Medea by Giovanni Boccaccio: A new translation with text and commentary

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Commentaries on Greek and Latin Literature

MEDEA

From Giovanni Boccaccio’s Famous Women

A New Translation, with Text, and Commentary

By E. H. Campbell

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Preface

Let me begin by underscoring the purpose of such a meticulous grammatical and syntactical commentary as the one presented here is to make the reading of classical Greek or Latin as easy for the student as it can possibly be in the hope that those seeking the wisdom of the ancients through these two idioms will continue to pursue it with, or without, the aid of higher education. Although this text may at first appear to be overwhelmingly complicated, in truth any student who understands the Parts of Speech\(^1\) and the Case System,\(^2\) the Inflection of the Verb,\(^3\) and the Principle Rules of Syntax,\(^4\) should be able to work themselves through a rather intimidating Latin, or Greek, text more quickly and productively. My methodology intends to leave the *ye olde brute force method*,\(^5\) e.g. Wheelock’s Latin Grammar, and the like, behind by exposing the student to real Latin or Greek, and by providing, to the best of my ability, *all* of the answers in the footnotes at the bottom of the page, along with a parallel translation.

Armed with this, and the principle textbooks required for this type of inquiry, i.e. a reference grammar and a dictionary, or a lexicon, for either, or both, languages, success should be all but assured. For the rest, who have no particular desire to learn either Latin or Greek, my English translation ought, by itself, prove to be rewarding, especially when

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\(^1\) Noun, Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Particle, Prepositions, and Conjunctions.
\(^2\) Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative, Ablative, Vocative, and the Locative.
\(^3\) Gender, Number, Tense, Voice, and Mood.
\(^4\) Cf., Gildersleeve and Lodge, pp. 437-444.
\(^5\) I.e., ‘rote memorization,’ e.g., *amo, amas, amat*...etc.
compared to the garden variety English translations tendered in today’s classrooms by elucidating the fact that many of them are really not quite as good as Dr. so-in-so would have their students believe. Indeed, many may come to question whether or not those translations of these texts are genuine or fake. That, in a word, is my intention, not to mention the fact that I hope to ignite the fire of desire for the study of these texts, and for the learning those languages, by anyone, and everyone, so happening by.

I should underscore both the absurdity of studying History, of any kind, or of any era, without at least a rudimentary understanding of both languages—for not only was History invented by a Greek named Herodotus—who remains the best model for all writing of history—but also note that the most relevant kind of history, Roman, would be impossible to either understand, or articulate, without a thorough working knowledge of both languages—and I should not hesitate to ridicule the idea that anyone at all could possibly attain to a college degree in Philosophy without mastering, at least, the Greek—for philosophy without the Greek could be nothing more than utterly laughable—just as the idea that anyone could be named ‘valedictorian’ who did not major in Classics is patently offensive.

For what it’s worth, there is no such thing as oral history, for the historian’s craft is founded on writing. The so-called ‘oral historian’ has conflated the difference between history and a source for history. A teller of tales can only be a source for an historian, just
as an eyewitness can only be a source to a journalist. But a source cannot themselves also be an historian. There can, on the other hand, and ought to be, as Herodotus himself one time did, at the Olympic Games, a public reading of an historian’s writing. If his work cannot be both read aloud, and be praised, we should understand that the historian has failed in his craft. History is not only supposed to be writing, it should also be expected to be *good* writing.

But didn’t Socrates himself declare the best wisdom to be the wisdom of the marketplace? He did not mean the so-called ‘marketplace of ideas.’ He most emphatically meant *the* marketplace. And he also most emphatically opposed the very beginnings of what we now call ‘higher education.’ To conflate ‘marketplace’ with ‘marketplace of ideas,’ thereby permitting what the greatest philosopher of all time openly opposed to take the place of what he openly favored, is the most putrid form of sophistry—for it causes truth and falsehood to change logical places, and for things to be called by their opposite names. The story of how it is that Plato came to live in place called ‘Academia’ is beyond the scope of this document and will not be told here. But it is relatively safe to say, Plato’s academy was *not* an institution of higher education, for it was not an institution at all. Obviously it was not the marketplace either, it was his own home.⁶ This document, and its author, neither being a product of, nor emanating from, higher education, fulfills Socratic expectations and demands. And was, therefore, written

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⁶ He having been homeless before it was purchased for him.
for those of you who seek wisdom in places where it is best found. Obviously, the text presented below is about a woman who, mythologized, or dramatized, or not, once lived, and consequently, it is to be by you read, and understood, with the utmost seriousness. This here is no place for a skeptic, for whom it is, and always will remain, a book closed.

Not trying to conclusively prove plagiaristic practices on the part of my predecessors, we should not fail to compare both of the two English translations of Giovanni Boccaccio’s *De Mulieribus Claris* ordinarily found in American libraries: the first by Guido A. Guarino hails from 1964, the second by Virginia Brown in 2001. Without remarking on the syntactical and grammatical poverty of either, or both, of those books, I presuppose to point out the striking similarity between the two. Putting as we ought, age before beauty; Guarino’s opening of his translation of Medea thus reads:

“Medea, the most cruel example of ancient wickedness, was daughter of Perseis’ son Aeetes, the famous king of Colchis, and Hypsea his wife. She was quite beautiful and by far the best trained woman in evil-doing...By intoning enchantments, she knew perfectly how to disturb the sky, gather winds from their dens, cause tempests, hold back rivers, brew poisons, make artificial fires for all kinds of conflagrations, and all other things of this sort. Far worse, her soul was
not in discord with her arts, for, if those failed, she thought it very easy to use steel.”

