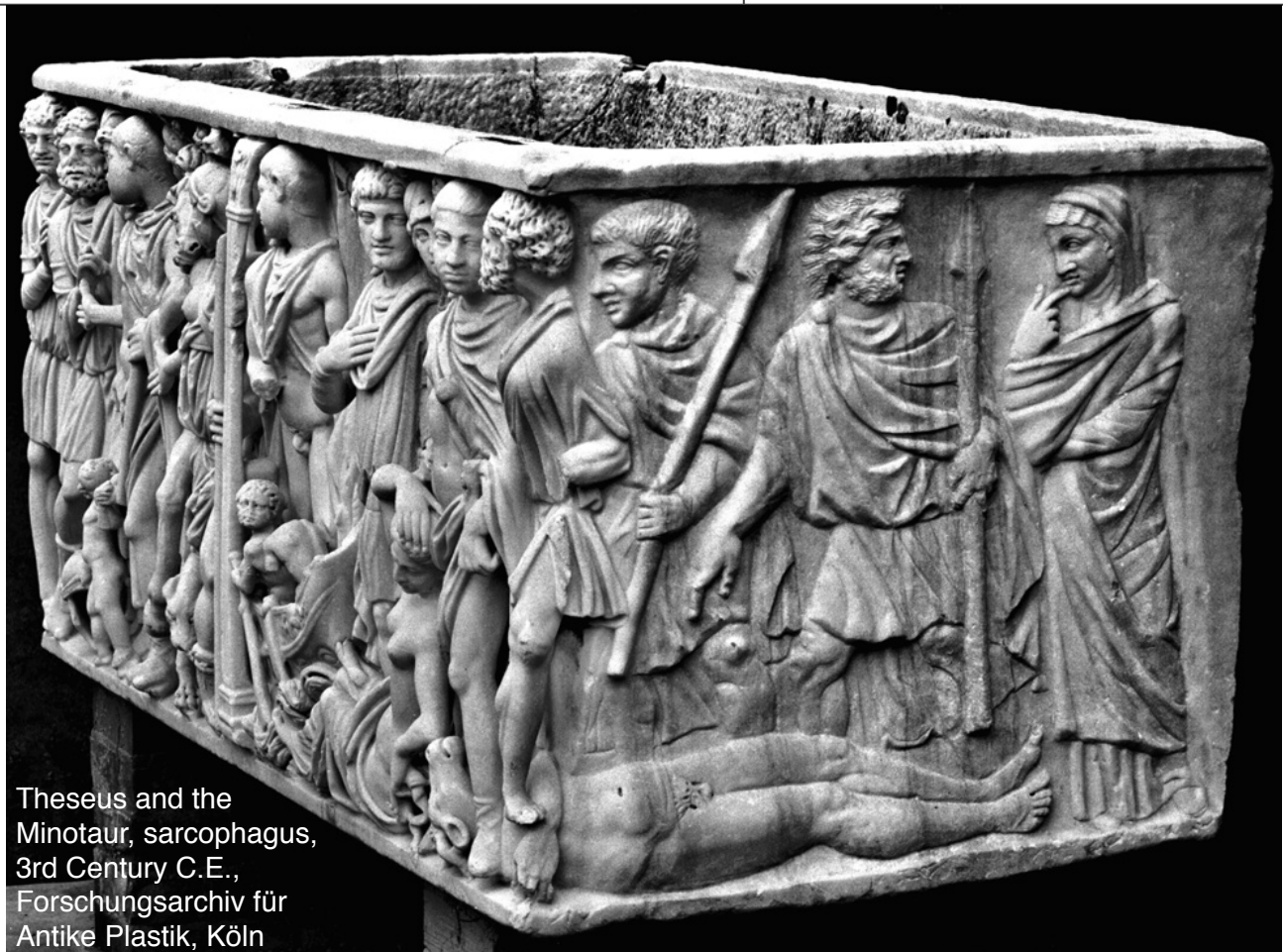


**A Bovine Minotaur in Flavian Rome: Statius' *Thebaid* (12.665-676)**

<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p>	<p>... maesti cupiens solacia casus              monstiferae Calydonis opes Acheloiaque arua              deserui; uestris haec me ecce in finibus ingens              nox operit. tecto caelum prohibere quis iste              arcuit? an quoniam prior haec ad limina forte              molitus gressus? <u>pariter stabulare bimembres              Centauros unaque ferunt Cyclopas in Aetna              compositos. sunt et rabidis iura insita monstis              fasque suum: nobis sociare cubilia terrae—              sed quid ego?</u> (<i>Theb.</i> 1.452-61)</p> <p>455</p> <p>460</p> <p>... sed non Siculis exorta sub antris              monstra nec Ossaei bello cecidere bimembres.  <u>mitto genus clarosque patres: hominum, inclute Theseu,              sanguis erant, homines,</u> eademque in sidera, eosdem              sortitus animarum alimentaue uestra creati ...              (<i>Theb.</i> 12.553-7)</p> <p>555</p>	<p>... desiring a respite from my pitiable              downfall, I left off the opportunities of              monster bearing Calydonia and the fields              of Achelous. Witness! The middle of the              night happened upon me in your lands.              Who is he to stop me from finding shelter              from the storm simply because he found              on this stoop first? <u>They say that bi-              formed Centaurs stable together and that              Cyclopes dwell together in Etna. There are              even laws among rabid monsters and they              have their own custom: for us to dwell              together on earth—but what can I say?*</u></p> <p>... but not monsters born in Sicilian caves              or the bi-formed Centaurs it is that fell in              this war. I set aside their lineage and              renowned ancestors. Famed Theseus, they              were men, of the blood of men, created              under the very stars and same chance and              same nurture as you ...</p>
<p>3)</p> <p>4)</p>	<p>unus ut e siluis Pholoes habitator opacae              inter et Aetnaeos aequus consurgere fratres,              (<i>Theb.</i> 3.604-5)</p> <p>605</p> <p>Τυδεὺς δὲ μαργῶν καὶ μάχης λελιμμένος              μεσημβριναῖς κλαγγαῖσιν ὡς δράκων βοᾷ·              (<i>Aesch. Sept.</i> 380-1)</p> <p>380</p>	<p>just like a dweller in Pholoe's woods              and equal in stature to the brothers of              Etna,</p> <p>Tydeus, in a rage and desirous for battle,              bellowed like a snake at high noon.</p>
