

The Homeric Hymns

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the homeric hymns honor the greek gods once attributed to homer it is now accepted that the hymns were composed by later poets working in the same tradition probably during the seventh and sixth centuries bc this volume offers a new faithful verse translation of all the hymns explanatory notes and a glossary of names

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this book is specifically designed for upper level students of these major narrative works of early greek poetry

poet and translator sarah ruden offers a sparkling new translation of one of our

prime sources for archaic greek mythology ritual cosmology and psychology

these lively narrative poems attributed in antiquity to homer are works of great charm composed for recitation at festivals in honour of the gods they tell of apollo s birth on the island of delos and his foundation of the delphic oracle hermes invention of the lyre and theft of his brother apollo s cattle and aphrodite s love affair with the mortal anchises this edition offers a new text of these poems the introduction discusses among other things the nature and purpose of the poems in general their origins their structure and themes the commentary brings out the individual character of each hymn by analyzing in depth its language and literary qualities and also its religious and historical aspects the aim is to make these hymns more accessible to students of greek literature and help them to appreciate the poems more fully as major works of early greek poetry

this is the first collection of scholarly essays on the homeric hymns a corpus of 33 hexameter poems celebrating gods that were probably recited at religious festivals among other possible performance venues and were frequently attributed in antiquity to homer after a general introduction to modern scholarship on the homeric hymns the essays of the first part of the book examine in detail aspects of the longer narrative poems in the collection while those of the second part give critical attention to the shorter poems and to the collection as a whole the contributors to the volume present a wide range of stimulating views on the study of the homeric hymns which have attracted much interest in recent years

composed for recitation at festivals these 33 songs were written in honour of the gods and goddesses of the ancient greek pantheon they recount the key episodes in the lives of the gods and dramatise the moments when they first appear before mortals together they offer the most vivid picture we have of the greek view of the relationship between the divine and human worlds

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with fair tressed demeter the sacred goddess my song begins with herself and her slim ankled daughter whom aidoneus once abducted most people are familiar at least by repute with the two great epics of homer the iliad and the odyssey but few are aware that other poems survive that were attributed to homer in ancient times the homeric hymns are now known to be the work of various poets working in the same tradition probably during the seventh and sixth centuries bc they honour the greek gods and recount some of the most attractive of the greek myths four of them hymns 2 5 stand out by reason of their length and quality the hymn to demeter tells what happened when hades lord of the dead abducted persephone demeter s daughter the hymn to apollo describes apollo s birth and the foundation of his delphic oracle in the hymn to hermes apollo s cattle are stolen by a felonious infant hermes god of thieves in the hymn to aphrodite the goddess of love herself becomes infatuated with a mortal man the trojan prince ankhises about the series for over 100 years oxford world s classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe each affordable volume reflects oxford s commitment to scholarship providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features including expert introductions by leading authorities helpful notes to clarify the text up to date bibliographies for further study and much more

a thorough analysis of the mechanics of the language of homer as used in the iliad and the odyssey

the homeric hymns are a crucial work in the western literary canon and peter mcdonald s new verse translations offer the major modern account of this still under appreciated body of ancient poetry the thirty three hymns are poetic accounts of ancient greek gods including apollo dionysus aphrodite zeus and poseidon some of the poems are micro epics in their own right recounting the lives and affairs of the divine taken together they form a meditation on the primal themes of love war betrayal desire and paternity and contemplate the dangerous proximity of gods and men the book includes a new translation of the life of homer a narrative incorporating the shorter poems known as homer s epigrams attributed to pseudo herodotus two appendices provide verse translations of episodes from homer s odyssey and hesiod s theogony while mcdonald gives fresh versions throughout of relevant passages from pindar

aeschylus sophocles and other greek poets the accompanying notes and commentaries on the poems are the most generous and authoritative of any translation this book revives an ancient classic for the twenty first century

a rich source for students of greek mythology and literature the homeric hymns are also fine poetry attributed by the ancients to homer these prooimia or preludes were actually composed over centuries and used by poets to prepare for the singing or recitation of longer portions of the homeric epics in his acclaimed translations of the hymns apostolos athanassakis preserves the essential simplicity of the original greek offering a straightforward line by line translation that makes no attempts to masquerade or modernize for this long awaited new edition athanassakis enhances his classic work with a comprehensive index careful and selective changes in the translations themselves and numerous additions to the notes which will enrich the reader s experience of these ancient and influential poems

