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978-1-107-01259-2 - The Greek Epic Cycle and its Ancient Reception: A Companion

Edited by Marco Fantuzzi and Christos Tsagalis

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## The Greek Epic Cycle and Its Ancient Reception

The poems of the Epic Cycle are assumed to be the reworking of myths and narratives which had their roots in an oral tradition predating that of many of the myths and narratives which took their present form in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The remains of these texts allow us to investigate diachronic aspects of epic diction as well as the extent of variation within it on the part of individual authors – two of the most important questions in modern research on archaic epic. They also help to illuminate the early history of Greek mythology. Access to the poems, however, has been thwarted by their current fragmentary state. This volume provides the scholarly community and graduate students with a thorough critical foundation for reading and interpreting them.

MARCO FANTUZZI teaches Greek literature at Columbia University, New York, and at the University of Macerata. His publications include: *Achilles in Love*, 2012; *Tradition and Innovation in Hellenistic Poetry* (with R. Hunter), 2004; *Ricerche su Apollonio Rodio: diacronie della dizione epica*, 1988; *Bionis Smyrnaei Adonidis epitaphium*, 1985; *Brill's Companion to Greek and Latin Pastoral*, ed. (with T. Papanghelis), 2006; and *Struttura e storia dell'esametro greco*, ed. (with R. Pretagostini) 1995–6; forthcoming commentary on the *Rhesus* ascribed to Euripides. Among his present research interests are Greek tragedy, Hellenistic poetry, Greek and Latin metrics, and ancient literary criticism and scholarship.

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## Editorial note

English translations of Greek and Latin texts are consistently from the Loeb Classical Library, where available, unless otherwise stated. Transliterations of the Greek are sometimes adopted, in the hope of expediting the reading experience – but only for single words or short phrases which have been already quoted for the first time in Greek.

With regard to the mythological *Library* ascribed erroneously by Photius to ‘Apollodorus the Grammmarian’, namely the famous Apollodorus of Athens, we have consistently referred to its author as Ps.-Apollodorus, in agreement with a widespread convention. Of course the author of the *Library* may have been a different Apollodorus.

As there is so much inconsistency among classicists in the spelling of proper names, the editors decided to let each contributor develop their own system as long as they applied it consistently within their chapter. There may be a certain inconsistency in the abbreviated references used throughout the volume, but this should not affect clarity for those readers who wish to follow them up.

The volume was delivered to Cambridge University Press in the summer of 2014, and only occasionally could the authors or the editors refer to more recent bibliography (we are sorry, in particular, that none of us could acknowledge M. Davies, *The Theban Epics*, Harvard, 2015).