WILLIAM D. FURLEY JAN MAARTEN BREMER

Greek Hymns

Volume I The Texts in Translation

> Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum

9

Mohr Siebeck

Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum Studies and Texts in Antiquity and Christianity

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9



William D. Furley Jan Maarten Bremer

Greek Hymns

Selected Cult Songs from the Archaic to the Hellenistic period

> Volume I The Texts in Translation

> > Mohr Siebeck

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Die Deutsche Bibliothek – CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Greek Hymns / William D. Furley ; Jan Maarten Bremer. – Tübingen : Mohr Siebeck Vol 1. The texts in translation. – 2001 (Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum ; 9) ISBN 3-16-147527-5 paper ISBN 3-16-147676-X cloth 978-3-16-158655-2 Unveränderte eBook-Ausgabe 2019

Inside front and back cover picture: Apollo with lyre, offering a libation before an altar. Attic red-figure lekythos c. 470 BC. Antikenmuseum, Department of Archaeology, Heidelberg University (inv. 75/3).

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The book was printed by Gulde-Druck in Tübingen on non-aging paper and bound by Heinr. Koch in Tübingen.

Printed in Germany.

ISSN 1436-3003



Figure 1: Apollo and Artemis, with Hermes (left) and Leto (right). Rf volute krater, possibly by Palermo Painter. J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, California. 415-410 BC.

For Alexandra and Friederike

Preface

γεράων δὲ θεοῖς χάλλιστον ἀοιδαί

"Songs are the finest of gifts to the gods" (Theocritus 22.223)

This work is a collection and discussion of Greek hymns, i.e. of songs used by ancient Greeks in worship. Why did we bring them together? In the first place: nobody has ever done this before, and it seemed to us high time that a 'source-book' of Greek cult hymns was made. The last two centuries have seen the rediscovery, through archaeological excavation, of many lost hymnic texts: a number of Hellenistic and later hymns have been discovered as inscriptions on stone in the course of excavations at Delphi, Epidauros and elsewhere. At the same time finds of papyri from Egypt have returned to the human eye substantial portions of cult songs composed by choral lyricists, Pindar in particular, as well as new fragments of e.g. Sappho and Alkaios. These scattered texts, combined with those transmitted in the normal manuscript tradition, have all been published previously, but never before as a *corpus*, and never from the dedicated viewpoint of Greek hymnology. Our collection deliberately omits the wellknown corpora of literary hymns: the Homeric Hymns and Callimachus' six hymns. For one thing, excellent editions of these texts already exist; secondly, these texts are not cult songs proper. They serve a more literary purpose, being assimilated to other literary genres more concerned with narrative and literary mimesis than worship pure and simple.

There were two main decisions for us to take: which texts to include in our collection, and how to arrange them. As to the first, we decided not to produce a corpus in the technical sense: an exhaustive publication of all available evidence, including even the smallest, barely decipherable, scraps. Our collection should therefore be considered a selection. Nor did we include texts from the Graeco-Roman period, partly because we did not feel competent to treat adequately the texts addressed to newcomers in the Greek pantheon such as Isis, Sarapis, Mithras, and partly because the

Preface

book would have become too large. As for the second decision: over the years we have considered various arrangements, such as 1. chronological (the oldest specimens coming first etc.), 2. according to the genres distinguished by Alexandrian scholars: hymns, paians, dithyrambs, prosodia, partheneia, 3. according to the gods addressed in the hymns. We came to the conclusion that none of these three would really work, and decided in the end for the present arrangement, according to the cult centre in which the hymns functioned: Crete, Delphi, Delos, etc. Why? because – as biblical scholars have discovered in studying the Psalms – it is of the greatest importance to relate this type of texts to their *Sitz im Leben*: they are not autonomous works of art but rather the formalized script of certain types of worship offered in concrete situations and locations.

There is another aspect to the arrangement of our *Greek Hymns*, and for this we have followed the example set by 'bilingual' works such as Long and Sedley's *Hellenistic Philosophy*. Like these we have divided our material into two volumes. Volume I, in which all material is translated into English, contains our general introduction, the hymns in translation, accompanied in each case by general remarks aimed at situating the song in its context of production and performance. Volume II presents all texts in the original Greek, with critical apparatus, metrical analysis and line-by-line commentary. We trust that volume I will be of use not only to classicists but also to those scholars (juniors and seniors) who – without advanced knowledge of Greek – are actively engaged in disciplines such as the history of religion, cultural anthropology, theology; this volume contains its own bibliography and general subject index. Classical scholars will of course prefer to use both volumes, side by side.

