

Hesiod's Tripod Rededicated: A Reinterpretation of *WD* 650-662

1. Hesiod's Tripod Dedication, *WD* 648-662 (trans. G. Most 2018)

δείξω δὴ τοι μέτρα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης,
οὔτέ τι ναυτιλίας σεσοφισμένος οὔτέ τι νηῶν.
οὐ γάρ πώ ποτε νηί [γ'] ἐπέπλων εὐρέα πόντον, 650
εἰ μὴ ἐς Εὐβοίαν ἐξ Αὐλίδος, ἧ ποτ' Ἀχαιοὶ
μείναντες χειμῶνα πολὺν σὺν λαὸν ἄγειραν
Ἑλλάδος ἐξ ἱερῆς Τροίην ἐς καλλιγύναικα.
ἔνθα δ' ἐγὼν ἐπ' ἄεθλα δαΐφρονος Ἀμφιδάμαντος 655
Χαλκίδα [τ'] εἰσεπέρησα· τὰ δὲ προπεφραδμένα πολλὰ
ἄθλ' ἔθεσαν παῖδες μεγαλήτορος· ἔνθα μέ φημι
ὑμνω νικήσαντα φέρειν τρίποδ' ὠτώεντα.
τὸν μὲν ἐγὼ Μούσησ' Ἑλικωνιάδεσσ' ἀνέθηκα
ἔνθα με τὸ πρῶτον λιγυρῆς ἐπέβησαν ἀοιδῆς. 660
τόσσον τοι νηῶν γε πεπείρημαι πολυγόμφων·
ἀλλὰ καὶ ὣς ἐρέω Ζηνὸς νόον αἰγιόχοιο·
Μοῦσαι γάρ μ' ἐδίδαξαν ἀθέσφατον ὕμνον ἀείδειν.¹

- I shall show you the measures of the much-roaring sea, I who have no expertise at all in either seafaring or boats.
- For never yet did I sail the broad sea in a boat, except to Euboea from Aulis, where once the Achaeans, waiting through the winter, gathered together a great host to sail from holy Greece to Troy with its beautiful women.
- There I myself crossed over into Chalcis for the games of valorous Amphidamas—that greathearted man's sons had announced and established many prizes—and there, I declare, I gained victory with a hymn, and carried off a tripod with handles.
- This I dedicated to the Heliconian Muses, where they first set me upon the path of clear-sounding song.
- This is as much experience of many-bolted ships as I have acquired; yet even so I shall speak forth the mind of aegis-holding Zeus, for the Muses taught me to sing an inconceivable hymn.

2. Mantiklos Apollo, *CEG* 326 (trans. N. Papalexandrou 2005)

Μάντικλός μ' ἀνέθεκε φεκαβόλοι ἀργυροτόξσοι
τᾶς {δ}δεκάτας· τὸ δέ, Φοῖβε, δίδοι χαρίφετταν
ἀμοιβ[άν].

Mantiklos dedicated me to the far-shooter with the silver bow as a tithe; you, Phoibos, give back in return a graceful recompense.

3. Hesiod's Description of Ascra, *WD* 639-640 (trans. G. Most 2018)

νάσσατο δ' ἄγχ' Ἑλικῶνος οἰζυρῆ ἐνὶ κόμῃ,
Ἄσκρι, χεῖμα κακῆ, θέρει ἀργαλέῃ, οὐδέ ποτ' ἐσθλῆ.

And he [Hesiod's father] settled near Helicon in a wretched village, Ascra, evil in winter, distressful in summer, not ever fine.

¹ All Greek text of *Works and Days* from F. Solmsen, R. Merkelbach, and M. L. West 1970.

4. Epigram, *Certamen* §13, ll. 213-214 (trans. P. Bassino 2019)

Ἡσίοδος Μούσαις Ἐλικωνίσι τόνδ' ἀνέθηκεν
ῥῆμνῳ νικήσας ἐν Χαλκίδι θεῖον Ὅμηρον.²

Hesiod dedicated this to the Heliconian Muses
when he defeated divine Homer with a hymn
at Chalcis.

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² Greek text of *Certamen* from P. Bassino 2018.