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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HERMETICA II

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

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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the turn of the twentieth century, G. R. S. Mead made a translation of select fragments into Victorian English from now-outdated editions.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

ANRW
Haase and others, eds., Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt

Ascl.
The Latin Asclepius

BSGRT
Bibliotheca Scriptorum Graecorum et Romanorum Teubneriana

CCAG
Catalogus Codicium Astrologorum Graecorum, 11 vols., 1898–1912

CCSL
Corpus Christianorum Series Latina

CH
Corpus Hermeticum

CH Deutsch
Holzhausen, ed., Das Corpus Hermeticum Deutsch, 2 vols., 1997

Copenhaver
Copenhaver, trans., Hermetica: The Greek Corpus Hermeticum, 1992

DGWE

DH
Definitions of Hermes Trismegistus to Asclepius

DK
Diels and Kranz, eds., Fragmenta der Vorsokratiker, 6th edition

Disc. 8–9
Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth (NHC VI,6)

DPA

F
Codex Farnesianus

FH
Hermetic Fragments from various sources

FHSG
Fortenbaugh, Huby, Sharples, and Gutas, eds., Theophrastus of Eresus, 1992

HHE

LS
Long and Sedley, eds., The Hellenistic Philosophers, 2 vols., 1987

MSS
Manuscripts

Mystique
Festugière, Hermétisme et mystique païenne, 1967

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Abbreviations

NF  Nock and Festugière, eds., Corpus Hermeticum, 4 vols., 1945–54
NHC  Nag Hammadi Codices
NHS  Nag Hammadi Studies
NRSV  The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible
OF  Bernabé, ed., Orphicorum et Orphicis simili testimoenia et fragmenta, 2005
OH  Oxford Hermetic Fragments
P   Codex Parisinus gr. 2129
Ref.  Refutation of All Heresies
RHT  Festugière, La Révélation d’Hermès Trismégiste, 4 vols., 2nd edn., 1949–54
SC  Sources Chrétienennes
Scarpi  Scarpi, ed., La Rivelazione segreta di Ermete Trismegisto, 2 vols., 2009–11
SH  Stobaean Hermetic Excerpts
SVF  Von Arnim, ed., Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta
TH  Hermetic Testimonies
VC  Vigiliae Christianae
VH  Vienna Hermetic Fragments