This book is a product of joint authorship. In 1992 WDF took the formal initiative towards it and invited JMB to cooperate in the undertaking, taking him up on his paper 'Greek hymns' (Bremer, 1981). From then onwards we have divided the material between us, WDF assuming the (somewhat) heavier burdens. We have intervened so intensely in each other's contributions, sometimes rewriting parts, that we accept joint responsibility for the entire book. It fell also to WDF to give the book, in its two volumes, final shape and format. The entire process of orientation, research, writing and rewriting has – given the numerous other obligations and responsibilities of university teaching – taken us nearly a decade. During this process we have incurred many debts. The biggest debt we owe to our last benefactor, Richard Gordon, who most generously read, cor-

Preface

rected, and suggested revisions of, the penultimate version of the entire book. His knowledge of Religionswissenschaft has been of great value to us. JMB records gratefully the meetings of the Amsterdam 'Hellenistenclub' to whose members he was allowed to present first drafts of some particularly difficult pieces. Among these members C.J. Ruijgh deserves special mention for his advice on matters of Greek linguistics. Colin Austin has read the chapter on Aristophanes, especially the series of songs taken from Thesmophoriazousai: his observations were of great value. WDF thanks his Heidelberg colleagues A. Chaniotis and G.W. Most for their kind willingness to read sections of the whole work and offer critical comment. I.C. Rutherford (Reading) kindly made sections of his forthcoming edition, with commentary, of Pindar's paians available prior to publication. The typesetting of the book would not have been possible without all those legion TFX specialists throughout the world who have contributed to such a versatile scholarly tool; in particular we wish to thank P. Mackay (Washington) for his Greek and metrical fonts, and A. Dafferner (Heidelberg) for countless useful tips.

Relatively late in the development of this work we were informed by C. Austin that the late Joan Haldane had been working on a monograph devoted to the Greek *hymnos* up until her death; her papers (including some nearly complete, typewritten chapters) had been entrusted to Austin, who kindly made them available to us. We refer to this work at several points and gratefully express here our respect for this unpublished predecessor.

Finally, we express our gratitude to various institutions for facilities and/or funds: our universities and libraries, Dr. Pflug of the Heidelberg dept. of classical archaeology (for the cover picture and help with illustrations), the Van der Valk-fonds (administered by the trustees of the A.U.V., Amsterdam) for allowing us to buy computer equipment; our publisher Mohr-Siebeck for taking on a lengthy work with enthusiasm and energy. Particular thanks go to Ch. Markschies (Heidelberg), tactful and resourceful editor of the series *Studien zu Antike und Christentum*. We are also grateful to the museums for permission to reproduce the illustrations.

We dedicate this, the fruits of our labour, to our wives Friederike B. (née van Katwijk) and Alexandra F. (née Horowski) in gratitude for their patience, support, and the fruits of their labour.

JMB (Amsterdam), WDF (Heidelberg) July 4, 2001

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations of names of periodicals follow the conventions of L'Année Philologique.

AL	E. Diehl (ed.), Anthologia Lyrica Graeca, Leipzig vol. I 1925, II 1942
AP	Epigrammatum Anthologia Palatina, see H. Beckby (ed.), Anthologia
	Graeca, 4 vols., Munich 1965-67
ARV	J.D. Beazley, Attic Red-figure Vase Painters, Oxford 1963 ²
BKT	Berliner Klassiker Texte
CA	I.U. Powell (ed.), Collectanea Alexandrina, Oxford 1925
CGS	L.R. Farnell, The Cults of the Greek States, vol. I-V, Oxford 1896- 1909
CEG	P.A. Hansen (ed.), Carmina Epigraphica Graeca, Berlin 1983
CIG	A. Boeckh (ed.), Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum, Berlin 1928ff.
DK	H. Diels (ed.), Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker, Griechisch u.
	Deutsch, 6 th edition by W. Kranz, Zürich/Bern 1951
EG	G. Kaibel, Epigrammata Graeca, ex lapidibus conlecta, Berlin 1878
EM	Th. Gaisford (ed.), Etymologicon Magnum, Oxford 1848
FGrH	F. Jacoby, Fragmente der griechischen Historiker, Berlin 1923ff.
GDK	E. Heitsch (ed.), Griechische Dichterfragmente der römischen
	Kaiserzeit, vol. I Göttingen 1961, vol.II ibid. 1964
GL	D.A. Campbell (ed.), Greek Lyric, 5 vols., Cambridge Mass. 1982-
	1993
HCT	A.W. Gomme, A. Andrewes, K.J. Dover, An Historical Commentary
	on Thucydides, five volumes, Oxford 1945-1981
HE	A.S.F. Gow & D.L. Page (eds.), The Greek Anthology, Hellenistic
	Epigrams, two vols. Cambridge 1965
IC	Margarita Guarducci (ed.), Inscriptiones Creticae, vol. III, Rome
	1942
IG	Inscriptiones Graecae, Berlin 1873ff.
KG	R. Kühner, Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache, 3 rd
	edition by F. Blass & B. Gerth, 1890-1904
LIMC	O. Reverdin, Lilly Kahil (eds.), Lexicon Iconographicum Mytholo-
	giae Classicae, Munich 1981ff. (8 vols.)
LSCG	F. Sokolowski (ed.), Lois Sacrées des Cités Grecques, Paris 1969