<p>5)</p>	<p>... maesti cupiens solacia casus  <b>monstiferae Calydonis</b> opes Acheloiaque arua              deserui; uestris haec me ecce in finibus ingens              nox operit. tecto caelum prohibere quis iste              arcuit? an quoniam prior haec ad limina forte              molitus gressus? pariter stabulare bimembres              Centauros unaque <b>ferunt</b> Cyclopas in Aetna              compositos. sunt et rabidis iura insita monstis              fasque suum: nobis sociare cubilia terrae—              sed quid ego? (<i>Theb.</i> 1.452-61)</p> <p>455</p> <p>460</p>	<p>... desiring a respite from my pitiable              downfall, I left off the opportunities of  <b>monster bearing Calydonia</b> and the              fields of Achelous. Witness! The middle              of the night happened upon me in your              lands. Who is this guy to prevent me from              finding shelter from the storm simply              because he chanced on this stoop first?  <b>They say</b> that bi-formed Centaurs stable              together and that Cyclopes dwell together              in Etna. There are even laws among rabid              monsters and they have their own custom:              for us to dwell together on earth—but              what can I say?</p>

<p>6)</p>	<p>at procul ingenti Neptunius agmina Theseus              angustat clipeo, propriaeque exordia laudis  <u>centum urbes umbone gerit centenaque Cretae              moenia, seque ipsum monstrosi ambagibus antri              hispida torquentem luctantis colla iuueni              alternasque manus circum et nodosa ligantem              braccia et abducto uitantem cornua uultu.</u>              terror habet populos, cum saeptus imagine torua              ingreditur pugnas, bis Thesea bisque cruentas              caede uidere manus: ueteres reminiscitur actus              ipse tuens sociumque gregem metuendaque quondam              limina et absumpto pallentem Cnosida filo. (<i>Theb.</i>              12.665-76)</p>	<p>665 From a distance Neptunian Theseus corralled              the battle line with his grand shield—the              beginnings of his unique glory. <u>He carries a              hundred cities on the boss and even himself,</u>              in the trappings of the monstrous cave,              twisting the <u>hairy neck</u> of the struggling bull              and <u>alternating hands</u> grasping about. He              binds the <u>knotty shoulders</u> and avoids the  <u>horns</u> by turning his face away. Terror grips              the people when he goes into battle girded by              this savage reproduction. They see Theseus              twice and hands twice bloodied with              slaughter. Theseus himself recollects the old              deeds, gazing at the band of companions, the              thresholds once feared and the pale lady of              Knossos with her wasted thread.</p> <p>670</p> <p>675</p>
<p>7)</p>	<p>Daedalus ut clausit conceptum crimine matris  <u>Semibovemque virum, semivirumque bovem.</u>          (Ovid. <i>Ars.</i> 2.23-4)</p>	<p>Daedalus as he hid the one conceived by its              mother's crime: <u>the half-bull-man-half-man-              bull.</u></p>



Theseus and the  
 Minotaur, sarcophagus,  
 3rd Century C.E.,  
 Forschungsarchiv für  
 Antike Plastik, Köln

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