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Olympians 2, 7 and 11; Nemean 4; Isthmians 3, 4 and 7
Pindar, Edited by Malcolm M. Willcock
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PINDAR
VICTORY ODES

*Olympians 2, 7, 11; Nemean 4;
Isthmians 3, 4, 7*

EDITED BY
M. M. WILLCOCK



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PREFACE

The forty-five surviving victory odes of Pindar may for convenience be divided into categories: (a) short poems, mostly without a myth; (b) those composed for victors from the island of Aegina, (c) those for the tyrants of Syracuse and Akragas, and the king of Cyrene; (d) other show-pieces, or *tours de force*, in which I include the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Thirteenth Olympian, the Ninth Pythian and the Tenth Nemean; (e) others. From these categories, I have selected (a) *O.* 11, *I.* 3; (b) *N.* 4; (c) *O.* 2; (d) *O.* 7; (e) *I.* 4, *I.* 7.

As to the order of presentation, it is sensible to begin with the more straightforward poems and progress towards the more complex. This is not the usual practice; indeed surprisingly often it is assumed that the student should begin with the First Olympian, or even the First Pythian. Nor is there any great merit in presenting the odes chronologically, in so far as their dates are known. This would be too close to the now discredited biographical approach. The selection begins therefore with the Eleventh Olympian, and proceeds by level of difficulty (apart from treating the Third Isthmian as an appendage to the Fourth, which it obviously in some sense is) to the Second Olympian. This has the added advantage that the Second Olympian, with its description of the destiny of the soul in the afterlife, gives the opportunity to add some fragments from one of the lost books, the *Threni* or *Dirges*. These are presented in Appendix B.

It is impossible to achieve consistency in the spelling of Greek proper names. The practice that has seemed natural in this book has been to write the names of those mentioned in the odes (victors and their relations, mythological figures) in transliterated Greek (Hagesidamos, Neoptolemos), while keeping the familiar Latin names for Greek authors and later scholars (Herodotus, Aristarchus), and the Latinised, or in some cases Anglicised, forms for many of the place-names (Aegina, the Isthmus, Thebes).

It is a pleasant duty to record my indebtedness to a number of scholars: in the first place to Professor P. E. Easterling, the Greek editor of the Series, and Dr R. D. Dawe, both of whom have gone through the text with the greatest care and consideration, and resolved many difficulties; to Professor E. J. Kenney and Dr S. J. Instone, who

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also read every word of the typescript and sent detailed comments; to Mr M. G. Balme, who read the Introduction, and Dr P. Kingsley, who advised me on Empedocles and Pythagoreanism in connection with the Second Olympian; and to those who have given swift and helpful answers to particular questions: E. Gebhard, D. E. Gerber, D. W. Macdonald, H. G. T. Maehler, C. O. Pavese, W. Raschke and R. W. Sharples. Finally, I express my warm appreciation of the attention given to the typescript by Susan Moore, copy-editor at the Cambridge University Press; she has greatly improved the consistency of both text and commentary.

University College London

M. M. Willcock