

HERMETICA II

This volume presents in new English translations the scattered fragments and testimonies regarding Hermes Thrice Great that complete Brian Copenhaver's translation of the *Hermetica* (Cambridge 1992). It contains the twenty-nine fragments from Stobaeus (including the famous *Korē Kosmou*), the Oxford and Vienna fragments (never before translated into English), an expanded selection of fragments from various authors (including Zosimus of Panopolis, Augustine, and Albert the Great), and testimonies about Hermes from thirty-eight authors (including Cicero, Pseudo-Manetho, the Emperor Julian, Al-Kindī, Michael Psellus, the *Emerald Tablet*, and Nicholas of Cusa). All translations are accompanied by introductions and notes which cite sources for further reading. These Hermetic texts will appeal to a broad array of readers interested in western esotericism including scholars of Egyptology, the New Testament, the classical world, Byzantium, medieval Islam, the Latin Middle Ages, and the Renaissance.

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*The Excerpts of Stobaeus, Papyrus Fragments, and Ancient
Testimonies in an English Translation with Notes and
Introductions*

M. DAVID LITWA

Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Melbourne



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For Sam, Annie, Alex, and Eve
שבת שלום

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Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Contents

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>Preface</i> | <i>page xi</i> |
| <i>Abbreviations</i> | xii |
| General Introduction | I |
| A Note on This Translation | 15 |
| Sigla Adopted for This Translation | 17 |
| STOBAEAN HERMETICA (SH I–29) | 19 |
| OXFORD HERMETICA (OH I–5) | 161 |
| VIENNA HERMETICA (VH I–2) | 171 |
| HERMETIC FRAGMENTS FROM VARIOUS AUTHORS (FH I–45) | 175 |
| 1 Tertullian | 177 |
| 2 Pseudo(?)–Cyprian | 180 |
| 3–15 Lactantius | 182 |
| 16–18 Iamblichus | 193 |
| 19–21 Zosimus | 196 |
| 22 Ephrem the Syrian | 202 |
| 23–35 Cyril of Alexandria | 205 |
| Addendum: The Reception of Hermetic Fragments from Cyril | 215 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----|
| viii | <i>Contents</i> | |
| 36 | Marcellus of Ancyra | 224 |
| 37 | John Lydus | 227 |
| 38 | Gregory of Nazianzus | 230 |
| 39 | Didymus of Alexandria | 232 |
| 40 | Gaius Iulius Romanus | 235 |
| 41 | Augustine | 236 |
| 42 | Quodvultdeus | 245 |
| 43 | Michael Psellus | 249 |
| 44 | Albert the Great | 250 |
| 45 | Nicholas of Cusa | 254 |
| TESTIMONIES CONCERNING HERMES THRICE GREAT (TH 1–38) | | 257 |
| 1 | Artapanus | 259 |
| 2 | Cicero | 261 |
| 3 | Manilius | 262 |
| 4 | Thrasyllus | 264 |
| 5 | Dorotheus of Sidon | 266 |
| 6 | Philo of Byblos | 267 |
| 7 | Athenagoras | 268 |
| 8 | <i>Virtues of Plants</i> | 269 |
| 9 | <i>Refutation of All Heresies</i> | 271 |
| 10 | Pseudo-Manetho | 273 |
| 11 | Arnobius | 276 |
| 12 | Iamblichus | 277 |
| 13 | Marius Victorinus | 280 |
| 14 | The Emperor Julian | 281 |

| | <i>Contents</i> | ix |
|----|---|-----|
| 15 | Ammianus Marcellinus | 282 |
| 16 | <i>Greek Magical Papyri</i> | 283 |
| 17 | Filastrius | 285 |
| 18 | First Prologue to the <i>Cyranides</i> | 286 |
| 19 | Augustine | 288 |
| 20 | Hermias | 290 |
| 21 | Cyril of Alexandria | 292 |
| 22 | John of Antioch | 293 |
| 23 | Isidore of Seville | 294 |
| 24 | John of Damascus(?), <i>Passion of Artemius</i> | 295 |
| 25 | Al-Kindī | 297 |
| 26 | Abū Ma'shar | 298 |
| 27 | Ibn an-Nadīm | 302 |
| 28 | Al-Mubaššir ibn Fātik | 304 |
| 29 | Michael Psellus | 308 |
| 30 | <i>Emerald Tablet</i> | 314 |
| 31 | Prefaces to the <i>Composition of Alchemy</i> and the <i>Six Principles of Nature</i> | 317 |
| 32 | <i>Book of the Twenty-four Philosophers</i> | 320 |
| 33 | <i>Book of Alcidus</i> | 322 |
| 34 | <i>Fifteen Stars, Stones, Plants, and Talismans</i> | 324 |
| 35 | <i>Book of the Beibenian Stars</i> | 326 |
| 36 | Albert the Great | 328 |
| 37 | <i>Picatrix</i> | 333 |
| 38 | Nicholas of Cusa | 338 |
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 340 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 366 |

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978-1-107-18253-0 — Hermetica II
Edited and translated by M. David Litwa
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Preface

Despite widespread interest in the Hermetica across the globe, currently there does not exist a reliable and up-to-date English translation of the various Hermetic fragments and testimonies. Indeed, some of these fragments and testimonies remain generally unknown.