For the same passage, Virginia Brown penned:

“Medea, the cruelest example of ancient treachery, was the daughter of Aeetes, an eminent king of Colchis, and his wife Perse. Medea was quite beautiful and by far the cleverest of witches...She knew perfectly well how, by singing enchantments, to stir up the heavens, summon the winds from their cave, raise storms, dam rivers, brew poisons, make incendiary devices, and do all other things of this sort. Far worse, her character was in keeping with her arts, for, if those failed, Medea thought nothing of resorting to the sword.”

Both of those translations being disinteresting alike, it seems to me that Virginia Brown was at least careful enough not to permit three words of Guido Guarino’s translation to appear in a row without quotation marks, but if either of these translators could read Latin, both were tone deaf to two idioms—English and Latin. It goes without saying that Oete...regis Colcorum is “Aeetes, King of the Colchians,” and not “king of Colchis.” There are many other, whether through malpractice, or willful neglect, grammatical and syntactical distortions throughout both of their works. Without belaboring the point, I

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leave them all, both mine and theirs, for you to judge—keeping in mind that I do not presuppose to deliver perfection, but only demand works be in good faith done.

Seeing that Medea was such a prominent figure in Greek literature, we could go on and on parsing the sources for the knowing of her existence, and for the knowing of the facts of her life, but it is indeed safe to say that an entire race of people came to be known by her name. According to Herodotus, the Medes took their name from Medea, after Medea, leaving Athens, went there, and they gave to their land the name Media on account of her arrival.

Οἱ δὲ Μῆδοι9 ἄρχοντα10 μὲν παρείχοντο11 Τιγράνην12 ἀνδρα13 Αχαιμενίδην, ἐκαλέοντο14 δὲ πάλαι15 πρὸς πάντων16 Ἀριοῦ,17 ἀπικομένης18 δὲ Μηδείης19 τῆς

9 masc. nom. pl. of Μῆδος, a Mede.
10 masc. acc. sing. of ἄρχον, ruler, commander.
11 3rd pl. imperf. mid./pass. ind. of παρέχω, hand over, furnish, supply, supply of oneself or from one's own means.
12 Tigranes.
13 masc. acc. sing. of ἀνήρ, man.
14 3rd pl. imperf. mid./pass. ind. of καλέω, call.
15 Adv., long ago.
16 Adj., masc./neut. gen. pl. of πᾶς, all.
17 masc. nom. pl. of Ἀριοῦ, Arians.
18 fem. gen. sing. aor. mid. part. of ἀφικνέομαι, come to arrive at, reach.
19 fem. gen. sing. of Μηδεία, Medea.
The Medes furnished their own leader Tigranes, an Achaemenid, but, long ago, they all were called Arians, but after the arrival of Medea, the Cochian, from Athens, to the Arians, they changed the name from this to that. They among themselves say Medes. (Herodotus, 7.62)

Boccaccio as a Latin author was, despite the false claims made by Edward Hutton, whom I doubt could even read Latin at all, was in fact a most subtle master of Latin composition. Unfortunately, the translators before me have failed to carry across his writings in a manner that elucidates their content. The translation of his work has been by no means easy. I sincerely hope this document will both facilitate further study of his Latin works, and enlighten readers with his wisdom. But as the saying goes: “He who writes for the intelligent, does not write for the many.”

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20 fem. gen. sing. of Κόλχος, a Colchian.
21 fem. gen. pl. of Αθήναι, the city of Athens.
22 masc. acc. pl. of Άριοι.
23 Adj., masc. acc. pl. of οὕτως, this.
24 3rd pl. aor. act. ind. of μεταβάλλω, change.
25 Adj., masc. nom. pl. of οὕτως.
26 neut. sing., name.
27 Adj., masc. nom. pl. of αὐτός, self.
28 Prep., Causal, to denote the object about or for which one does something.
29 Pron., masc./fem. gen. pl. of σφέω, they.
30 Adv., thus.
31 3rd pl. pres. act. ind. of λέγω, say.
32 masc. nom. pl. of Μῆδος.
33 Among other things, Hutton said that, in Latin, Boccaccio did not write with sincerity, that De Mulieribus Claris was written to the sole purpose of entertaining women, and that he never mastered Latin. All of which I declare to be false.
Medea

Medea, sevissimum\textsuperscript{34} veteris\textsuperscript{35} perfidie\textsuperscript{36} documentum,\textsuperscript{37} Oete,\textsuperscript{38} clarissimi\textsuperscript{39} regis Colcorum,\textsuperscript{40} et Perse\textsuperscript{41} coniugis\textsuperscript{42} filia fuit: formosa\textsuperscript{44} satis\textsuperscript{45} et malefitiorum\textsuperscript{46} longe doctissima.\textsuperscript{47} Nam, a quocunque\textsuperscript{48} magistro\textsuperscript{49} instructa\textsuperscript{50} sit,\textsuperscript{51} adeo\textsuperscript{52} herbarum\textsuperscript{53} vires\textsuperscript{54} familiares\textsuperscript{55} habuit,\textsuperscript{56} ut nemo\textsuperscript{57} melius,\textsuperscript{58} novitque\textsuperscript{59} plene\textsuperscript{60} cantato\textsuperscript{61} carmine\textsuperscript{62} turbare\textsuperscript{63} celum,\textsuperscript{64}

