

REBECCA FLEMMING : **The Classical Clitoris: Part I.**

This article provides a global and focused survey of the rich surviving evidence for the classical Greek and Roman clitoris (or nymph). It starts with the surviving anatomical descriptions, with the clitoris in its healthy, according to nature condition, and explores the different attitudes and understandings that were articulated in this context. Then it moves to the clitoris contrary to nature, examining the pathologies delineated in the medical tradition and their cures within their wider cultural and political settings. These therapies included clitoridectomy, the surgical removal of the nymph, putting the spotlight on questions of female sexuality and its control in the Roman world. There is a mismatch between the medical accounts of the clitoris in health and disease it is argued, driven in part by particular Roman imperial concerns about gender and sexuality, represented by the transgressive figure of the *tribas*.

Key-words :

Clitoris – Clitoridectomy – Ancient medicine – Female anatomy – Female sexuality – Tribade