At the turn of the twentieth century, G. R. S. Mead made a translation of select fragments into Victorian English from now-outdated editions. The translation of the fragments by Walter Scott (1924) was based on his own re-written Greek text – a jungle of emendations and transpositions. When it came to testimonies, moreover, Scott did not actually translate the Greek or Latin texts. He only rendered into English (via Latin translations) texts originally written in Arabic.

The present translation serves a new generation of scholarly and lay readers of the Hermetica. It remains faithful to – though critically engaged with – the various manuscript traditions. Copious notes provide historical background, parallels, and references for further reading. Included also are many testimonies that Scott did not print. It is hoped that this volume will spark interest in the full reception history of the Hermetica, which must include Late Antiquity and the medieval period.

Here I gratefully acknowledge persons who read parts of the manuscript and offered helpful suggestions: Brian P. Copenhaver, David Runia, and Christian H. Bull. Christian Wildberg and Kevin Van Bladel also kindly answered my inquiries and provided guidance based on their expertise. My thanks also to Oxford University Press for the use of Van Bladel's translations of Arabic source materials.

Abbreviations

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| <i>ANRW</i> | Haase and others, eds., <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> |
| <i>Ascl.</i> | The Latin <i>Asclepius</i> |
| BSGRT | Bibliotheca Scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana |
| <i>CCAG</i> | <i>Catalogus Codicum Astrologorum Graecorum</i> , 11 vols., 1898–1912 |
| CCSL | Corpus Christianorum Series Latina |
| CH | <i>Corpus Hermeticum</i> |
| <i>CH Deutsch</i> | Holzhausen, ed., <i>Das Corpus Hermeticum Deutsch</i> , 2 vols., 1997 |
| Copenhaver | Copenhaver, trans., <i>Hermetica: The Greek Corpus Hermeticum</i> , 1992 |
| <i>DGWE</i> | Hanegraaff, ed., <i>Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism</i> , 2006. |
| DH | <i>Definitions of Hermes Trismegistus to Asclepius</i> |
| DK | Diels and Kranz, eds., <i>Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> , 6th edition |
| <i>Disc. 8–9</i> | <i>Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth</i> (NHC VI,6) |
| <i>DPA</i> | Richard Goulet, ed., <i>Dictionnaire des philosophes antiques</i> , 5 vols., 1989– |
| F | Codex Farnesius |
| FH | Hermetic Fragments from various sources |
| FHSG | Fortenbaugh, Huby, Sharples, and Gutas, eds., <i>Theophrastus of Eresus</i> , 1992 |
| <i>HHE</i> | Mahé, <i>Hermès en Haute-Égypte</i> , 2 vols., 1978–82. |
| LS | Long and Sedley, eds., <i>The Hellenistic Philosophers</i> , 2 vols., 1987 |
| MSS | Manuscripts |
| <i>Mystique</i> | Festugière, <i>Hermétisme et mystique païenne</i> , 1967 |

Abbreviations

xiii

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|--------|---|
| NF | Nock and Festugière, eds., <i>Corpus Hermeticum</i> , 4 vols., 1945–54 |
| NHC | Nag Hammadi Codices |
| NHS | Nag Hammadi Studies |
| NRSV | The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible |
| OF | Bernabé, ed., <i>Orphicorum et Orphicis similium testimonia et fragmenta</i> , 2005 |
| OH | Oxford Hermetic Fragments |
| OLD | P. G. W. Glare, ed., <i>Oxford Latin Dictionary</i> . 1968–82 |
| OTP | Charlesworth, ed., <i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> , 2 vols., 1983–85 |
| P | Codex Parisinus gr. 2129 |
| PG | Migne, ed., <i>Patrologia Graeca</i> , 162 vols., 1857–86 |
| PW | Pauly and Wissowa, eds., <i>Realencyclopädie</i> , 83 vols., 1893–1982 |
| Ref. | <i>Refutation of All Heresies</i> |
| RHT | Festugière, <i>La Révélation d'Hermès Trismégiste</i> , 4 vols., 2nd edn., 1949–54 |
| SC | Sources Chrétiennes |
| Scarpi | Scarpi, ed., <i>La Rivelazione segreta di Ermete Trismegisto</i> , 2 vols., 2009–11 |
| SH | Stobaeon Hermetic Excerpts |
| SVF | Von Arnim, ed., <i>Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta</i> |
| TH | Hermetic Testimonies |
| VC | <i>Vigiliae Christianae</i> |
| VH | Vienna Hermetic Fragments |

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