\textsuperscript{34} Adj., superl. neut. sing. of saevus, -a, -um, raging, furious, fierce, violent
\textsuperscript{35} masc. gen. sing. of vetus, -eris, ancient.
\textsuperscript{36} neut. of perfidia, -ae, f., faithlessness, treachery, falsehood.
\textsuperscript{37} neut. sing. of documentum, -i, example, pattern, warning, proof.
\textsuperscript{38} Aeetes.
\textsuperscript{39} Adj., superl. masc. gen. sing. of clarus, -a, -um, clear, distinct; renowned, distinguished.
\textsuperscript{40} masc. gen. pl. of Colchi, Colchians.
\textsuperscript{41} Perse.
\textsuperscript{42} fem. gen. sing. of coniunx, -iugis, c., wife or husband.
\textsuperscript{43} 3rd sing. perf. act. ind. of sum, to be.
\textsuperscript{44} Adj., fem. nom. sing. of formosus, -a, -um, beautiful.
\textsuperscript{45} Adv., enough.
\textsuperscript{46} neut. gen. pl. of male + facio, evil doing.
\textsuperscript{47} Noun, superl., fem. nom. sing. of doceo, teacher.
\textsuperscript{48} Pron., masc. abl. sing. of quis, quid, anyone, anybody, anything.
\textsuperscript{49} masc. abl. sing. of magister, -tri, teacher.
\textsuperscript{50} fem. abl. sing. of instruo, -structere, -struxi, -structum, trained, instructed.
\textsuperscript{51} 3rd sing. pres. subj. act. of sum.
\textsuperscript{52} Adv., to that point, so far; so much; to such an extent.
\textsuperscript{53} fem. gen. pl. of herba, -ae, plant.
\textsuperscript{54} fem. nom. acc. pl. of vis, acc. vim, abl. vi; pl. vires, -ium, force, power, strength.
\textsuperscript{55} Adj., fem. acc. pl. of familiaris, -e, of a household, belonging to a family, domestic, familiar.
\textsuperscript{56} 3rd sing. perf. act. ind. of habeo, -ere, -ui, -itum, to have, hold.
\textsuperscript{57} masc./fem. nom. sing. of nemo, -inis, nobody, no one.
\textsuperscript{58} Adv., melior, -us, comp. of bonus = ‘better.’
\textsuperscript{59} 3rd sing. perf. act. ind. of nosco, noscere, novi, notum, to become, acquainted with, get knowledge of; to know.
\textsuperscript{60} Adv., of plenus, full.
\textsuperscript{61} neut. abl. sing. perf. pass. part. of canto, -are, -avi, -atum, to sing.
\textsuperscript{62} neut. abl. sing. carmen, -inis, song.
\textsuperscript{63} pres. act. inf. of turbo, -are, to disturb, throw into disorder or confusion.
\textsuperscript{64} neut. sing. of caelum, -i, sky.
Medea,

The most violent example

Of ancient treachery,

Daughter of Aeetes,

Most famous King of the Colchians,

And his wife Perse,

Was good looking enough

And by far

The best teacher

Of evil doings.

And she had such very

Intimate knowledge

Of the power of plants;

Better than anyone,

And well knew how to

Sing a song

To stir-up the sky
ventos\textsuperscript{65} ex antro\textsuperscript{66} ciere,\textsuperscript{67} tempestat\textsuperscript{es\textsuperscript{68}} movere,\textsuperscript{69} flumina\textsuperscript{70} sistere,\textsuperscript{71} venena\textsuperscript{72} conficere,\textsuperscript{73} elaborato\textsuperscript{74} ignes\textsuperscript{75} ad quocunque\textsuperscript{76} incendium\textsuperscript{77} componere\textsuperscript{78} et huiusmodi\textsuperscript{79} perficere\textsuperscript{80} omnia. Nec illi—quod longe peius\textsuperscript{81} ab artibus\textsuperscript{82} fuit\textsuperscript{83} dissonus\textsuperscript{84} animus;\textsuperscript{85} nam, deficientibus\textsuperscript{86} eis,\textsuperscript{87} ferro\textsuperscript{88} uti\textsuperscript{89} arbitrabatur\textsuperscript{90} levissimum.\textsuperscript{91}

