

Reception in the Hexameter Poems of Theodore Prodromos

This paper is concerned with the reception of classical Greek poetry in Byzantium. A simile found near the outset of Theodore Prodromos' sixth *Carmina Historica* (6.40-9), which strikingly compares the city Kastamon (entered in triumph by John II Komnenos) to a young bride, makes a sustained allusion to the description of the disguised Aphrodite and her seduction of Anchises in the *Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite* -- language, imagery, and context all bring to mind the earlier hexameter hymn. This paper will explore the implications of this previously unnoticed echo, as well as Theodore Prodromos' use of hymnic form and language elsewhere in the *Carmina Historica*. It will be shown how his corpus of hexameter poetry on several occasions recalls and adapts the language of earlier 'pagan' hexameter hymns to the Christian context of celebration.

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