XXII	List of Abbreviations
LSS	F. Sokolowski (ed.), <i>Lois Sacrées des Cités Grecques</i> , Supplément, Paris 1962
LSJ	H.G. Liddell, R. Scott, H.S. Jones, A Greek-English Lexicon, Oxford ⁹ , 1968
NP	H. Cancik & H. Schneider (eds.), Der Neue Pauly. Reallexikon der Antike, Stuttgart 1996ff.
PCG	R. Kassel & C.F. Austin (eds.), <i>Poetae Comici Graeci</i> , Berlin/New York, 1983ff.
PGM	K. Preisendanz, E. Heitsch & A. Henrichs (eds.), <i>Papyri Graecae</i> <i>Magicae: die griechischen Zauberpapyri</i> , vols. I and II, Stuttgart ² 1973-1974
PMG	D.L. Page (ed.), Poetae Melici Graeci, Oxford 1962
POxy	B.P. Grenfell & A.S. Hunt, The Oxyrhynchus Papyri, London 1898ff.
RE	Realencyklopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaften, Stuttgart 1894-1970; Munich 1972ff. (34 vols., 15 supplements)
RGG	H.D. Betz, D.S. Browning, B. Janowski & E. Jüngel (eds.), <i>Religion</i> in Geschichte und Gegenwart, Tübingen ⁴ 1998ff.
SH	H. Lloyd Jones & P.J. Parsons (eds.), <i>Supplementum Hellenisticum</i> , Berlin and New York 1983
SEG	J.J.E. Hondius (ed.) et al., <i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> , Leiden 1923-1975; Amsterdam 1976ff.
SIG	W. Dittenberger (ed.), Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum, Leipzig 1915ff.
SLG	D.L. Page (ed.), Supplementum Lyricis Graecis. Poetarum Lycicorum Fragmenta quae recens innotuerunt, Oxford 1974
TGF	B. Snell, R. Kannicht, S. Radt (eds.), <i>Tragicorum Graecorum Frag-</i> menta, 4 vols., Göttingen 1971-1999

Introduction

1 The nature of Greek hymns

1.1 What is a hymn?

When we consider basic forms of religious worship both in antiquity and in modern societies, the singing of hymns in some form or other features conspicuously. The religious act typically constitutes a demonstrative change in behaviour or situation compared with a secular norm. A person adopts a particular attitude in order to pray, whether standing with hands clasped, or kneeling with head bowed, or prostrate on the ground: the important point is that the attitude marks the person praying in a manner recognizable to him and to others – and to the god concerned. One or more people may move from secular to sacred space around an altar, temple or shrine in order to offer worship. Buildings serving a religious purpose are normally marked off from surrounding construction by the style of architecture or the objects (altar, statuary, votive offerings etc.) set up in or around them. Religious dress, hairstyle, manner of walking or speech may differ from the everyday. And the transition between secular and sacred behaviour is frequently ritualized, whether by ceremonial washing, or a formal call for silence (Greek εὐφημεῖν) or a gesture (the Catholic crossing himself with holy water on entering a church). An animal destined for sacrifice is similarly marked out from the rest of the herd: it may be washed or adorned in some manner in order to make it seemly for sacrifice. From the point of view of the worshipper, all these actions serve to make his approach to god more acceptable: by adopting conventional modes of dress, behaviour, speech, location and even attitude of mind, the worshipper believes he will find god's favour and come closer to achieving his purpose. From an observer's point of view, religious behaviour represents a complex of utterances and actions (Greek: λεγόμενα και δρώμενα) intricately linked with, but markedly distinct from, other areas of social life.

The hymn may also be viewed in this light. As a form of utterance,

it is distinguished from normal speech by any or all of the following features: words uttered by a group of people in unison; melody; metre or rhythm; musical accompaniment; dance performed either by the hymnsingers themselves or an associated group; repetition from occasion to occasion. And when we wish to distinguish the hymn from other forms of song, even choral song, we only have to consider the person or entity to whom the composition is addressed: the hymn differs from normal speech or song in turning from human society to address a god or company of gods either directly (second-person address: 'Du-Stil') or indirectly (thirdperson address: 'Er-Stil') or even vicariously (first-person annunciation). The hymn-singer has typically removed himself from a secular environment to join with others in abandoning their normal manner of everyday discourse in order to address a god using all the resources of artistic embellishment available.

