

Myrinna

Quick Facts

Name: Myrinna

Age: 30

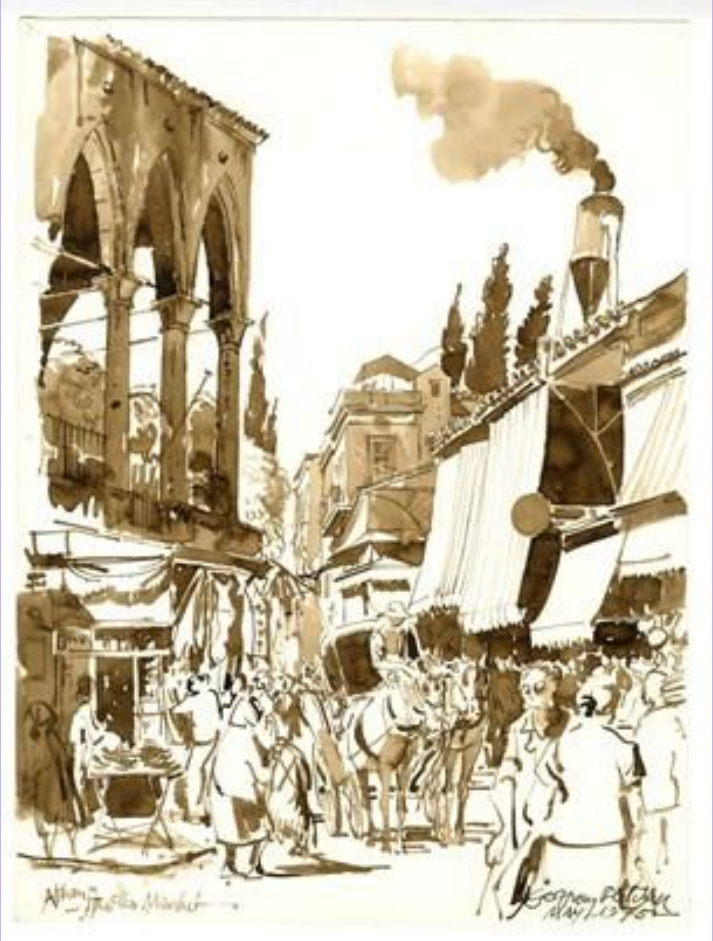
Marriage Status: Widowed (Apollonios)

Children: Zosimos and Apollonia

Wealth Status: Poor

-Works at the Thorikos market by selling the woven bands and flowers, demonstrating her poverty as she does not have a slave to take care of these matters and also shows that she could not adhere to the seclusion idealities of the time (Pritchard, 2005, p. 182).

-Her poverty is maintained by her family group owning little land, meaning her son would have very little to inherit when he comes of age (Osborne, 1987, p. 38).



Athens- The Flea Market (Fletcher, 1975)



Athens from the West (Gell, 1801-1813)

-Myrinna only has two children, this may be due to the fact that there was a high mortality rate for infants, in addition to the fact that her husband died and she has not remarried (Osborne, 1987, p. 115).

-Her not remarrying could be due to her age and also her poverty which brings a lack of a good dowry (Pl. Leg. 774c).

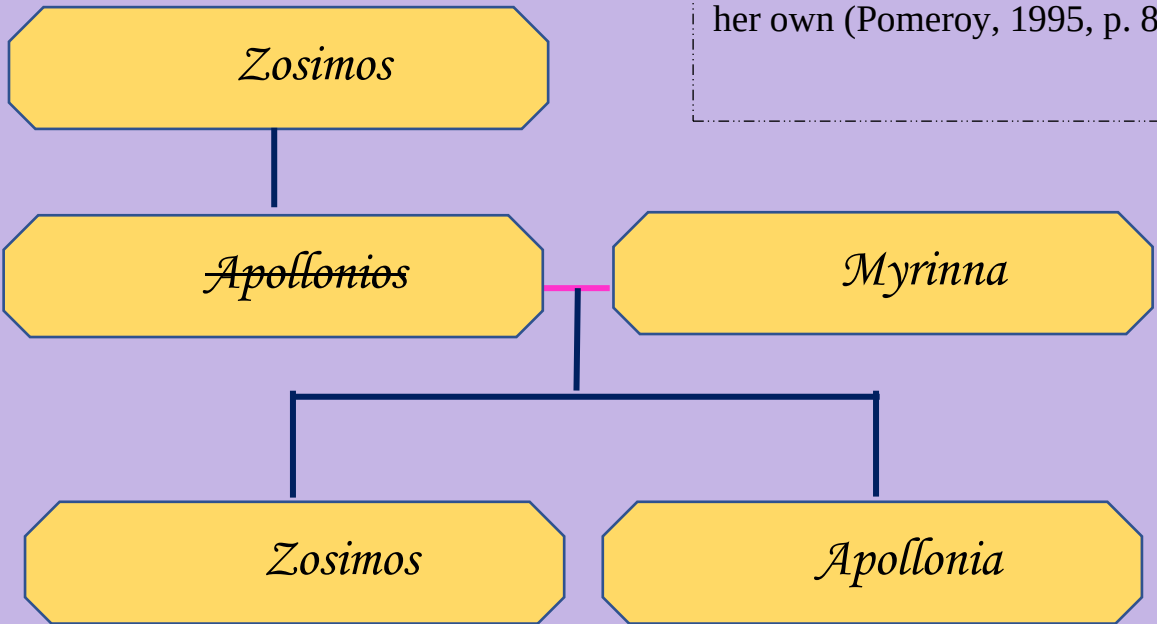
-Myrinna wants better lives for her children, and likely has aspirations to move up classes with a possible remarriage, which was not unusual in Athens at the time (Pomeroy, 1995, p. 86).

-She also has a daughter who is just reaching the age of marriage and would want to find a suitable husband for her, though marriages were arranged by men and would have no input in the matter (Sutton, 1997, p. 27).

-In addition to her poverty which allowed her more freedom of movement out of necessity, she would also be given more freedom due to her status as an older widow (Clark, 2012).

-Myrinna is 30 years old which means that she is past the prime age for marriage, though would likely be expected to remarry as long as she's still capable of bearing children (Pomeroy, 1995, p. 86). Now living with Zosimos (father-in-law), she is under his guardianship and protection (Pomeroy, 1995, p. 83).

-She is female, and therefore has no political rights and inferior in a legal sense (Pomeroy, 1995, p. 79). With even her children considered the father's family and not her own (Pomeroy, 1995, p. 86).



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Plato, *Laws, Volume 1: Books 1-6*. R. G. Bury (trans.). 1926. Loeb Classical Library 187. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

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Pritchard, D. (2005) 'A Woman's place in classical Athens: an overview' *Ancient history : resources for teachers*, 34(2), pp. 170-191.

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