



A Course on the Afterlife of Plato's "Symposium"

Author(s): J. H. Leshner

Source: *The Classical Journal*, Oct. - Nov., 2004, Vol. 100, No. 1 (Oct. - Nov., 2004), pp. 75-85

Published by: The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Inc. (CAMWS)

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4133007>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Inc. (CAMWS) is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Classical Journal*

FORUM

A COURSE ON THE AFTERLIFE OF PLATO'S SYMPOSIUM

Plato's *Symposium* is one of the acknowledged classics of ancient Greek literature and philosophy. The dialogue's main topic (the nature of *erôs*—'love' or 'passionate desire'), its obvious literary merit, and the highly original account of love presented in the speech of Socrates, combine to make the *Symposium* one of the best known and most influential of Plato's works. While tracing out all the lines of influence extending forward from the *Symposium* could easily become the work of a lifetime, it may still be useful to explore in a classroom setting the many later echoes of the *Symposium* in European art and ideas. Not only would such a course introduce students to a philosophical and literary masterpiece, it would also acquaint them with some of the milestones in modern European culture. In what follows I describe a set of possible discussion topics and assigned readings¹ based on a recent offering at my own institution.² Each section offers a brief summary of the current consensus on the issues involved together with a list of resources for that topic.

¹ Not all the listed readings were assigned as required texts; some items were included for the use of the students assigned to give a class presentation on that topic. The course requirements were a mid-term exam (on questions relating to the *Symposium*), a class presentation on an agreed-upon topic, and a final exam (in which students were asked to comment on aspects of the afterlife of the *Symposium* as described in the class presentations by their fellow students).

² A freshman honors seminar taught at the University of Maryland in the fall semester of 2000-01 (ARHU 298/HONR 299S: 'The Afterlife of Plato's *Symposium* in Western Art and Ideas'). There was one required text: Plato, *Symposium*, trans. C. Gill (Penguin Classics: London, 1999, \$8.95), and a large body of Xeroxed secondary literature, organized by topic. The seminar met once a week for two and a half hours, with a celebratory dinner at the instructor's house held on November 7th (the date traditionally associated with Plato's birth and death, and the supposed setting for Ficino's *De Amore*). During the 02-03 year the course was repeated as a special topics course at the junior-senior level, cross-listed by the Departments of Philosophy and English. Approximately two dozen students enrolled in each course.

1. Why might Plato want to write a dialogue about a 'drinking party'?

There is reason to believe that the ancient Greek *symposion* served not only as a source of entertainment for aristocratic Greek males but also as an occasion for fostering and cementing personal relationships, a means for imparting moral and civic values to the next generation, and as a venue for the forming of political alliances. Given Plato's interest in achieving educational, moral, and political reforms (as evidenced by his *Republic*), it would be natural for him to want to explore the possible benefits and limitations of this important institution through the creation of a fictional *symposion* attended by some of the most notable personalities of 5th-century Athens.

Attic drinking-vessel, Munich 2646 (from the Perseus Project).

S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth, eds. 'Symposium' and 'Symposium Literature' in *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (Oxford, 1996), 1461.

D. Konstan, *Friendship in the Classical World* (Cambridge, 1997), 44-47.

M. Lang, *Socrates in the Agora* (Princeton, 1978).

P. Pantel, *La cité au banquet* (Paris, 1992), 552-55.

Plato, *Symposium*, trans. C. Gill (Penguin Classics: London, 1999), x-xx and 3-8.

W. Rösler, 'Wine and Truth in the Greek Symposium' in *In Vino Veritas*, ed. O. Murray and M. Tucusan (London, 1995), 106-112.

Xenophanes, Frs. 1, 5, and 22 in J. H. Lesher, *Xenophanes: Fragments* (Toronto, 1992), 10-13, 30-31.

2. What were the various speeches intended to prove?

Differing interpretations have been given of each the seven speeches that make up the dialogue, but some general conclusions can be offered to students as food for thought. It seems clear (at least it did to my students) that the first three speeches are somewhat superficial approaches to the topic. Phaedrus, Pausanias, and Eryximachus all praise the god *Erōs* but from the perspective of their personal interest or expertise—in maintaining a bond of affection and loyalty, in defending the legitimacy of love on the ancient pederastic model (providing an education in moral and civic excellence in return for sexual favors), and in pursuing a scientific understanding of the cosmos. Although none of the first three speeches descends to the level of obvious self-parody, each

clearly displays the personal interests and limitations of its author.