Of course, there is considerable overlap between hymns and other forms of utterance in terms of form, content, and function. Formally, a hymn may be indistinguishable from a secular poem: there is no metre, poetic register or compositional technique¹ exclusively reserved for religious poems performed in cult. And a distinction based on religious content can be difficult to maintain too. As Easterling (1985, 34-49) correctly observes, there is no clear distinction in Greek poetry between the sacred and the secular: many forms, such as epinician odes or tragedy, are imbued with religious elements such as hymnic address, prayer, divine or mythic narrative; likewise, many hymns contain literary elements such as narrative of divine or heroic exploits, or *ekphrasis* of places favoured by gods, or dialogue between gods or gods and people. The most ribald forms of literature – a satyr-play, for example, or Aristophanic comedy – may concern the gods directly or contain a choral ode indistinguishable from a cult hymn. But even if we cannot draw an absolute distinction between hymns and other lyric forms in terms of religious content, there is a pragmatic difference of emphasis and purpose between the cult hymn and the literary piece, however religious in theme. The cult hymn is a form of worship directed towards winning a god's goodwill and securing his or her assistance or favour. Literature is concerned with the entertainment and enlightenment of the audience addressed: it may treat of the gods but it does not address them directly. It may guide an audience to a heightened

¹With the exception of certain repeated cries or refrains (*epiphthegmata*) such as $i\eta$ $\pi\alpha_i \alpha_i \nu$ in a paian or 'I $\alpha_X \chi$ ' $\tilde{\omega}$ 'I $\alpha_X \chi \varepsilon$ in the procession of Eleusinian *mystai*.

understanding of the influence of divinity on human affairs, but it does not devote its resources to securing something from that divinity through its performance.

There is another form of discourse which shares the hymn's goal of securing divine goodwill: prayer.² Hymns share many of the compositional elements characteristic of prayers: there is the same direct address of a deity, the same gesture of supplication and often the same express request for help or protection. A distinction may be possible here by considering both the compositional elements of the two forms and their differing function in worship. Formally a hymn is likely to be a more finished artistic product than a prayer, both in terms of articulated speech and narrative and in performance. For the case of Mesopotamian hymns and prayers, Edzard draws a distinction with respect to the speed and manner of delivery of both forms: prayers tend to to be uttered quickly, more in the manner of normal speech, without overt artistic embellishment, whilst hymns are sung or recited in a slow, deliberate and repetitive manner which emphasizes the performance itself.³ Simply to say that prayers are spoken and hymns are sung, however, will not do.⁴ As we will see, there were various forms of Greek hymn which were spoken or recited rather than sung, and, conversely, prayers which were spoken in unison and rhythmically by a congregation. In terms of function Pulleyn (1997, 49f.) has drawn an interesting distinction between prayer and hymn: the latter, by being a finished artistic product employing refined techniques of praise and persuasion, represents a kind of offering to the god, a verbal $a \gamma \alpha \lambda \mu \alpha$, or 'delight', comparable to a sacrifice or a votive offering, designed to please the god and store up divine favour (χάρις) toward the hymn-singer and the com-

² A number of collections and studies of ancient Greek prayers have appeared in recent decades: Versnel (1981); Graf in Faraone & Obbink (1991, 188-213); Aubriot-Sévin (1992); Pulleyn (1997); Kiley (1997).

³ 'Sumerische und akkadische Hymnen' in Burkert & Stolz (1994, 19-32); Pulleyn (1997, 54) writes: "The most obvious superficial difference between hymns and prayers consists in the fact that hymns were of their essence musical and prayers were not. A prayer can in principle be very simple. When one starts rehearsing a catalogue of the attributes of the deity, one is getting onto different territory. When one puts the whole thing into verse and sets it to music, it has moved a long way from being a prayer."

⁴Pulleyn (1997, 44f.) takes issue with Bremer's earlier definition of a hymn as a 'sung prayer'. Pulleyn's main objection is not that hymns were not sung, but rather that the prayer element of a hymn may be small or negligible compared to the praise and adoration of the god; accordingly he denies that the performance criterion of singing/not singing is decisive.

munity he/she represents. Prayer, on the other hand, is a less embellished form of request in return for a different kind of offering on the part of the petitioner (sacrifice, libation, votive offering or promise to perform such in the future). In fact, however, this distinction is hard to apply rigorously; as Pulleyn is the first to admit, many spoken prayers contain elements of hymnic embellishment, and many hymns contain prayers, sometimes extensive and detailed.⁵ He suggests that linguistic embellishment of prayers is the result of the influence of hymns, but one could easily argue the reverse, that hymns are simply more refined prayers which develop and elaborate the elements of linguistic and artistic embellishment. We must content ourselves with recognizing complementary forms of religious discourse here, with a greater emphasis in the case of hymns on the attributes of song and dance, in short, performance on the part of the worshipper(s).⁶