\textsuperscript{65} masc. acc. pl. of ventus, -i, wind.
\textsuperscript{66} neut. abl. sing. of antrum, -i, n. a cave.
\textsuperscript{67} pres. act. inf. of cieo, ciere, civi, citum, to cause to move, to move, to stir.
\textsuperscript{68} fem. nom./acc. pl. of tempestas, -atis, weather, esp. bad weather, storm, tempest.
\textsuperscript{69} pres. act. inf. of moveo, movere, movi, motum, to move, set in motion, stir.
\textsuperscript{70} neut. pl. flumen, -inis, a stream; a flowing, a flood.
\textsuperscript{71} pres. act. inf. of sisto, sistere, stiti, statum, to cause to stand, set, place; to produce, cause to appear; stop.
\textsuperscript{72} neut. pl. venenum, -i, drug, poison.
\textsuperscript{73} pres. act inf. of conficio, -ficere, -feci, -fectum, make, prepare.
\textsuperscript{74} masc. acc. sing. perf. pass. part. of elaboro, -are, too labor hard, strive, take pains.
\textsuperscript{75} masc. nom./acc. pl. of ignis, -is, fire.
\textsuperscript{76} Pron., neut. sing. of quicumque, qaecumque, quodcumque, whoever, whichever, whatever.
\textsuperscript{77} neut. sing. incendium, -i, fire.
\textsuperscript{78} pres. act. inf. of compono, -ponere, -posui, -positum, to put, place, lay, set.
\textsuperscript{79} neut. gen. sing. of hic + modi, = ‘things of this kind.’
\textsuperscript{80} pres. act. inf. of perficio, -ficere, -feci, -fectum, to bring to an end, complete, finish.
\textsuperscript{81} Adj., comp. neut. sing. of malus = ‘worse.’
\textsuperscript{82} fem. dat./abl. pl. of ars, -tis, skill, art.
\textsuperscript{83} 3rd sing. perf. act. ind. of sum.
\textsuperscript{84} Adj., masc. nom. sing. of dissonus, -um, discordant, inharmonious, dissonant.
\textsuperscript{85} masc. nom. sing. of animus, -i, soul.
\textsuperscript{86} neut. dat./abl. pl. pres. act. part. of deficio, -ficere, -feci, -fectum, to do less than one might, to fail.
\textsuperscript{87} Pron., neut. dat./abl. pl. of is, he, she, it, the one mentioned.
\textsuperscript{88} neut. abl. sing. of ferrum, -i, sword.
\textsuperscript{89} pres. pass. inf. of utor, uti, usus sum, make use of, employ.
\textsuperscript{90} 3rd sing. imperf. pass. ind. of arbitror, -ari, to witness; decide, judge, think.
\textsuperscript{91} Adj., superl. neut. sing. of levis, -e, light, not heavy.
To cause winds
To howl from a cave,
To cause a storm,
To stop a stream,
To make poisons, and,
By taking pains,
To set fire
To anything whatsoever,
And the doing
Of everything
Of that sort.
And not only that,
What was far worse
Than those arts
Was her dissonant soul;
For if they should fail,
She would judge using a sword,
Not too heavy.
Hec Thessalum, eo secupicium virtute iuvenem, a Pelia patruo, sue probitat insidiante, sub pretextu gloriosissime expeditionis missum in Colcos ad aureum surripiendum vellus, eiusdem capta prestantia, dilexit ardentem egitque ad eius promerendam gratiam, ut, orta inter incolas seditione, patri suscitaretur bellum et consequendi votum Iasoni spatium prestaretur.
Here now there was this Jason, a Thessalian, among this race, on account of his virtue, a distinguished youth by his father’s brother Pelius, plotted against his honesty under the pretext of a most glorious expedition, was sent to the Colchians to steal the Golden Fleece; the stealing of it having been fulfilled, he was violently pursued, and she in gratitude for his merit, by stirring-up the inhabitants in revolt, aroused a war against her father and would beforehand promise a place for Jason afterwards.
Quis\textsuperscript{147} hoc etiam\textsuperscript{148} sensatus\textsuperscript{149} arbitror\textsuperscript{150} homo quod ex uno oculorum\textsuperscript{151} intuitu\textsuperscript{152} opulentissimi\textsuperscript{153} regis exterminium\textsuperscript{154} sequeretur?\textsuperscript{155} Eo\textsuperscript{156}igitur\textsuperscript{157} patrato\textsuperscript{158} scelere,\textsuperscript{159} cum dilecti\textsuperscript{160} iuvenis\textsuperscript{161} meruisset\textsuperscript{162} amplexus,\textsuperscript{163} cum eodem\textsuperscript{164} secum\textsuperscript{165} patriam\textsuperscript{166} substantiam\textsuperscript{167} omnem\textsuperscript{168} trahens,\textsuperscript{169} clam\textsuperscript{170} fugam\textsuperscript{171} arripuit;\textsuperscript{172} nec,\textsuperscript{173} tam grandi\textsuperscript{174} facinore\textsuperscript{175} contenta,\textsuperscript{176} in peius\textsuperscript{177} trucem\textsuperscript{178} divertit\textsuperscript{179} animum.\textsuperscript{180}
As yet,

What intelligent man

Would be witness to this:

That from one glance of the eyes

At wealth

The destruction of a king,

Would follow?

The crime having been thus accomplished,\textsuperscript{181}

The flower of her youth was chosen for his embrace\textsuperscript{182}

When the former dragged away all the wealth

Of the fatherland.\textsuperscript{183}

Secretly seizing flight,\textsuperscript{184}

Not contented with such a great crime,\textsuperscript{185}

Turned her soul\textsuperscript{186}

To more savage things.\textsuperscript{187}

\textsuperscript{181} eo igitur patrato.
\textsuperscript{182} cum dilecti iuvenis meruisset.
\textsuperscript{183} cum eodem secum patriam substantiam omnem trahens.
\textsuperscript{184} clam fugam arripuit.
\textsuperscript{185} nec contenta tam grandi facinore.
\textsuperscript{186} divertit animum.
\textsuperscript{187} in peius trucem.
Arbitrata\textsuperscript{188} quidem\textsuperscript{189} Oetam securum\textsuperscript{190} profugos,\textsuperscript{191} ad eum\textsuperscript{192} sistendum\textsuperscript{193} in Thomitania\textsuperscript{194} Phasidis\textsuperscript{195} insula,\textsuperscript{196} per quam secuturum\textsuperscript{198} transitus\textsuperscript{199} futurus\textsuperscript{200} erat;\textsuperscript{201}

