

Homer. **The Odyssey**. Tr. by Edward McCrorie; introd. by Richard P. Martin. Johns Hopkins, 2004. 417p bibl afp ISBN 0-8018-6854-8, \$35.00. Reviewed in 2004nov CHOICE.

A poet and English professor, McCrorie (Providence College) has produced a lively and engaging version of Homer's *Odyssey* that brilliantly blends pleasurable readability with fidelity to the original. He preserves the force of Homer's distinctive formulaic repetitions, the hallmark of an originally oral and musical mode of presentation, while avoiding the jackhammer impact on a reading audience of verbatim replication. Among his more inspired renditions: "glow-eyed Goddess Athene," "Dawn with rose-fingered daylight," "stunningly crowned Aphrodite." McCrorie even succeeds in echoing the rhythm of Homer's line endings at the same place in his English verses. Martin (classics, Stanford) contributes a useful introduction and 50 pages of endnotes. A minor blemish is the profusion of taglines: for instance, "Drunk on Wine," "The Name of No-One," "Grisly Burps," "The Blinding," on one page in the Kuklops episode. McCrorie has simplified the choice of an English *Odyssey* even in a field of very skillful competitors (Lattimore, Fitzgerald, Mandelbaum, Fagles, Lombardo), providing the best available verse translation of the *Odyssey* for Greekless readers.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All collections; all levels.

— J. P. Holoka, *Eastern Michigan University*