It is also clear that Aristophanes' account of *erôs* as a yearning for reunion with one's 'missing other half' represents a significant improvement over the preceding speeches. At least Aristophanes' account speaks to the question of what *erôs* itself is, and--in acknowledging the sense of yearning and concern felt by one half for its missing partner--acknowledges the psychological or spiritual dimensions of *erôs*. Aristophanes' account strikes a responsive chord in some students in so far as it anticipates the popular belief (as expressed in various teenage romance magazines) that for each person there is only one true match or 'soul-mate'. Like each of its predecessors, Aristophanes' speech seems to reflect its author's particular area of expertise--the professional storyteller tells a charming story about *erôs*. *Pace* Dover, Plato would not have objected to the use of myth as such (indeed he employs mythical accounts in a number of other dialogues). But he probably did believe that no mythical account of *erôs*, however charming, could provide an adequate account of its nature. Agathon's speech displays a similar parochialism--it is a beautiful poet's view of *erôs* as a beautiful poet--and his 'over-the-top' praise of the god reveals the limitation of the encomium format as a means for discovering or expressing the truth.

Socrates' speech, which he claims was taught to him by a priestess named Diotima, represents the high point of the dialogue from both a dramatic and philosophical perspective. Diotima's famous account of an ascent from the lower forms of love (understood as so many different ways of pursuing immortality) up to a supreme form of love that has as its special object the divine 'Beauty Itself' is arguably the fullest expression of Plato's own point of view. Not only does her speech make mention of a 'Platonic Form' of Beauty, it provides an implicit argument for the superiority of the philosophical life: only philosophical *erôs* operates with a clear view of its ultimate object, comprehends in its nature all the other forms of *erôs*, is oriented toward a truly eternal and unchanging good, and provides a reliable basis for imparting virtue to others.

Alcibiades' drunken encomium to Socrates brings the discussion back down to the workings of *erôs* at the lower end of Diotima's ladder, casting some light in the process on the defects in Alcibiades' character, Socrates' strength of mind and character, and on the tension that lies between the pursuit of a philosophical life, and the search for political power and honor.

As the dialogue draws to a close, Socrates is shown trying to convince (the tragic poet) Agathon and (the comic poet) Aristophanes that: 'The same man should be capable of writing both comedy and tragedy, and [that] anyone who is an expert in writing tragedy must also be an expert in writing comedy. (223d) *Prima facie*, it seems likely that *some* significant connection among tragedy, comedy, and *erôs* is being suggested. But precisely what that connection is has proven difficult to say. Some scholars read the remark as a stipulation of the requirements for the poetic art, while others take it as a veiled reference to the dual tragic-comic character of the dialogue itself, and perhaps an implicit suggestion that poetic composition might be enhanced through the provision of a philosophical perspective.

- H. Bacon, 'Socrates Crowned,' *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 35 (1959), 415-430.
- D. Clay, 'The Tragic and Comic Poet of the Symposium' in J. Anton and A. Preus, eds, *Essays in Ancient Greek Philosophy* (Albany, N.Y., 1983), 186-202.
- W. Doniger, *Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India* (Chicago, 1999), 242-59.
- K. Dover, 'Aristophanes' Speech in Plato's *Symposium*,' *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, Vol. 86 (1966); reprinted in K. Dover, *The Greeks and Their Legacy* (Oxford, 1988), 102-14.
- K. Dover, 'Introduction: Homosexuality' in *Plato: Symposium* (Cambridge, 1980), 3-5.
- T. Gould, *Platonic Love* (New York, 1963), Ch. 3.
- D. Gribble, *Alcibiades and Athens: A Study in Literary Presentation* (Oxford, 1999), 241-59.
- D. Konstan, E. Young-Bruhl, 'Eryximachus' Speech in the *Symposium*,' *Apeiron*, Vol. 16 (1982), 40-46.
- A. Nightingale, 'The Folly of Praise: Plato's Critique of Encomiastic Discourse in the *Lysis* and *Symposium*,' *The Classical Quarterly*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (1993), 112-30.
- R. Robinson and J.D. Denniston, 'Plato' in *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (Oxford, 1949), 445-56; reprinted in R. E. Allen, ed., *Studies in Plato's Metaphysics* (London, 1965), 1-12.
- Symposium*, xxiv-xxvi and 21-32, xx-xxiii and 8-21, xxvii-xxxv and 32-50, xxxv-xxxix and 50-64.
- P. von Blanckenhagen, 'Stage and Actors in Plato's *Symposium*,' *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (1992), 51-68.

