

the Classics Department presents

WHY CREATE A CURSE?

Enslaved "Agency" & Curse Tablets
in Classical & Hellenistic Athens



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Davidson College & Skidmore Class of 2015

Curse tablets are small, inscribed pieces of lead, where individual people from the ancient world left record of their private conflicts, calling on the gods to punish their enemies.

These inscribed tablets, preserved in ancient wells, racetracks, and tombs, offer the exciting opportunity to hear the voices of people omitted from ancient literature, such as enslaved and freed women.

What can we learn about the lives of enslaved women from these tablets? What motivated individuals to commission curse tablets against enslaved women, especially in Classical and Hellenistic Athens? Finally, what could an enslaved woman hope to gain by creating a curse tablet herself?

THURSDAY, Nov. 9th • 6:00 PM
Emerson Auditorium