in this unique and finely wrought collection award winning poet and scholar peter mcdonald gives us the first contemporary translation of the homeric hymns a collection of 33 anonymous ancient greek hymns celebrating individual gods from zeus to aphrodite apollo to hermes each hymn tells a story about a particular god and every poem is a miniature epic in itself as mcdonald explains in his comprehensive introduction homer without the hymns is less than homer and this translation revives the classic text for the 21st century reader establishing its rightful place alongside copies of the iliad and the odyssey on the desks of students scholars and lovers of the classics worldwide

george chapman s translations of homer immortalized by keats s sonnet are the most famous in the english language swinburne praised their romantic and sometimes barbaric grandeur their freshness strength and inextinguishable fire and the great critic george saintsbury wrote for more than two centuries they were the resort of all who unable to read greek wished to know what the greek was chapman is far nearer homer than any modern translator in any modern language this volume presents the original text of chapman s translation of the homeric hymns the hymns believed to have been written not by homer himself but by followers who emulated his style are poems written to the gods and goddesses of the ancient greek pantheon the collection originally titled by chapman the crowne of all homers workes also includes epigrams and poems attributed to homer and known as the lesser homerica as well as his famous the battle of frogs and mice

english translation of all the homeric hymns with notes and introductions

andrew lang 1844 1912 was a prolific scots man of letters a poet novelist literary critic and contributor to anthropology he now is best known as the collector of folk and fairy tales he was educated at the edinburgh academy st andrews university and at balliol college oxford as a journalist poet critic and historian he soon made a reputation as one of the ablest and most versatile writers of the day lang was one of the founders of the study of psychical research and his other writings on anthropology include the book of dreams and ghosts 1897 magic and religion 1901 and the secret of the totem 1905 he was a homeric scholar of conservative views other works include homer and the epic 1893 a prose translation of the homeric hymns 1899 with literary and mythological essays in which he draws parallels between greek myths and other mythologies and homer and his age 1906 he also wrote ballades in blue china 1880 and rhymes la mode 1884

the hymn to hermes while surely the most amusing of the so called homeric hymns also presents an array of challenging problems in just 580 lines the newborn god invents the lyre and sings a hymn to himself travels from cyllene to pieria to steal apollo s cattle organizes a feast at the river alpheios where he serves the meat of two of the stolen animals cunningly defends his innocence and is finally reconciled to apollo to whom he gives the lyre in exchange for the cattle this book provides the first detailed commentary devoted specifically to this unusual poem since radermacher s 1931 edition the commentary pays special attention to linguistic philological and interpretive matters it is preceded by a detailed introduction that addresses the hymn s ideas on poetry and music the poem s humour the hymn s relation to other archaic hexameter literature both in thematic and technical aspects the poem s reception in later literature its structure the issue of its date and place of composition and the question of its transmission the critical text based on càssola s edition is equipped with an apparatus of formulaic parallels in archaic hexameter poetry as well as possible verbal echoes in later literature

spuriously attributed to homer the hymns and invocations collected in this book constitute alongside the iliad and the odyssey the great sources of ancient greek poetry now thelma sargent has rendered these works into a lucid and beautiful english verse accompanying the translated texts is a discussion of greek meter and a explanation written by sargent of her translation

the homeric hymns is a collection of thirty three ancient greek hymns

celebrating individual gods the hymns employ the same epic meter dactylic hexameter as the Iliad and Odyssey use many similar formulas and are couched in the same dialect contents to Dionysus to Demeter to Apollo to Hermes to Aphrodite to Aphrodite to Dionysus to Ares to Artemis to Aphrodite to Athena to Hera to Demeter to the Mother of the Gods to Heracles with the heart of a lion to Asclepius to the Dioscuri to Hermes to Pan to Hephaestus to Apollo to Poseidon to Zeus to Hestia to the Muses and Apollo to Dionysus to Artemis to Athena to Hestia to Gaia Mother of All to Helios to Selene to the Dioscuri

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