3. Criticisms of the theory of love presented in the *Symposium*

Plato's account of *erôs* rests in part on the assumption that there is a single and unvarying quality of beauty present (to differing degrees) in all beautiful objects or persons. But the philosopher

Wittgenstein has argued that it is an error to assume that words must possess meaning in so far as they designate a single, unvarying quality present in every instance. It is also quite likely that conceptions of beauty differ significantly across societies and cultures, or among persons of different races and genders. How then, in the face of these considerations, can one defend the view that there must be a single essential nature of beauty, or a Beauty Itself? Moreover, Irving Singer has claimed that Plato gives us no compelling reason to regard the pursuit of wisdom as the most desirable and rewarding way of life; instead, he has simply focused on the particular pursuit he and other philosophers consider the most desirable and rewarding, and urged us all to do likewise. Gregory Vlastos argues that Plato's account of love, although it usefully calls attention to one important enthusiasm--the passionate pursuit of wisdom--fails to do justice to what it means to love a person, i.e: (a) loving the *whole* person, rather than simply his or her admirable qualities, and (b) wishing that person well, *for that person's sake*. Martha Nussbaum maintains that while Plato's portrait of Alcibiades gives us precisely the kind of individual-oriented love Socrates' theory failed to recognize, the dialogue as a whole offers a 'harsh and alarming' vision of the decision a person must make between pursuing philosophy and being fully human. The feminist critic Adriana Cavarero has argued that in Diotima's speech Plato has adopted the female voice and the maternal language of pregnancy and birth as part of a subtle strategy to exclude women from any activity having a spiritual or intellectual dimension.

- A. Cavarero, *In Spite of Plato: A Feminist Rewriting of Ancient Philosophy* (New York, 1995), 91-120.
- P. Brand, 'Beauty Matters,' *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, Vol. 57, No. 1 (1999), 1-10.
- I. Singer, *The Nature of Love: Plato to Luther* (New York, 1966), 66-90.
- M. Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness* (Cambridge, 1986), esp. Ch. 6, 'The speech of Alcibiades: a reading of the *Symposium*', 165-99.
- G. Vlastos, 'The Individual as an Object of Love in Plato,' *Platonic Studies* (Princeton, 1973), 3-34.
- L. Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (New York, 1953), Secs. 65-67.

4. Echoes of the *Symposium* in late antiquity

Plato's account of *erôs* and beauty in the *Symposium* was taken up by a number of early religious thinkers, either—as in the case of

Plotinus—to fill out the dynamic aspects of a grand metaphysical scheme, or—as can be seen in the writings of many early Christian thinkers—to amplify and provide philosophical support for the Christian view that God created love and beauty in order for those who believe in him to ascend to a divine realm.

- R. Mortley, 'Love in Plato and Plotinus,' *Antichthon*, Vol. 14 (1980), 45-52.
 J. O'Meara, *Studies in Augustine and Eriugena* (Washington, D.C., 1992), Ch. 7 ('Augustine's Attitude to Love in the Context of His Influence on Christian Ethics'), 88-102.
 Anders Nygren, *Agape and Eros* (Philadelphia, 1938).
 Plotinus, *The Enneads*, I.6 (On Beauty), III.5 (On Love), trans. MacKenna (London, 1969).
 Proclus (selections) in J. Gregory, ed., *The Neoplatonists: A Reader*, 2nd edn (New York, 1991), 168-73.
 St. Methodius, *The Symposium: A Treatise on Chastity*, trans. H. Musurillo (Westminster, Md., 1958).
 L. Streiker, 'A Critique of Anders Nygren's *Agape and Eros*', *Christian Scholar*, Vol. 47 (1964), 331-40.

5. 'Socratic' or 'Platonic Love' in the Renaissance

The publication in 1484 of Marsilio Ficino's *Commentary on Plato's Symposium on Love* introduced something faintly resembling a Platonic view of *erôs* to a large number of Renaissance thinkers, poets, and artists. Ficino's Plotinian reformulation of Plato's doctrines highlighted the contrast between 'the two Aphrodites', or common and celestial love, and the experience of interpersonal love as a preliminary stage to communion with the divine being who is its ultimate source. The further development of Ficino's view by writers such as Pietro Bembo and Baldesar Castiglione spread the notion of a strictly spiritual or 'Platonic love' to the general reading public of 16th and 17th century Europe.

