

Simonides the Poet

Simonides is tantalising and enigmatic, known both from fragments and from an extensive tradition of anecdotes. This monograph, the first in English for a generation, employs a two-part diachronic approach: Richard Rawles first reads Simonidean fragments with attention to their intertextual relationship with earlier works and traditions, and then explores Simonides through his ancient reception. In the first part, interactions between Simonides' own poems and earlier traditions, both epic and lyric, are studied in his melic fragments and then in his elegies. The second part focuses on an important strand in Simonides' ancient reception, concerning his supposed meanness and interest in remuneration. This is examined in Pindar's *Isthmian* 2, and then in Simonides' reception up to the Hellenistic period. The book concludes with a full reinterpretation of Theocritus 16, a poem which engages both with Simonides' poems and with traditions about his life.

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Intertextuality and Reception

RICHARD RAWLES

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Contents

- Preface* [page xi]
- Introduction [1]
- Diachronic Reading: The Approach and Plan of This Book [1]
- Intertextuality [8]
- Reception and Anecdote [13]
- Economics of Poetry [16]
-
- PART I SIMONIDES AND THE POETS OF THE PAST [21]
- 1 Epic Traditions in Lyric Songs [23]
- Introduction to Part I [23]
- Meleager and the Poetics of Exemplarity: Simonides, Stesichorus
 and Homer (564 PMG = 273 Poltera) [28]
- Singing to the Laos in Simonides, Pindar and Bacchylides* [31]
- The Extent of Simonides' Meleager-logos* [36]
- The Myth of Meleager in Simonides, Epic and Stesichorus* [39]
- Broader Resonances: Meleager as Exemplum* [41]
- Exemplum and Victory: Simonides' Meleager* [45]
- Conclusions* [47]
- The Visible Logos: Allegory and Intertext (579 PMG = 257 Poltera) [48]
- Textual Problems* [50]
- 'There is a story ...': Fable, Gnome, Allusion* [56]
- Interpreting the Fragment's Relation to Hesiod* [58]
- Allusion and Allegory* [61]
- Fragment and Context* [64]
- Seeing the Logos: Vision, Blindness and Tradition* [68]
- Double Meanings* [72]
- Conclusions: Allusion and Allegory, Poet and Audience* [75]
- 2 The 'New Simonides': Homeric and Elegiac
 Transformations [77]
- Simonides' *Iliad*: Intertextual Panhellenism [77]
- The 'Plataea Elegy'* [78]
- Possible Contexts* [81]
- Hellas and Sparta* [83]
- Iliadic Intertextuality in the Plataea Elegy* [86]

<i>Ἀεὶ Φιλέλλην ὁ Πουητής? Ethnicity and Homer before the End of the Persian Wars</i>	[90]
<i>Allusion and Interpretation</i>	[97]
<i>Evil-Minded Paris</i>	[101]
<i>Conclusions</i>	[104]
Simonides' Sympotic Homer: Epic, Elegy and Education	[106]
<i>Texts and Problems</i>	[106]
<i>Archaism and Traditionality</i>	[114]
<i>Simonides, Mimnermus, Solon: Arguing within a Tradition</i>	[120]
<i>Tradition and Reception</i>	[123]
<i>Conclusions</i>	[127]
PART II SIMONIDEA: SIMONIDES THROUGH ANCIENT RECEPTIONS [131]	
3 Pindar, Simonides and Money: Pindar's <i>Isthmian</i> 2	[133]
Introduction	[133]
Pindar <i>Isthmian</i> 2: The Imagery of <i>Misthos</i>	[134]
<i>Isthmian</i> 2 and Simonides: Ancient Interpretation	[138]
Aristodamus the Argive	[140]
Aristodamus and the Interpretation of <i>Isthmian</i> 2	[143]
<i>Sophoi</i> , Pindar and Simonides	[145]
Addressee, Argument and <i>Sophia</i>	[148]
Conclusion: <i>Isthmian</i> 2, Money and Simonides	[151]
4 Simonides and Wealth: A Critical Description of the Tradition	[155]
Introduction: Anecdotes, Reception and Scholarship	[155]
Simonides <i>Kimbix</i> : A Sketch	[156]
Xenophanes	[157]
Aristophanes	[160]
Plato and [Plato]	[163]
Xenophon	[170]
Aristotle (and More Plato)	[171]
Chamaeleon	[178]
An Anonymous Compilation (Third Century B.C.)	[185]
The Thessalian Disaster	[187]
The Third Century B.C. and Later: Observations	[191]
5 From Stories to Songs: Simonides <i>Kimbix</i> in the Fragments	[194]
Introduction: Simonides in the Light of the Anecdotal Tradition	[194]
'O for a Beaker Full of the Cold North!' Simonides fr. 25 W	[194]
The 'Snow Poem' and Hesiod	[197]
Cloaks	[199]
Interpretation of the 'Snow Poem'	[203]