Absyrtium\textsuperscript{202} seu\textsuperscript{203} Egyaleum\textsuperscript{204} puerum\textsuperscript{205} fratrem\textsuperscript{206} suum,\textsuperscript{207} quem\textsuperscript{208} in hoc secum fuge comitem\textsuperscript{209} traxerat,\textsuperscript{210} obturarc\textsuperscript{211} et eius membra\textsuperscript{212} passim\textsuperscript{213} per arva\textsuperscript{214} transitus\textsuperscript{199} futurus\textsuperscript{200} erat,\textsuperscript{201}

ius\textsuperscript{215} iussit,\textsuperscript{216} ut, dum\textsuperscript{217} spersa\textsuperscript{218} miserabilis\textsuperscript{219} colligeret\textsuperscript{220} genitor\textsuperscript{221} et eis lacrimas\textsuperscript{222} tumulumque\textsuperscript{223} dare,\textsuperscript{224} fugientibus\textsuperscript{225} etiam fuge spatium\textsuperscript{226} commodaret.\textsuperscript{227}

\textsuperscript{188} fem. abl. sing. perf. pass. part. of arbitror.
\textsuperscript{189} Adv., indeed, even.
\textsuperscript{190} masc. acc. sing. fut. act. part. of sequor, sequi, secutus sum, to follow.
\textsuperscript{191} Adj., masc. acc. pl. of profugus, -a, -um, flying, fleeing, fugitive.
\textsuperscript{192} Pron., masc. acc. sing. of is, ea, id.
\textsuperscript{193} Gerundive, masc. acc. sing. of sisto, -sistere, stiti, statum, to cause to stand, set, place; stop.
\textsuperscript{194} Tomis.
\textsuperscript{195} Adj., gen. sing. of Phasis, -dis, the River Phasis
\textsuperscript{196} fem. nom. sing. of insula, -ae, island.
\textsuperscript{197} Pron., fem. acc. sing. of qui, quae, quod, who.
\textsuperscript{198} masc. abl. sing. fut. act. part. of sequor.
\textsuperscript{199} masc. nom. sing. perf. pass. part. of transeo, -ire, -ii, -itum, to go over, cross, pass over.
\textsuperscript{200} Adj., masc. nom. sing. of futurus, -a, -um, future part. of sum, about to be, i.e., the future.
\textsuperscript{201} 3rd sing. imperf. act. ind. of sum.
\textsuperscript{202} masc. acc. sing. of Absyrtus, -i, brother of Medea, killed by his sister on her flight from Colchis.
\textsuperscript{203} Conj., sive, or.
\textsuperscript{204} masc. acc. sing. of Aegialeus, -ei, a brother of Medea.
\textsuperscript{205} masc. acc. sing. of puer, -i, boy.
\textsuperscript{206} masc. acc. sing. of frater, -tris, brother.
\textsuperscript{207} Adj., masc. acc. sing. of suus, his own.
\textsuperscript{208} Pron., masc. acc. sing. of qui.
\textsuperscript{209} masc. acc. sing. of comes, -itis, c., a fellow-traveler; a companion, a comrade.
\textsuperscript{210} 3rd sing. pluperf. act. ind. of traho.
\textsuperscript{211} pres. pass. ind. of obtrunco, -are, to cut down, cut to pieces.
\textsuperscript{212} neut. pl. of membrum, -i, limb.
\textsuperscript{213} Adv., here and there, up and down, far and wide.
\textsuperscript{214} Adj., neut. pl. of avarus, -a, -um desirous, covetous, greedy.
\textsuperscript{215} pres. pass. inf. of dispergo, -spergere, -sarsi, -sersum, to scatter.
\textsuperscript{216} 3rd sing. perf. act. ind. of iubeo, iubere, iussi, iussum, to order, command, bid.
\textsuperscript{217} Conj., while.
\textsuperscript{218} sparsa = neut. pl. perf. pass. part. of spargo, spargere, sparsi, sparsum, to scatter, strew.
\textsuperscript{219} Adj., masc. gen. sing. of miserabilis, -e, sad.
\textsuperscript{220} 3rd sing. imperf. subj. act. of conligo, -ligere, -legi, -lectum, collect.
\textsuperscript{221} masc. nom. sing. of genitor, -oris, father.
\textsuperscript{222} fem. acc. pl. of lacrima, -ae, a tear.
\textsuperscript{223} masc. acc. sing. of tumulus, -i, a mound of earth.
\textsuperscript{224} 3rd sing. imperf. act. subj. of do, dare, dedi, datum, to offer or give; to cause, bring about, put.
\textsuperscript{225} masc./fem./neut. dat. pl. pres. acct. part. of fugio, fugere, fugi, fugitum, to flee.
\textsuperscript{226} neut. sing. of spatium, -i, space, extent, room; space or period of time.
\textsuperscript{227} 3rd sing. imperf. act. subj. of commodo, -are, to make fit, adapt, accommodate.
She having perceived Aeetes
Would indeed the fugitives be following,\textsuperscript{228}
In order to stop him at Tomis,\textsuperscript{229}
An Island in River Phasis,\textsuperscript{230}
By means of his following her,\textsuperscript{231}
His crossing over being about to be,\textsuperscript{232}
Absyrtus, or Aegialus,
Her own boy brother,\textsuperscript{233}
He in this flight along dragged
As a fellow traveler,\textsuperscript{234}
Was cut to pieces\textsuperscript{235}
And his members ordered
Generously scattered far and wide\textsuperscript{236}
So as, his father, would,
Out of sadness,
Collect the scatterings\textsuperscript{237}
And, in his tears,
Would a burial mound build;\textsuperscript{238}
Accommodating time for their flight.\textsuperscript{239}

\textsuperscript{228} arbitrate quidem Oetam secuturum profugos. “The so-called Ablative Absolute is an Ablative combined with a participle, and servers to modify the verbal predicate of a sentence.” (Op. Cit., Gildersleeve and Lodge: 409).