- Pietro Bembo, *Gli Asolani*, trans. R. Gottfried (Bloomington, Indiana, 1954), esp. 157-59, 183-95.
 Baldesar Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*, trans. C. Singleton (Garden City, N.Y., 1959).
 Dante's *Paradise*, trans. M. Musa (Bloomington, Indiana, 1984), esp. Canto XXI, XXII.
 Marsilio Ficino, *Commentary on Plato's Symposium on Love*, trans. Sears Jayne (Dallas, 1985).
 C. Keating, *Joachim du Bellay* (New York, 1971)
 P. Kristeller, *Renaissance Thought and Its Sources* (New York, 1979), 50-65.
 J. Mazzeo, 'Plato's Eros and Dante's Amore,' *Traditio*, Vol. 12 (1956), 315-37.
 R. Merrill, *The Platonism of Joachim du Bellay* (Chicago, 1925).

- J. Milne, 'Ficino on the Nature of Love and the Beautiful' in M. Shepherd, ed., *Friend to Mankind: Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499)* (London, 1999), 76-87.
- 'Platonic Ethics' and 'Platonic Love' in *The Cambridge History of Renaissance Philosophy* (Cambridge, 1988), 348-359.
- W. Rebhorn, *Courtly Performances*, Ch. 5 ('A Festive Symposium'), (Detroit, 1978), 151-76.
- P. Shorey, *Platonism Ancient and Modern* (Berkeley, 1938), esp. 103-17, 118-45, 146-74.
- L. Westra, 'Love and Beauty in Ficino and Plotinus' in K. Eisenbichler and O. Pugliese, eds, *Ficino and Renaissance Neoplatonism* (Ottawa, 1986), 175-87.
- A. Wolter, 'Ficino and Plotinus' Treatise "On Eros" in *Ficino and Renaissance Neoplatonism*, 189-97.

6. Echoes of Plato's *Symposium* in modern English poetry

During the 16th and 17th centuries many English poets sang the praises of a distinctly spiritual or 'Platonick love' while many others questioned the practicality of such a relationship. Two of the leading figures in the English Romantic movement, Keats and Shelley, adopted Plato's view of the natural realm as the imperfect shadow of a far more real world, along with his view that in the experience of love we gain access to a higher realm and the power to express Beauty's essential form in poetry and other arts.

- A. Baldwin and S. Hutton, *Platonism and the English Imagination* (Cambridge, 1994).
- D. Connell, *Sir Philip Sidney: The Maker's Mind* (Oxford, 1977), esp. 'Sidney's Conception of Love', 9-33.
- William D'Avenant, 'The Platonic Lovers', in *The Dramatic Works of William D'Avenant* (London, 1872).
- P. Cheney, 'Jonson's *The New Inn* and Plato's Myth of the Hermaphrodite,' *Renaissance Drama*, Vol. 14 (1983), 173-94.
- John Donne, *Songs and Sonets*, ed. T. Redpath (London, 1956).
- J. Fletcher, *The Religion of Beauty in Women* (New York, 1966).
- J. Harrison, *Platonism in English Poetry of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century* (New York, 1903).
- Ben Jonson, 'The New Inn' in *The Complete Plays of Ben Jonson*, Vol IV, ed. G. Wilkes (Oxford, 1981).
- J. Notopoulos, *The Platonism of Shelley: A Study of Platonism and the Poetic Mind* (Durham, 1949).
- F. Novotny, *The Posthumous Life of Plato* (The Hague, 1977), 600-632.
- G.F. Sensabaugh, 'Love Ethics in Platonic Court Drama 1625-1642,' *Huntington Library Quarterly*, 277-301.
- P. Shorey, *Platonism Ancient and Modern* (Berkeley, 1938), esp. 175-236.
- Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophel and Stella*, ed. M. Wilson (London, 1931).

7. Echoes of Plato's *Symposium* in contemporary thought

In the 20th century ideas and themes from the *Symposium* influenced the thinking of a number of important thinkers, artists, and composers. Freud claimed (dubiously) to have borrowed from Plato the basic concept of the libido, and the association of love and beauty affirmed in the *Symposium* appears as a leitmotif in the writings of Thomas Mann, Virginia Woolf, and the American social reformer Jane Addams.

