

## Heracles in Early Greek Epic

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# Heracles in Early Greek Epic

*Edited by*

Christos C. Tsagalis



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## Preface

This volume is the fruit of an international conference on Heracles in Early Greek Epic that was held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in June 24–26, 2022. The conference was generously funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) as part of the research project 1879 (Early Greek Epic Poets, Acronym: *EGEP*). In this light, I would like, as principal investigator, organizer of the conference, and editor of this volume, to thank the H.F.R.I. for supporting research in Greek Universities and promoting the Classics.

The volume is organized into three parts. Part 1 (*Sources and Intertexts for Early Greek Epic on Heracles*), Part 2 (*Heracles in Homer and Hesiod*), and Part 3 (*Heracles in Fragmentary Greek Epic*). Part 1 deals with Near Eastern intertexts (Bruno Currie: *Heracles and Gilgamesh in Early Greek Epic*) and reconstructed Greek contexts (Ruth Scodel: *Heracles on Cos*; Sophie Mills: *Civilizer, Killer, Glutton ... Moralist? Glimpses of Heracles in Early Greek Epic*) that inform early epic representations of Heracles. In Part 2, scholars discuss Heracles in Homer and Hesiod (Apostolia Alepidou: *Heracles in Homer and Hesiod: Shared ID, Distinct Perspectives*; Glenn Most: *Heracles in Hesiod*; Silvio Bär: *Heracles and Hesione in the Iliad*; Hanne Eisenfeld: *Of Walls and Monsters: Heracles and Epic Time in Iliad 20*). Part 3 deals with the representation of Heracles in fragmentary Greek epic of the Archaic and Classical periods (Christos Tsagalis: *Narrative and Stylistic Artistry in Early Greek Epic: Creophylus, Pisander, Panyassis*; Laura Lulli: *Traces of the Epics on Heracles in the Archaic and Classical Periods: Between Local Interests and Never-Ending Traditions*; Stefano Vecchiato: *Reassessing Pisander of Camirus, fr. dub. 2 EGEP*).

This volume would not have been completed but through the thoughtful contributions of all those colleagues who are listed above. Their participation in the Thessaloniki conference and especially their engagement with various issues concerning Heracles in Early Greek Epic has been really stimulating. I am grateful to them all. Special thanks are owed to Ruth Scodel, who in an act of selfless collegiality volunteered to polish the English style of several chapters that were written by non-native English speakers. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Zoe Kalamara and Eleni Trougkou, graduate students at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, who helped me with practical issues before and during the conference, as well as to the journalist Lambrini Trougkou for her assistance. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my family, who allowed me the time to carry out this

demanding project at a time when we should have been spending more time together, after this long and awful pandemic.

*Christos C. Tsagalis*  
*Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*  
*January 2024*



# Contributors

*Apostolia Alepidou*

Ph.D. candidate in Ancient Greek Literature, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

*Silvio Bär*

Professor of Greek, University of Oslo.

*Bruno Currie*

Mason Monro Fellow in Classics, Oriel College, and Professor of Greek Literature, University of Oxford.

*Hanne Eisenfeld*

Assistant Professor in Classical Studies, Boston College.

*Laura Lulli*

Associate Professor in Ancient Greek Philology, Università degli Studi dell'Aquila.

*Sophie Mills*

Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Studies, University of North Carolina.

*Glenn Most*

Retired Professor, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, and Visiting Professor, University of Chicago.

*Ruth Scodel*

Professor Emerita, The University of Michigan.

*Christos C. Tsagalis*

Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

*Stefano Vecchiato*

Mondadori Education S.p.A.