\textsuperscript{229} ad eum sistendum in Thomitania. Terminal Accusative: “The activity of a verb may be defined by the Point Reached. Hence the rule: Names of Towns and small Islands, when used as limits of Motion Whiter, are put in the Accusative.” (Op. Cit., Gildersleeve and Lodge: 337).

\textsuperscript{230} Phasidis insula.

\textsuperscript{231} per quam secuturo. “The means or Instrument is put in the Ablative without a Preposition. The Agent or Doer is put in the Ablative with the Preposition ab (a). The Person Through Whom is put in the Accusative with per.” (Op. Cit., Gilderselieve and Lodge: 401).

\textsuperscript{232} transitus futurus erat

\textsuperscript{233} Absyrtium seu Egyaleum puerum fratrem suum.

\textsuperscript{234} quem in hoc secum fuge comitem traxerat.

\textsuperscript{235} obtruncari.

\textsuperscript{236} et eius membra passim per arva dispergi iussit.

\textsuperscript{237} ut, dum spersa miserabilis colligeret genitor.

\textsuperscript{238} et eis lacrimas tumulumque daret.

\textsuperscript{239} fugientibus etiam fuge spatium commodaret.
Nec eam fefellit\textsuperscript{240} opinion,\textsuperscript{241} sic enim factum est. Tandem cum post errores\textsuperscript{242} plurimos in Thessaliam cum\textsuperscript{243} Iasone devenisset\textsuperscript{244} suo\textsuperscript{245} Esonemque\textsuperscript{246} socerum,\textsuperscript{247} tam ex reditu\textsuperscript{248} nati\textsuperscript{249} quam ex parta\textsuperscript{250} victoria\textsuperscript{251} predaque\textsuperscript{252} et illustri\textsuperscript{253} coniugio\textsuperscript{254} tanta replesset\textsuperscript{255} letitia,\textsuperscript{256} ut revocatus\textsuperscript{257} in floridam\textsuperscript{258} videretur\textsuperscript{259} etatem,\textsuperscript{260}

