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BACCHYLIDES A SELECTION

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In memory of W. S. Barrett

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PREFACE

The poetry of Bacchylides, Simonides' nephew, was unfavourably compared to that of his contemporary, Pindar, by Ps. Longinus (περὶ ὕψους 33.5), and even after the publication of the great London papyrus by F. G. Kenyon in 1897 modern commentators have tended to criticize Bacchylides for not being sufficiently like Pindar. In truth, however, the two poets are very different stylistically, even in their victory odes where they necessarily conform to the same set of conventions; comparison of their dithyrambs is scarcely possible, as none of Pindar's are preserved complete. In fact, the first five of Bacchylides' dithyrambs are the only complete (or nearly complete) specimens of this important genre from the first half of the fifth century BCE.

To do justice to the qualities of Greek choral lyric poetry, one has to bear in mind the function of the respective literary genre (victory ode, praise poem, cult song, etc.) and the aims which the poet was expected to achieve within each genre. An unbiased approach to Bacchylides' poems will show him not as a lesser Pindar, but as an imaginative, original and highly accomplished poet in his own right.

The present selection is based on my complete edition with commentary in two parts: *Die Lieder des Bakchylides: I Die Siegeslieder* (1982), II *Die Dithyramben und Fragmente* (1997). That commentary has here been revised and adapted to the interests and needs of an English-speaking academic but non-specialist readership.

It is a pleasure to thank Professors P. E. Easterling and R. Hunter, whose guidance and constructive comments have greatly improved my draft and whose meticulous scrutiny of my typescript has cleansed it of many inaccuracies and inconsistencies. Thanks are also due to Dr Michael Sharp and especially to my copy-editor, Ms Muriel Hall, whose watchful eye has spotted many oversights. My greatest debt of gratitude is to the late W. S. Barrett, who communicated the results of his own unpublished research into problems of text or interpretation to me and allowed me to make use of them in the most generous way. I dedicate this volume to his memory.

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABL</i>	C. H. E. Haspels, <i>Attic black-figured lekythoi</i> (Paris 1936)
<i>ABV</i>	J. D. Beazley, <i>Attic black-figure vase painters</i> (Oxford 1956)
<i>Add.</i>	T. H. Carpenter, <i>Beazley Addenda</i> (2nd edn., Oxford 1989)
<i>ARV</i> ²	J. D. Beazley, <i>Attic red-figure vase painters</i> (2nd edn., Oxford 1963)
<i>BKT IX</i>	G. Ioannidou, <i>Catalogue of Greek and Latin Literary Papyri in Berlin</i> (<i>Berliner Klassikertexte IX</i> , Mainz 1996)
<i>Coll.Alex.</i>	J. U. Powell, <i>Collectanea Alexandrina</i> (Oxford 1925)
<i>CPG</i>	<i>Corpus Papyrographorum Graecorum</i> ed. E. L. von Leutsch and F. G. Schneidewin, 2 vols. (Göttingen 1839 and 1851)
<i>CVA</i>	<i>Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum</i>
<i>FGrHist</i>	F. Jacoby, <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> (Berlin–Leiden 1923–58)
G.–P.	B. Gentili and C. Prato, <i>Poetae elegiaci</i> , 2 vols. (Leipzig 1979 and 1985)
<i>IEG</i>	M. L. West, <i>Iambi et elegi graeci ante Alexandrum cantati</i> (2nd edn., Oxford 1992)
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
Jebb	R. C. Jebb, <i>Bacchylides, The poems and fragments</i> (Cambridge 1905)
Kenyon	<i>The poems of Bacchylides</i> ed. F. G. Kenyon (London 1897)
K–B	R. Kühner–F. Blass, <i>Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache, 1. Teil: Elementar- und Formenlehre</i> , 2 vols. (3rd edn., Hannover 1890–92)
K–G	R. Kühner–B. Gerth, <i>Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache, 2. Teil: Satzlehre</i> , 2 vols. (3rd edn., Hannover 1898)
<i>LIMC</i>	<i>Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae</i>

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- LSJ H. G. Liddell–R. Scott–H. S. Jones, *A Greek–English Lexicon* (Oxford 1940)
- OCD³ *Oxford Classical Dictionary* 3rd edn. by S. Hornblower and A. Spawforth (Oxford 1996)
- Ox.Pap.* *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*
- Para* J. D. Beazley, *Paralipomena* (2nd edn., Oxford 1971)
- PCG *Poetae Comici Graeci* ed. R. Kassel and C. Austin (Berlin 1983–98)
- PEG *Poetae Epici Graeci*, vol. 1 ed. A. Bernabé (Leipzig 1987)
- PLF *Poetarum Lesbiorum fragmenta* ed. E. Lobel and D. Page (Oxford 1955)
- PMG *Poetae Melici Graeci* ed. D. L. Page (Oxford 1962)
- PMGF *Poetarum Melicorum Graecorum fragmenta* ed. M. Davies (Oxford 1991)
- PSI *Papiri della Società Italiana*
- RE *Pauly's Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*
- SH *Supplementum Hellenisticum* ed. H. Lloyd-Jones and P. J. Parsons (Berlin 1983)
- SLG *Supplementum Lyricis Graecis* ed. D. Page (Oxford 1974)
- TrGF *Tragicorum graecorum fragmenta*, I ed. B. Snell (*Didascaliae etc., fragmenta tragicorum minorum*, Göttingen 1971, 1986), II ed. R. Kannicht and B. Snell (*Adespota*, 1981), III ed. S. Radt (*Aeschylus*), IV ed. S. Radt (*Sophocles*, 1985, 1999)

Abbreviated titles of periodicals, where not self-explanatory, are cited as in *L'année philologique*.