Because hymns represent a relatively advanced, artistic, form of worship we should not regard them as secondary, or late, in any way compared to other forms. The earliest cultures of which we have cognizance, and the most primitive still existing today, have their songs of worship or supplication of divinities. There is no stage of Greek literature or culture known to us which lacks a fully developed range of cult songs. Homer, for example, refers explicitly to paians sung to Apollo, choruses to Artemis, songs in honour of agricultural deities such as Linos.⁷ And the collection of essays in Hymnen der alten Welt im Kulturvergleich (Burkert & Stolz, 1994) shows that the Greeks' Egyptian, Hittite, Mesopotamian and Persian neighbours and predecessors all possessed a vital hymnic tradition as part of their divine worship. Together with prayer, the performance or recitation of hymns forms the verbally articulated complement to expressive action in religious worship. The doing and the saying or singing are inextricably linked and mutually supportive. When people move in procession to a place of worship they not only (typically) carry an effigy or symbol of the god in whose honour they are processing, they sing a hymn celebrating the god's glory: the action is identified and justified by the use of traditional

⁵For an interesting example of a prayer to Asklepios (for relief from gout) composed in a metrical and hymnic form, see *IG* III i Addenda no. 171a (pp. 488-9), a composition by Diophantos Sphettios.

⁶Race (1990, 103 n.50) says: "The distinction between cultic hymns and prayers mainly involves a question of emphasis"; prayers, in his opinion, emphasize the request made of a god, whereas hymns "have more elaborate invocations", and sometimes contain no request.

⁷Paian: *Il.* 1.146; choruses for Artemis: 16.181; Linos-song: 18.570.

songs.⁸ And when they reach the god's altar they form up and sing more hymns before performing an action such as sacrifice or libation. The hymn is communication within the community and with the god(s) addressed.⁹ As soon as ritual action is conceived as being performed *for* some deity, or in his honour, verbal communication becomes necessary and legitimate. And we know of virtually no religion which does not in some form posit gods attributed with intelligence.¹⁰ For this reason it appears to us of dubious heuristic value to 'explain' religious cult through ritual behaviour postulated for early man on the basis of observation of primates, to the virtual exclusion of higher expressions of religious belief such as are found in hymns.¹¹ True, the sacrificial rite may reflect hunting rituals among early man, which may in turn bear some resemblance to primates' behaviour, but it is only when a 'Mistress of Animals' has been conceived of, *for* whom one performs the sacrificial ritual and *to* whom one sings such songs as Euripides, *Hipp*. 61-71 (our no. 10.3.2), that religion has been born.

It is particularly necessary to stake out a claim for the importance of our subject within Hellenic studies, as, whilst many might agree that ancient Greek hymns were important in the arts and religion, there is a *de facto* tendency to ignore them. The reason is not far to seek: the vast majority of archaic and classical cult hymns have vanished without trace. Wilamowitz (1921, 242) wrote: "Die gottesdienstliche Poesie der alten Zeit ist verloren",¹² and the statement is not far from the truth. It is only in the Hellenistic period that survivals become more frequent owing to the increasing use of written records of religious cult. Below we will exam-

⁸Note the interesting passage in Apuleius, *Met.* 11.9.5 Helm, describing religious hymns sung during a procession in honour of Isis: *carmen vetustum iterantes, quod Camenarum favore sollers poeta modulatus edixerat, quod argumentum referebat interim maiorum antecantamenta votorum*, "they repeat an ancient hymn which a skillful poet had composed with the help of the Muses, and which had as its contents the preludes (or *aetia*) of their ancestors' sacred rites".

⁹This double aspect of communication is brought out well in Danielewicz (1976, English summary pp. 116-26). See further below p. 59.

¹⁰Buddhism being a notable exception.

¹¹We have in mind particularly the 'ethological' interpretations sometimes proposed by W. Burkert, most recently in *Creation of the Sacred. Tracks of Biology in Early Religion*, Cambridge Mass. 1996.

