case, we may impute the sensuality of those which do offend, to the copyist who catered to a degenerate taste. For the most part, the statues of Aphrodite represent perfect physical types of woman, combined with gentleness, sweetness and innocence; the kindly influences of love and harmony, <sup>tan kwan</sup> embodied in marble or bronze by men of genius and reverence.

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June, 1900.

MA. Thesis

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