- Jane Addams, 'Youth in the City' in *The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets* (New York, 1923), 3-21.
- D. Alexander, *Creating Literature Out of Life* (University Park, Pa., 1996), 7-21.
- B. Effe, 'Sokrates in Venedig: Thomas Mann und die 'platonische Liebe,' *Antike und Abenland*, Vol. 31 (1985), 153-66.
- Sigmund Freud, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* (1921), *Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Vol. XVII.
- Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice*, trans. K. Burke (New York, 1965).
- Gerasimos Santas, *Plato and Freud* (Oxford, 1988).
- A. W. Price, 'Plato and Freud' in C. Gill, ed., *The Person and the Human Mind* (Oxford, 1990), 247-70.
- T.J. Reed, *Death in Venice: Making and Unmaking a Master* (New York, 1944).
- S. von Rohr Scaff, 'Plato and Nietzsche in Death in Venice' in J. Berlin, ed., *Approaches to Teaching Mann's Death in Venice and Other Short Fiction* (New York, 1962), 140-145.
- Virginia Woolf, 'On Not Knowing Greek,' *The Common Reader* (London, 1962), 39-59.
- _____, *To The Lighthouse* (New York, 1927).
- J. Wyatt, 'The Celebration of Eros: Greek Concepts of Love and Beauty in *To The Lighthouse*,' *Philosophy and Literature*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (1978), 160-75.

8. Plato's *Symposium* and the visual arts

Over the centuries the *Symposium* has inspired the creation of many works of art. Among the earliest representations may be an ancient bronze relief found in Pompeii (now in the collection of the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples) which some have characterized as Socrates being instructed by Diotima, with an *Erôs* figure between the two. There is also a sketch of 'Socrate et Diotime' by Jacques-Louis David (part of a collection of sketches recently purchased by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.), and a series of paintings of Socrates with Diotima done by the contemporary Swiss artist Hans Erni. Sir Kenneth Clark has linked Pausanias's distinction between the two Aphrodites (later,

the two Venuses) to a series of idealized representations of the female nude. Perhaps the best-known examples of 'the two Aphrodites' are the paired images of Venus in Botticelli's 'Primavera' and 'The Birth of Venus'. A number of paintings or drawings, beginning with a sketch by Rubens done around 1602, recreate scenes or incidents from the dialogue, with the most popular topic being Alcibiades' dramatic entrance into the dining chamber at the conclusion of Socrates' speech.

- 'Alkibiades kränzt den Sokrates beim Gastmahl', included in Runes, D. (1959), *Pictorial History of Philosophy* (New York: Bramhall House), labeled as 'One of the Famous Platonic Banquets' (84). The work is now in the collection of the Thorvaldsen-Museum in Copenhagen.
- F. Broun, 'The Louvre Concert Champêtre' in *Ficino and Renaissance Platonism* (Ottawa, 1986).
- Kenneth Clark, *The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form* (Princeton U.P., 1956), esp. 71-172.
- David Allen Brown, *Virtue and Beauty: Leonardo's Ginerva de' Benci and Renaissance Portraits of Women* (National Gallery of Art and Princeton University Press, 2001), 142-45.
- Hans Erni, 'Plato-Symposium I ('The Essence of Sensual Love') and III ('Comparison to the Sileni)', in *Zeitgenossen sehen Hans Erni* (Lucerne, 1972).
- A. Ferruolo, 'Botticelli's Mythologies, Ficino's *De Amore*, Poliziano's *Stanze per la Giostra: Their Circle of Love*,' *Art Bulletin*, Vol. 37 (1955), 17-25
- Anselm Feuerbach, 'Das Gastmahl des Platon' (1869), now in the collection of the State Art Museum in Karlsruhe, Germany, included in S. Benardete, *On Plato's Symposium* (Munich, 1994). A second version of 'Das Gastmahl', painted in 1873, is housed in the collection of the National Gallery in Berlin.
- E. McGrath, 'The Drunken Alcibiades: Ruben's Picture of Plato's Symposium,' *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 46 (1983), 228-235 (plates on 42-44).
- H. Meier, 'Introduction' in S. Benardete, *On Plato's Symposium* (Munich, 1994), 6-22.
- F. Novotny, *The Posthumous Life of Plato* (The Hague, 1977), 633-38.
- E. Panofsky, *Problems in Titian* (New York, 1969), 109-38.
- A. Pigler, 'Sokrates in der Kunst der Neuzeit', *Antike*, 14 (1938), 281-94.
- A. Schwarzmaier, 'Wirklich Sokrates und Diotima?', *Archäologischer Anzeiger*, Vol. 1, (1997), 79-96.
- S. Shields, 'Memorable Wreaths: Love, Death, and the Classical Text in La Farge's *Agathon to Erosanthe and Wreath of Flowers*,' *American Art*, Vol. 11 (1997), 82-105.
- K. Stradonitz, 'Die Bildnisse des Sokrates', *Abhandlungen der Berliner Akademie* (Berlin: 1908).
- J. Wood, 'Inigo Jones, Italian Art, and the Practice of Drawing,' *The Art Bulletin*, 74 (June, 1992), 247-70.
- P. Zanker, *The Mask of Socrates: The Image of the Intellectual in Antiquity* (Berkeley, 1995).

