

## SAPPHO AND HOMER

In this book, Melissa Mueller brings two of the most celebrated poets from Greek antiquity into conversation with contemporary theorists of gender, sexuality, and affect studies. Like all lyric poets of her time, Sappho was steeped in the affects and story-world of Homeric epic, and the language, characters, and themes of her poetry often intersect with those of Homer. Yet the relationship between Sappho and Homer has usually been framed as competitive and antagonistic. This book instead sets the two side by side, within the embrace of a nonhierarchical, “reparative reading” culture, as first conceived by queer theorist and poet Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. Reintroducing readers to a Sappho who supplements Homer’s vision, it is an approach that locates Sappho’s lyrics at the center of timely discussions about materiality, shame, queer failure, and the aging body, while presenting a sustaining and collaborative way of reading both lyric and epic.

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# SAPPHO AND HOMER

## *A Reparative Reading*

MELISSA MUELLER

*University of Massachusetts Amherst*



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*For Egbert and Tim*

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## *Acknowledgments*

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## *A Note on Texts and Abbreviations*

I have used Voigt's 1971 edition, *Sappho et Alcaeus*, for most of my selections from Sappho and Alcaeus, although I use different texts for Sappho fragments 22, 55, 96, and 98b and Alcaeus fragments 6 and 42, as is explained in the relevant notes. For the Tithonos Poem, I refer to the version edited by West 2005. I had access to Camillo Neri's 2021 Sappho edition and commentary only after this manuscript had reached its penultimate form and was therefore not able to take account of this work. I refer to the OCT (Oxford Classical Text) editions of Homer, Hesiod, and the Homeric Hymns. All translations are my own unless otherwise noted.

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|----------------|---|
| Campbell       | Campbell, D. A. ed., transl. 1982. <i>Greek Lyric. Volume I. Sappho. Alcaeus</i> . Loeb Classical Library 142. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. |
| <i>FGrH</i>    | Jacoby, Felix <i>et al.</i> eds. 1923–1958. <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> . Leiden: Brill.   |
| <i>L-P</i>     | Lobel, E. and Page, D. L. 1955. eds. <i>Poetarum Lesbiorum Fragmenta</i> . Oxford University Press.   |
| <i>PEG</i>     | Bernabé, Alberto. 1996. ed. <i>Pars I Poetae Epici Graeci. Testimonia et Fragmenta</i> . Berlin: B. G. Teubner.   |
| <i>PMG</i>     | Page, D. L. ed. 1962. <i>Poetae Melici Graecae</i> . Oxford: Clarendon Press.   |
| <i>P. Oxy.</i> | Grenfell, B. P., Hunt, A. S. <i>et al.</i> eds. <i>The Oxyrhynchus Papyri</i> . Oxford University Press.  |