¹²Cf. N.D. Fustel de Coulanges, *The Ancient City*, (first published 1864), reprint 1980, Baltimore, 6: "But where are the hymns of the ancient Hellenes? They, as well as the Italians, had ancient hymns, and old sacred books: but nothing of these has come down to us."

ine the discrepancy between the acknowledged fact of the prominence of hymn-singing in all forms of religious worship and the sad state of transmission of texts. At this juncture it is essential to point out the dangers involved in allowing this dearth of transmitted texts to distort our reading of Greek literature and religion. For many forms of literary production appear to have descended directly or indirectly from choral worship of the gods: Aristotle,, for example, states that both Attic tragedy and comedy descended from various forms of cult song (*Poet.* 1449a10ff).¹³ Even more directly, choral lyric generally would simply not have arisen without a long tradition of 'choruses for the gods and heroes'. But the dependence of later (transmitted) literature on (lost) hymns does not end with the external conditions of performance or delivery. There is a whole hymnic tradition of praise poetry which makes itself apparent in epinician poetry,¹⁴ in encomia of people and places, and in literary hymns which employ the form of ancient cult hymns in new social and emotional settings.¹⁵

The disregard of hymns for lack of texts is even more regrettable in the field of Greek religion. In the leading works on Greek religion of our time, hymns are scarcely mentioned as a vital part of cult. Indeed we are repeatedly told that what mattered in Greek religion was doing the right things: sacrificing in the right manner above all. When the verbal aspect of religion *is* considered, it tends to be under the heading of 'myth'. What is seldom adequately realized, however, is that myth is the substance of hymns, and that the stories told about the gods in myths were in fact the stories sung *to* the gods in worship in order to flatter, remind, praise and cajole a recalcitrant stone image into beneficial action.¹⁶ Once this is realized, myths cease to appear merely as speculative narratives *about* the uncanny powers of the universe,¹⁷ and may be seen partly, and perhaps primarily, as

¹³The major and persuasive thesis of Herington's *Poetry into Drama* (1985) is that tragedy represented a new amalgam of traditional forms, mainly various forms of cult poetry.

¹⁴Well analyzed by Race (1990, 85-117) in his chapter 'Style and Rhetoric in Opening Hymns'.

¹⁵Examples in our chapter on 'Lesbos and Ionia'. Cf. Danielewicz (1974).

¹⁶Cf. Furley (1995a, 40-45). Even the subtle analysis of J.-P. Vernant tends to neglect this intrinsic connection: he treats myth and ritual as two separable aspects of religion in (e.g. 1987, 164-68).

¹⁷B. Gladigow, 'Mythische Experimente – experimentelle Mythen', in: R. Schlesier (ed.), *Faszination des Mythos. Studien zu antiken und modernen Interpretationen*, Basel/Frankfurt 1985, 61-85, uses the expression 'Gedankenexperiment'.

narratives designed to 'capture' precisely those powers through words.¹⁸ By reminding a god through hymnic worship of his mighty and beneficent deeds in the past, the worshipper wishes both to define the deity addressed and his powers, and to secure a measure of that power for himself through divine grace.¹⁹ Whilst the whole 'myth and ritual' school of interpretation has worked on the premiss that there is an intrinsic connection between the two modes - the ritual and the mythical - it has not been adequately grasped just how close the link in fact was: the myths formed the substance of hymns sung before or during the ritual.²⁰ Conversely, narrative acquires a new and enhanced dimension when it is realized that it was not intended solely for human recipients, but primarily for the ears of the deity about whom it narrates. The Python myth in Apolline cult, for example, is not only narrative of an exciting kind, it also features in numerous hymns to Apollo which seek to emphasize his might, and to petition for help in a current situation. By narrating the deeds of the gods, the Homeric Hymns define the characters and areas of power of these gods (see Clay, 1989). These definitions then become the basis and legitimation of cult. Thus the narrative becomes a kind of charter for the god's claim to worship of a certain kind, and conversely the basis for the worshipper's expectation of help. In practical terms, the student of ancient religion must, in our opinion, pay close attention to any surviving hymnic texts relating to a cult concerned, and, in their absence, consider notices relating to their possible content. Later scholarship in antiquity is frequently helpful here: in one instance, a late author, Himerios, relates in prose the entire content of an original (lost) hymn to Apollo by Alkaios (no. 2.1).

One main purpose of this book, then, is to attempt to restore an imbalance. By collecting surviving hymnic texts from various anomalous contexts – inscriptions, papyri, Hellenistic scholarship as well as literary genres such as epic, lyric, tragedy, comedy – we attempt to gain as full a picture as possible of the sum of ancient Greek hymns and the variety within the genre as a whole. Just as the restorer of vases must collect a

¹⁸One may compare the excellent elucidation of this aspect of mythical narrative in the case of epinician poetry in A.P. Burnett's *Art of Bacchylides* 1985, ch. 1.

¹⁹Race (1990, ch. 4) uses the term 'hypomnesis' to describe this function of narrative in hymns: the god is 'reminded' of his prowess so as to induce him to repeat the performance in the worshipper's interest.