\textsuperscript{240} 3rd sing. perf. act. ind. of fallo, -ere, fefelli, falsum, lead astray, cause to be mistaken; cheat.
\textsuperscript{241}  fem. nom. sing. of opinio, -onis, opinion, conjecture, supposition.
\textsuperscript{242}  masc. acc. pl. of error, -oris, a wandering about; wavering, uncertainty; error.
\textsuperscript{243} “Historical cum. — Cum, when (as), is used in narrative with the Imperfect Subjunctive of contemporaneous action, with the Pluperfect Subjunctive of antecedent action, to characterize the temporal circumstances under which an action took place.” (Op. Cit., Gildersleeve and Lodge: 585, emphases theirs).
\textsuperscript{244} 3rd sing. pluperf. act. subj. of devenio, -venire, -veni, -ventum, to come to, arrive, reach.
\textsuperscript{245}  Adj., masc. dat. sing. of suus, -a, -um.
\textsuperscript{246}  masc. acc. sing. of Aeson, -onis, a Thessalian prince, brother of king Pelias, and father of Jason, who, according to fable, was in extreme old age transformed by the magic arts of Medea into a youth.
\textsuperscript{247}  masc. acc. sing. of socer, -eri, a father-in-law.
\textsuperscript{248}  Supine, neut. dat. sing. of redeo, -ire, -ii (-ivi), -itum, to go back, come back, return.
\textsuperscript{249}  masc. gen. sing. of natus, part. of nascor, -i, natus sum, to be born.
\textsuperscript{250}  fem. abl. sing. of pario, parere, peperi, partum, to bring forth, to bear.
\textsuperscript{251}  fem. abl. sing. of victoria, -ae, victory.
\textsuperscript{252}  fem. abl. sing. of praeda, -ae, plunder, booty.
\textsuperscript{253}  Adj., neut. dat. sing. of illustris, -e, noble, illustrious.
\textsuperscript{254}  neut. dat. sing. of coniugium, -i, marriage.
\textsuperscript{255}  3rd sing. pluperf. act. subj. of repleo, -plere, -plavi, -pletum, to fill again, fill up; to make full, fill, satisfy.
\textsuperscript{256}  fem. abl. sing. of laetitia, -ae, joy, exultation, rejoicing, gladness, pleasure, delight.
\textsuperscript{257}  masc. nom. sing. perf. pass. part. of revoco, -are, to call back, recover.
\textsuperscript{258}  Adj., fem. acc. sing. of floridus, -a, -um, flowery, blossoming; of age, fresh, blooming.
\textsuperscript{259}  3rd sing. imperf. pass. subj. of video, videre, vidi, visum, to see.
\textsuperscript{260}  fem. acc. sing. of aetas, -atis, the life of man, age, lifetime, years.
Nor did this supposition fail her,
For that indeed was done.
And at last,
After much wandering,
She, with Jason,
Into Thessaly,
And to her father-in-law Aeson,
Arrived.
So great,
On account of the returning to his native land,
And because of the bearing of the loot from the victory,
And for his illustrious marriage,
He was so overjoyed
That he seemed
To be recovering
To a flowering
Age.
Iasoni paratura\textsuperscript{276} regnum, arte\textsuperscript{277} sua zizaniam\textsuperscript{278} inter natas\textsuperscript{279} et Peliam\textsuperscript{280} sevit\textsuperscript{281} easque\textsuperscript{282} misere\textsuperscript{283} armavit\textsuperscript{284} in patrem. Ceterum,\textsuperscript{285} labentibus\textsuperscript{286} annis,\textsuperscript{287} exosa\textsuperscript{288} Iasoni facta\textsuperscript{289} et ab eodem\textsuperscript{290} loco\textsuperscript{291} eius\textsuperscript{292} Creusa, filia Creontis, Corinthiorum regis, assumpta,\textsuperscript{293} inpatiens\textsuperscript{294} fremensque\textsuperscript{295} cum multa in Iasonem excogitasset,\textsuperscript{296} eo\textsuperscript{297} prorupit\textsuperscript{298} ut ingenio\textsuperscript{299} suo Creusam Creontisque regiam\textsuperscript{300} omnem\textsuperscript{301} assummeret\textsuperscript{302} igne\textsuperscript{303} volatili;\textsuperscript{304} et, spectante\textsuperscript{305} Iasone, quos ex eo susceperat\textsuperscript{306} filios trucidaret\textsuperscript{307} et effugeret\textsuperscript{308} in Athenas, ubi, Egeo\textsuperscript{309} nupta\textsuperscript{310} regi,
Preparing a kingdom for Jason,\textsuperscript{311}
By means of her practical skills,\textsuperscript{312}
Sowed noxious weeds\textsuperscript{313}
Between the daughters\textsuperscript{314} and Pelias\textsuperscript{315}
And they were shamelessly armed\textsuperscript{316}
Against the fatherland.\textsuperscript{317}
After that, as the years slipped away,\textsuperscript{318}
She, by Jason, hated became,\textsuperscript{319}
And from her position,
Cresua, daughter of Creon,
King of the Corinthians, assumed;
Unable to that endure,
And fuming with rage,
She would, against Jason,
Many things invent;
And it, according to its nature,
Rushed forth
And claimed his Cresua, and all of Creon’s palace
In a swift fire,
And, with Jason watching,
From him his sons took
And cut them to pieces;
And to Athens fled,
Where she became wife of king Aegeus.

\textsuperscript{311} Iasoni paratura regnum.
\textsuperscript{312} arte sua.
\textsuperscript{313} zizaniam…sevit.
\textsuperscript{314} inter natas.
\textsuperscript{315} et Peliam.
\textsuperscript{316} easque misere armavit.
\textsuperscript{317} in patrem.
\textsuperscript{318} ceterum labentibus annis. labentibus annis is an Ablative of Time. (Op. Cit., Gildersleeve: 393).
\textsuperscript{319} exosa Iasoni facta. exosa…facta is an Ablative Absolute. “The so-called Ablative Absolute is an Ablative combined with a participle, and serves to modify the verbal predicate of the sentence.” (Ibid.: 409). Iasoni is a Dative of Interest. (Ibid: 350).
Cum Medum, a se denominatum, iam filium suscepisset ex eo, et frustra et, cum Iasonis in gratiam redisset, una cum eo omni Thesalia ab Agialeo, Pelie filio, puls repatriavit in Colcos senemque atque exulem patrem regno restituit. Quid tandem egerit quove sub celo seu mortis genere diem clauerit, nec legisse memini nec audisse.
Right away, had by him a child

Named him Medus, after herself

And, vainly trying to kill Theseus

With poison upon his return,

Seized upon a flight

For the third time,

And, whereas she returned

To the good graces of Jason,

As one, along with him,

And everything Thessalian,

Was by Aegialeus, son of Pelias,

Compelled to repatriate to Colchus

And restored her elderly exiled father to his kingdom

And ultimately, where on Earth she went,

Or if she would have been with her people

On the day of her death,

I remember neither reading,

Nor hearing.

353 terito is a Dative of Indirect Object. “The Indirect Object is put in the Dative with Transitive verbs, which already have a Direct Object in the Accusative. Translation, to, for, from. This Accusative becomes the Nominative of the Passive.” (Op. Cit., Gildersleeve: 345).

