

Summary

Pindar. *Pythian Odes* / transl. by Grigory G. Starikovsky; with parallel Greek text; introductory articles and commentary by Olga L. Akhunova, Sergey S. Stepantsov, Vera G. Mostovaya, Varvara Yu. Zharkaya, Andrey Yu. Mozhajskey, and Grigory G. Starikovsky; ed. by Olga L. Akhunova, Sergey A. Stepantsov; scientific editor Lev V. Lukhovitskiy; HSE University. — Moscow: HSE Publishing House, 2025. — (Orientalia et Classica series. X (LXXXI) / Editor-in-chief Ilya S. Smirnov). — 500 copies. — ISBN 978-5-7598-2960-7 (hardcover). — ISBN 978-5-7598-4200-2 (e-book).

Pindar's victory odes are fertile ground for scholarly research. Pindaric scholars elucidate Pindar's often obscure verse by exploring various venues: they examine historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds of the victory odes (e.g. the Greco-Persian wars, the rule of Hieron in Sicily, religious cults referenced by Pindar); study Pindar's poetic meters; establish generic patterns of the epinicia and provide literary analysis (e.g., Pindar and Homer, Pindar and Archilochus), assess textual difficulties, embedded in the manuscript tradition. Pindar's intricate, at times even tangled, verse leads to tireless attempts on the part of scholars to improve upon the existing text, or rather texts, accompanied by formidable critical apparatus. This volume — Pindar's *Pythian Odes* — brings together all the above-mentioned scholarly approaches to the Greek poet; the book essentially serves as a guide to Pindar's Pythian odes, as it provides the reader with sufficient background to the epinicia, examines Pindaric imagery and explicates textual challenges. The *Pythian Odes* is an end-product of the research project that was launched in 2019 under the auspices of HSE University.

This edition includes a literary, equilinear Russian translation of the twelve Pythian odes (translated by Grigory Starikovsky, translations are published with parallel Greek text) and comprehensive scholarly commentary. The commentary is written by Olga Akhunova, Sergey Stepantsov, Vera Mostovaya, Varvara Zharkaya, Grigory Starikovsky and

Andrey Mozhajscky. Commentaries on individual odes may differ with respect to the stylistic and scholarly preferences of each individual researcher.

The four introductory essays are meant to facilitate the reader's awareness of Pindar's poetic art. The opening piece, "The Golden Phorminx: Pindar's Pythian Odes" (G. Starikovsky), covers Pindar's biography, the epinician tradition, the generic specificities of Pindar's epinicia, as well as Pindar's poetic language and imagery. "The Golden Phorminx" also touches upon the Pindaric tradition and presents the translator's *modus operandi*: G. Starikovsky strives to create a faithful, yet readable, Russian rendition of Pindar. A. Mozhajscky's study, "Sacred Topography in the Pythian Odes", examines the sacred landscapes referenced in the Pythians (e.g., Delphi, sanctuaries in Thebes, Cyrene etc.). S. Stepantsov's article, "Dialectic Specificities of the Odes: Phonetics and Morphology", discusses the linguistic content of Pindar's epinicia, more specifically their "artificial poetic language", while in his second article, S. Stepantsov reviews the poetic meters of the Pythian odes.

The book is intended for classical philologists and students of Ancient Greek poetry, but it can also be of interest for anyone who wants to become acquainted with Pindar's poetry.

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