 $^{^{20}}$ For all her enthusiasms, Harrison (1963) was not guilty of this bias, as she made the 'Hymn of the Kouretes' (our no. 1.1) the basis of *Themis*.

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multitude of shattered fragments, assess their original position, reassemble them as best he can, while conscious that there are gaps which will probably never be filled, we have collected and attempted to order the *disiecta membra* of ancient Greek hymnography. We hope that the result will be profitable for both literary and religious studies.

1.2 Ancient theory

It is time now to consider the principles of that order more carefully. Was there a genre of hymn in ancient Greece, or rather, was there one genre or many? 'Hymn' is, of course, a Greek word (uvoc) but its etymology and origin remain obscure. We find a number of ancient etymologies, none convincing. The Etym. Gud. 540.38 Sturz gives the following account: "Hymn comes from 'remain', being something which 'remains', because it draws the words of praise and the virtues into a durable form".²¹ This derivation emphasizes the celebratory aspect of hymns, their function to record and document praiseworthy deeds and powers. It does not explicitly mention the gods. Linguistically it is more than suspect, involving a most unlikely syncopation of the verb hypomeno to hymeno, hence hymnos from hypomonos. This 'etymology' is also given by Proklos, who records another possible derivation, from the (rare) verb ὕδειν, which he glosses as 'speak' (ibid.). Here one would have to assume a syncopated form of a passive participle of the verb;²² but even if such a process was linguistically viable, the meaning 'speak' is hardly germane, or germinal, to any essential quality of the hymn. Finally, a number of passages in poetry exploit the similarity between the stems hymn- and hyph- from the verb hyphaino, 'weave'.²³ However, such etymological play belongs more in the realm of lyric inventiveness than the essential development of language.²⁴

²¹ ὕμνος· παρὰ τὸ ὑμένω τὸ ὑπομένω, ὑπόμονός τις ὤν, καὶ ἐν συγκοπῆι ὕμνος, καθὸ εἰς ὑπομονὴν καὶ πρᾶξιν ἀγειν τὰς τῶν ἐπαίνων ἀκοάς, καὶ ἀρετάς. Cf. Proklos ap. Phot. Bibl. 320a9-10: ἀπὸ τοῦ ὑπόμονόν τινα εἶναι; E.M. s.v. ὕμνος· κατὰ συγκοπὴν, ὑπόμονός τις ὤν, καθὸ εἰς ὑπομονὴν καὶ μνήμην ἀγει τὰς τῶν ἐπαινουμένων πράξεις καὶ ἀρετάς, " 'hymn': a thing which is lasting (hypomonos), because it draws the deeds and powers of those praised into a durable and memorable form".

²²Perfect ὑσμένος \rightarrow ὕμνος, or ὑδόμενος \rightarrow ὑδμένος \rightarrow ὕμνος cf. Wünsch (1914, 141).

 $^{^{23}}$ ύμνον ὑφαίνειν, cf. Bacchylides 5.9; id. *Dith.* 19.8. For the force of the metaphor 'weave a hymn' see Scheid & Svenbro (1996, 118-19).

²⁴Wünsch (1914, 141) approves this derivation whilst Chantraine, *Dict. Etym.* s.v. cautions against it.

At an early stage it bore the general sense of 'song', though possibly with connotations of praise or celebration.²⁵ The more specific meaning 'song of praise for a god' developed from that, and is current in the classical period. Plato, for example, draws a clear distinction between hymns (ύμνοι) as songs in praise of gods, and encomia (ἐγχώμια) for men (Rep. 10.607a).²⁶ An ancient definition of hymnos used in this religious sense runs "hymnos is discourse in the form of adoration, with prayer conjoined with praise, addressed to a god".²⁷ The definition contains a number of essential points: the hymn worships (προσχυνέω) gods with combined prayer ($\varepsilon \vartheta \gamma \eta$) and praise ($\xi \pi \alpha \upsilon \sigma \varsigma$). We may compare this with another ancient definition given by Dionysios Thrax (2nd c. BC): "the 'hymn' is a poem comprising praises of the gods and heroes with thanksgiving".²⁸ This formulation specifies that a hymn has *poetic* form ($\pi o(\eta u \alpha)$), includes heroes among recipients of hymnic worship,²⁹ and uses the expression *eu*charistia, 'thanksgiving' to denote an essential element of the worshippers' offering of song.