Simonides, Editors and Readers: The Attribution of fr. 25 W [206]
The Cloak and the Octopus (Simonides 514 *PMG* = 3 Poltera) [214]
Epinician, Fable, Iambus [220]
Conclusion [223]

6 Simonides, History and *Kleos*: Theocritus’ *Charites* or
Hieron [226]
Introduction [226]
Simonides in Theocritus 16: An Outline [227]
Theocritus 16 and Sicilian Ideology: Historical Readings [228]
Simonides in Theocritus 16: The Anecdotal Tradition [235]
Simonides in Theocritus 16: Sicily and Thessaly [240]
Theocritus’ Thessalians and Archaic Presentations of *Kleos* [247]
Simonides in Theocritus 16: Allusions to Elegy [253]
Contrasting Presentations of *Kleos* in Theocritus 16 [259]
Conclusions [264]

*Appendix: Simonides’ Poems Concerning Battles of the
Persian Wars* [269]
Bibliography [281]
Index of Subjects [300]
Index of Passages Discussed [306]

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[More Information](#)

Preface

This book started life as a PhD thesis at University College London, although it has grown and changed quite a bit in several further years of gestation. The thesis was supervised by Alan Griffiths and Chris Carey. To both I owe a very great deal for scholarship, guidance, kindness and inspiration. I would also like to thank my examiners, Richard Hunter and Nick Lowe, for their careful criticisms and helpful advice and support. While working on my doctorate, I also received very valuable help from Cornelia Römer, on matters papyrological and non-papyrological. Simon Hornblower kindly read and commented on a draft of what has become Chapter 6. My doctoral work was financed with the assistance of the Student Awards Agency for Scotland. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the excellent facilities and librarians at the Joint Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies at the Institute of Classical Studies; I also learnt much from friends and colleagues studying with me at that time, both informally and at the Institute of Classical Studies' 'Work in Progress' seminar.

The original motivation for my doctoral research had a great deal to do with the inspiring classes of Alan Griffiths, and it is a pleasure to mention many other teachers to whom I owe a great deal, including especially K. J. V. Thomson, Michael Comber, Richard Janko and Cornelia Römer.

Since completing my doctorate, I have been fortunate to enjoy the support and collegiality of colleagues in St Andrews, UCL, Edinburgh and Nottingham, and I am grateful also for the hospitality of the Faculty of Classics in the University of Cambridge in allowing me to use their library. Parts of chapters have been delivered as papers in London, Glasgow and Cambridge, and I am grateful to participants for comments and suggestions.

Many others have helped me by sharing unpublished work or in other ways, including Lucia Athanassaki, Emmanuela Bakola, Ewen Bowie, Douglas Cairns, Richard Hunter, Lawrence M. Kowerski, David and Kristin Leith, David Sider and Mario Telò.

Two helpful readers for Cambridge University Press have improved the book with suggestions large and small and have removed a number of errors and problems.

During my doctoral research and subsequently, I have benefited from discussion of ancient poetry with Peter Agócs, and I can trace the first inklings of sections of this book back to conversations with him. He has also sustained me with kindnesses in many other ways. Both during the completion of my doctorate and through the years since, I have been blessed with the support and help of Lucia Prauscello. She has read everything here and has persistently improved my work with her wide knowledge, scholarship and perspicuity, and I have learned also from the inspiration of her own work. On a more personal level I owe her a great deal for her kindness, support and companionship over many years.

Had I listened more and earlier to many of those named above, this book would probably have been better and would certainly have been different from how it is now. The usual caveat, that responsibility for errors and folly remains my own, therefore applies.

I leave the most important debt until last. To catalogue the thanks I owe to my parents is impossible here; it must suffice to mention that it has included substantial financial and practical assistance, unstinting moral support, intellectual discussion and the inspiration of their own researches. A few of my closest friends will realise that this is an insufficient description, and I hope that they do too.