

**What's Past is Pro(cata)logue: Pindar and History in *Nemean 2***1. *Nemean 2* (Text: Snell-Maehler 1997; Translation: Race 1990 [with modifications])

Ἵθ' ἔπειτα καὶ Ὀμηρίδαι  
 ῥαπτῶν ἐπέων τὰ πόλλ' ἀοιδοί  
 ἄρχονται, Διὸς ἐκ προοιμίου, καὶ ὄδ' ἀνήρ  
 καταβολὰν ἱερῶν ἀγῶ-  
 νων νικαφορίας δέδεκται **πρῶτον**, Νεμεαίου  
 [5] ἐν πολυμνήτῳ **Διὸς** ἄλσει.

ὀφείλει δ' ἔτι, πατρίαν  
 εἶπερ καθ' ὁδὸν νιν **εὐθυπομπός**  
**αἰῶν** ταῖς μεγάλαις δέδωκε **κόσμον** Ἀθάναις,  
**θαμὰ μὲν Ἴσθμιάδων δρέπε-**  
**σθαι κάλλιστον ἄωτον ἐν Πυθίοισι τε νικᾶν**  
 [10] Τιμονόου παῖδ' ἔστι δ' εὐκόσμος

ὄρειᾶν γε Πελειάδων  
 μὴ τηλόθεν Ὠαρίωνα νεῖσθαι.  
**καὶ μὰν** ἅ Σαλαμῖς γε θρέψαι φῶτα μαχατάν  
 δυνατός. ἐν Τροίᾳ μὲν ἔ-  
 κτωρ Αἴαντος ἄκουσεν: ὦ Τιμόδημε, σὲ δ' ἀλκὰ  
 [15] παγκρατίου τλάθυμος ἀέξει.

Ἀχάρναι δὲ παλαίφατον  
 εὐάνορες· ὅσσα δ' ἀμφ' ἀέθλοις,  
 Τιμοδημίδαι ἐξοχώτατοι προλέγονται.  
**παρὰ μὲν ὑψιμέδοντι Παρ-**  
**νασῶ τέσσαρας ἐξ ἀέθλων νίκας ἐκόμιξαν·**  
 [20] ἀλλὰ Κορινθίων ὑπὸ φωτῶν

ἐν ἐσλοῦ Πέλοπος πτυχαῖς  
 ὀκτὼ στεφάνοις ἔμιχθεν ἤδη·  
**ἑπτὰ δ' ἐν Νεμέᾳ, τὰ δ' οἴκοι μάσσον' ἀριθμοῦ,**  
**Διὸς ἀγῶνι. τόν, ὦ πολῖ-**  
 ται, **κωμάξατε** Τιμοδήμῳ σὺν εὐκλεί νόστῳ·  
 [25] ἀδυμελεῖ δ' ἐξάρχετε φωνᾶ.

Just as the sons of Homer, those singers  
 of verses stitched together, most often begin  
 with a prelude to Zeus, so has this man  
 received his first down-payment of victory  
 in the sacred games at the much-hymned  
 sanctuary of Nemean Zeus.

But Timonoös' son is still indebted – if indeed his life,  
 while guiding him straight on the path of his fathers,  
 has given him as an adornment for great Athens –  
 to pluck again and again the fairest prize  
 of the Isthmian festivals and to be victorious  
 in the Pythian Games; and it is likely

that Orion is traveling not far behind  
 the mountain Pleiades.  
 And indeed Salamis is certainly capable of rearing  
 a fighter. At Troy Hector heard  
 from Aias; and you, O Timodemos, the stout-hearted  
 strength of the pankration exalts.

Acharnai is famous of old  
 for brave men, and in all that pertains to athletic games  
 the Timodemidai are proclaimed foremost.  
 From the games beside lofty-ruling Parnassos  
 they have carried off four victories,  
 but by the men of Corinth

in the valleys of noble Pelops  
 they have so far been joined to eight crowns;  
 there are seven at Nemea (at home too many to count) in the  
 contest of Zeus. Celebrate him [Zeus], O Citizens,  
 in honour of Timodemos upon his glorious return,  
 and begin with a sweetly melodious voice.

## 2. A Chiastic Catalogue:

- A (Nemea) 3-5: "so has this man / received his first down-payment of victory in the sacred games at the much-hymned / sanctuary of Nemean Zeus."  
B (Isthmia) 9: "to pluck again and again the fairest prize of the Isthmian festivals"  
C (Delphi) 9: "and to be victorious in the Pythian Games"  
C (Delphi) 19: "from the games beside lofty-ruling Parnassos they have carried off four victories"  
B (Isthmia) 20-22: "whereas by the men of Corinth / in the valleys of noble Pelops / they have been so far joined to eight crowns."  
A (Nemea) 23: "there are seven at Nemea... in the contest of Zeus"

## 3. Metaphors of Inevitability/Probability:

- 1-3: The Homeridai often begin with a *prooimion* before a recitation of epic.  
4: A down-payment expects a series of future payments.  
6: Timodemos is indebted to receive future victories  
7-8: Time is a certain "guide to Timodemos' return" (εὐθυπομπός αἰών) as an adornment for Athens.  
11-12: Orion always follows the Pleiades  
13-14: Salamis rears Ajax

## Select Bibliography

- Carey, C. "Pindar, Place, and Performance." *Pindar's Poetry, Patrons, and Festivals: From Archaic Greece to the Roman Empire*. Eds. S. Hornblower and C. Morgan. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007. 199-210
- Currie, B. "Reperformance Scenarios for Pindar's Odes." *Oral Performance and its Context*. Ed. C.J. Mackie. Leiden: Brill, 2004. 48-70.
- Eckerman, C. "The ΚΩΜΟΣ of Pindar and Bacchylides and the Semantics of Celebration." *Classical Quarterly* 60.2 (2010): 302-312.
- Fennell, C. *Pindar: Nemean and Isthmian Odes*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1883.
- Fränkel, H. *Early Greek Philosophy and Poetry*. London: Blackwell, 1975
- Gerber, D. *Commentary on Pindar: Olympian 9*. Berlin: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2002
- Grethlein, J. *The Greeks and Their Past*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2010
- Hannah, R. *Greek and Roman Calendars: Constructions of Time in the Classical World*. London: Duckworth, 2005
- Heath, M. "Receiving the κῶμος: the Context and Performance of Epinician." *American Journal of Philology* 109 (1988): 180-195.
- Hornblower, S. *Thucydides and Pindar*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004.
- Hubbard, T.K. "On Implied Wishes for Olympic Victory in Pindar." *Illinois Classical Studies* 20 (1995): 35-56.
- ----. "The Dissemination of Epinician Lyric: Pan-Hellenism, Reperformance, Written Texts." *Oral Performance and its Contexts*. Ed. C.J. Mackie. Leiden: Brill, 2004. 71-93.
- Instone, S. "Pindar's Enigmatic Second Nemean." *Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies* 36 (1989): 109-116.
- Morgan, K. "Pindar the Professional and the Rhetoric of the ΚΩΜΟΣ." *Classical Philology* 88.1 (1993): 1-15.
- Race, W. *Style and Rhetoric in Pindar's Odes*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990