In a way the more general ancient term for the collective singing of a deity's praise by a group denoted the whole activity (song, dance, place of worship): *choros*, the chorus which learnt the dance steps, the words and the melody which in combination constituted the hymn's performance. To 'set up a chorus' ($\chi o \rho \delta \nu i \sigma \tau \alpha \nu \alpha \iota$) for the performance of ritual songs became the standard term for the inauguration of hymns in performance.³⁰ Numerous passages describe the founding of the cult of a god or hero, either in conjunction with the erection of an altar and/or temple in his/her honour or with reorganization of the cult. For example, at Bacchylides 11.108ff., when Artemis persuaded Hera to reprieve the daughters of Proitos from their god-sent madness, they built her an altar and temenos and 'in-

²⁵See the *PW* article 'Hymnos' by Wünsch, 141-2.

²⁶Cf. Etym. Gud. 540.42 Sturz.

²⁷ Etym. Gud. ὕμνος· ἔστιν ὁ μετὰ προσχυνήσεως καὶ εὐχῆς κεκραμένης ἐπαίνωι λόγος εἰς θεόν.

²⁸451.6 Hilgard: ὕμνος ἐστὶ ποίημα περιέχον θεῶν ἐγκώμια καὶ ἡρώων μετ' εὐχαριστίας.

²⁹In this collection we do not include hymns to heroes, limiting ourselves to those addressed to recognized divinities. For an interesting early 'hymn' to the hero Achilles see Simonides fr. 10-11 West²; cf. L. Sbardella, 'Achille e gli eroi di Platea. Simonide frr. 10-11 W²', *ZPE* 129, 2000, 1-11.

³⁰LSJ s.v. ^tστημι iii 4; cf. Aristoph. *Clouds* 271 with Dover's note, and *Birds* 219 with Dunbar's note; Burkert (1977, 168).

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stituted choruses of women' ($\kappa \alpha \lambda \chi \alpha \rho \rho \omega \zeta$ ($\delta \tau \alpha \nu \gamma \upsilon \nu \alpha \iota \kappa \tilde{\omega} \nu$), whose role no doubt was to hymn Artemis. The hymn-singing which typically accompanied the inauguration or restitution of a cult is well illustrated by Aristophanes *Peace* 774ff., where the goddess Peace is restored to the accompaniment of joyous hymn-singing. Names such as Stesichoros, 'Chorus-Trainer' or Hagesichora, 'Chorus-Leader', Terpsichora (one of the Muses), 'Chorus-lover', point to the familiarity of the concept. At Eur. *El.* 177-78 we find the term used not of inaugural rites but of the regular choral singing performed by Argive girls for Hera.³¹

In earlier work we have discussed in greater detail the relation of the generic term $\ddot{u}\mu\nu\sigma\varsigma$ with the various sub-categories of sacred song named in antiquity.³² Our position may be summarized here. A passage of Plato might at first sight be taken to point to a distinction between hymns proper and other types such as paians, dithyrambs and nomes.³³ The Alexandrian classification of religious choral lyric (by e.g. Pindar, Bacchylides) into separate books of paians, dithyrambs etc. and hymns seems to point in the same direction. And at one point in his discussion of this very point, the taxonomy of sacred song, Proklos uses the expression 'the hymn proper' ($\dot{\delta} \times \upsilon\rho\iota\omega\varsigma$) of a song of divine praise sung round the god's altar³⁴ in contradistinction to prosodia and other forms which, although addressed to the gods, are, by implication, distinct from 'hymns proper'. These and other passages led Harvey (1955, 166) to conclude that there was a specific poetic form for the 'hymn proper', a monostrophic poem to the gods sung by a stationary chorus.

On the other hand, as Harvey recognizes, there was a general sense to the word $\Im \mu \nu o \varsigma$ current in antiquity which made it the generic word for songs for gods, and other terms, such as dithyrambs and paians, subdivisions of the genus. A statement of Didymos quoted by Orion (p. 155-6 Sturz) runs: "The hymn is distinct from enkomia, prosodia and paians not in that the latter are not hymns, but as genus (sc. is distinct) from species. For we call all forms of song for the gods hymns, and add a qualifying

³¹ούδ' ίστᾶσα χορούς / Ἀργείαις ἅμα νύμφαις.

³²Bremer (1981, 204); Furley (1993, 22-24); Furley (1995a, 31-32).

³³Laws 700b1-5: καί τι ην είδος ώιδης εὐχαὶ πρὸς θεούς, ὄνομα δὲ ὕμνοι ἐπεκαλοῦντο... καὶ παίωνες ἕτερον, καὶ ἀλλο, Διονύσου γένεσις οἶμαι, διθύραμβος λεγόμενος: "... and one form of song consisted of prayers to the gods – these were called 'hymns' – ... and paians were another form, and another, the birth of Dionysos, I think, was called 'dithyramb'".

³⁴ Bibl. 320a19-20 ό δὲ χυρίως ὕμνος πρὸς χιθάραν ἤιδετο ἑστώτων.

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