9. Musical responses to Plato's *Symposium*

There are musical recreations of scenes in Plato's *Symposium* by Leonard Bernstein and Erik Satie, as well as a composition, by H. Kauder, written to accompany performances of the dialogue. (Bernstein's 'Serenade' has also served as the basis for two ballets: Jerome Robbins' 'Serenade for Seven', performed at the Spoleto Festival in July, 1959; and Christopher Wheeldon's 'Corybantic Ecstasies', as described in *Dance Magazine*, Vol. 73, No. 6 (June, 1999), 78-79.) More recently, the rock musical 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' borrows elements from the *Symposium* to tell how Tommy, an East German rock star, searches for love and happiness after a botched sex-change operation.

- L. Bernstein, 'Serenade after Plato's *Symposium*' (1954), Ensemble Stuttgart (Kulter Video, 1996);
 Hillary Hahn with the Baltimore Symphony conducted by David Zinman (SONY-ASK-60584).
 L. Bernstein, '(Notes on) Serenade' (Score published by J. Ruzicka, Inc).
 H. Burton, *Leonard Bernstein* (New York, 1994), 239-40.
 D. Ewen, *The World of 20th Century Music* (New York, 1968), 70-1, 674-75.
 E. Klemm, 'Erik Satie: Klavierwerke Bd. 1,' *Edition Peters* (Leipzig, 1984), 1-4.
 F. Kobler and E. Mueller, trans., *The Symposium, a Dramatized Version*, with original music by H. Kauder (New York, 1966).
 John Cameron Mitchell, 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' (music and lyrics by Stephen Trask).
 U. Mosch, 'Erik Satie: Socrate for Voices and Small Orchestra (1917-1918)', *Canto d'Amore: Classicism in Modern Art and Music: 1914-35* (Basel, 1996), 126-27.
 Erik Satie, 'Socrate: Drame symphonique en trois parties avec voix, piano' (1917-1918).

10. Plato's *Symposium* in performance

The classicist Kenneth Reckford has argued that T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party* draws on themes from the *Symposium* in its exploration of interpersonal and spiritual forms of love. In 1968 the BBC presented 'The Drinking Party' directed by Jonathan Miller and featuring Leo McKern in the role of Socrates. The program (distributed in the U.S. by Time Life Films but no longer available for purchase) presented Socrates as a headmaster being entertained by some of his former students. During the last two decades there have been at least five dramatic performances based either wholly or in part on Plato's *Symposium*.

- J. Appel, 'Plato's Symposium,' *High Performance*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (1986), 22-27.
- J. Arkatov, 'Plato's Symposium,' *Los Angeles Times*, July 29, 1986.
- M. Ross, M. Arnest, and L. Arnest, 'All About Love: A Musical Based on Plato's *Symposium*,' performed August 29-September 14, 1997, in Colorado Springs, Colorado (compact disc available on the web).
- P. Schimdt, trans. and D. Schweizer, 'Plato's *Symposium*' (performed at the Getty Museum in 1999).
- T.S. Eliot, *The Cocktail Party: edited with notes and a commentary by Nevill Coghill* (London, 1974).
- K. Reckford, 'Eliot's *Cocktail Party* and Plato's *Symposium*,' *Classical and Modern Literature*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (1991), 303-12.
- J. Yoklavich, 'Eliot's "Cocktail Party" and Plato's "Symposium",' *Notes and Queries*, December, 1951, 541-42.

J.H. LESHER

University of Maryland