354 Cf., n 348, supra.

355 lit., sub celo = ‘under the sky.’
Sed, ne omiserim, non omnis oculis prestanda licentia est. Eis enim spectantibus, splendors cognoscimus, invidiam introducimus, concupiscentias attrahimus omnes; eis agentibus, excitatur avaritia, laudatur formasitas, damnatur squalor et paupertas indigne; et cum indocti sint iudices et superficiebus rerum tantummodo credant, sacris ignominiosa, ficta veris et anxia letis persepe preficiunt,
But I should not have left out:

Not everything is

At liberty to stand

Before the eyes,

For, by observing through them,

We come to know splendors,

We are led to envy,

We are drawn to everything sensual,

Through their conduct

Greed is aroused,

Beauty is praised,

Poverty and squalor are condemned as indignity,

And since they are untrained judges,

And believe in the superficialities

Of matters of such great size,

Very often prefer

The disgraceful to the sacred,

The false to the true,

And are anxious for death.
Et dum abicienda\textsuperscript{411} commendant\textsuperscript{412} et brevi\textsuperscript{413} blandientia\textsuperscript{414} tractu,\textsuperscript{415} inficiunt\textsuperscript{416} non nunquam animos turpissima\textsuperscript{417} labe.\textsuperscript{418} Hi\textsuperscript{419} nescii\textsuperscript{420} a formositate,\textsuperscript{421} etiam inhonest\textsuperscript{422} a lascivis\textsuperscript{423} gesticulationibus,\textsuperscript{424} a petulantia\textsuperscript{425} iuvenili\textsuperscript{426} mordacibus\textsuperscript{427} uncis\textsuperscript{428} capiuntur\textsuperscript{429} trahuntur\textsuperscript{430} rapiuntur\textsuperscript{431} tenenturque;\textsuperscript{432} et, cum pectoris\textsuperscript{433} ianua\textsuperscript{434} sint,\textsuperscript{435} per eos\textsuperscript{436} menti\textsuperscript{437} nuntios\textsuperscript{438} mictit\textsuperscript{439} libido,\textsuperscript{440} per eos cupid\textsuperscript{441} inflat\textsuperscript{442} suspiria\textsuperscript{443} et cecos\textsuperscript{444} incidunt\textsuperscript{445} ignes,\textsuperscript{446} per eos emicit\textsuperscript{447} cor\textsuperscript{448} gemitus\textsuperscript{449} et affectus\textsuperscript{450} suos ostendit\textsuperscript{451} illecesbres.\textsuperscript{452}

\textsuperscript{411} Gerundive, neut. acc. pl. of abicio, -iecere, -ieci, -iectum, to throw down or away.
\textsuperscript{412} 3rd pl. pres. act. ind. of commend, -are, to commit to the care, keeping, or protection of anyone.
\textsuperscript{413} Adv., in a short time, soon.
\textsuperscript{414} fem. abl. sing. of blandientia, -ae, flattery.
\textsuperscript{415} Supine, neut. abl. sing. of traho.
\textsuperscript{416} 3rd pl. pres. act. ind. of inficio, -ficere, -feci, -fectum, to include in the making; to stain, tinge, dye, color.
\textsuperscript{417} Adj., superl. of turpis, -e, ugly, foul, unsightly, repulsive.
\textsuperscript{418} fem. abl. sing. of labes, -is, a spot, blot, stain, blemish, defect.
\textsuperscript{419} Pron., masc. nom. pl. of hic.
\textsuperscript{420} Adj., masc. pl. of nescius, -a, -um, not knowing, ignorant, unaware.
\textsuperscript{421} fem. abl. sing. of formositas, -atis, beauty.
\textsuperscript{422} Adj., fem. abl. sing. of inhonestus, -a, -um, ugly.
\textsuperscript{423} Adj., neut. abl. pl. of lascivus, -a, -um, wanton, licentious, insolent.
\textsuperscript{424} fem. abl. pl. of gesticulation, -onis, pantomime, gesticulation.
\textsuperscript{425} fem. nom. abl. sing. of petulantia, -ae, impudence, pertness, wantonness; offensively bold behavior.
\textsuperscript{426} Adj., fem. abl. sing. of iuvenilis, -e, youthful, juvenile.
\textsuperscript{427} Adj., dat. pl. of mordax, -acis, biting, snappish; stinging; satirical.
\textsuperscript{428} masc. dat. pl. of uncus, -i, a hook, or barb.
\textsuperscript{429} 3rd pl. pres. act. ind. of capio, capere, cepi, captum, seize.
\textsuperscript{430} 3rd pl. pers. pass. ind. of traho, trahere, traxi, tractum, to draw, drag.
\textsuperscript{431} 3rd pl. pres. pass. ind. of rapio, rapere, rapui, raptum, snatch, tear away.
\textsuperscript{432} 3rd pl. pres. pass. ind. of teneo, tenere, tenui, tentum, to hold.
\textsuperscript{433} neut. gen. sing. of pectus, -oris, the breast.
\textsuperscript{434} fem. nom. sing. ianua, a door.
\textsuperscript{435} 3rd pl. pres. act. subj. of sum.
\textsuperscript{436} masc. acc. pl. of is, ea, id, he, she, it.
\textsuperscript{437} fem. dat. sing. of mens, mentis, mind.
\textsuperscript{438} Adj., masc. acc. pl. nuntius, -i, a messenger.
\textsuperscript{439} mittit, 3rd sing. pres. act. ind. of mitto, mittere, misi, missum, to send.
\textsuperscript{440} fem. nom. sing. of libido, -inis, violent desire.
\textsuperscript{441} masc./fem. nom. sing. of cupido, -inis, longing, desire.
\textsuperscript{442} 3rd sing. pres. act. ind. of inflo, -are, to blow into; inspire.
\textsuperscript{443} neut. pl. suspirium, -i, a deep breath, a sigh.
\textsuperscript{444} Adj., masc. acc. pl. of caucus, -a, -um, blind.
\textsuperscript{445} 3rd sing. pres. act. ind. of incendo, -endere, -endi, -ensisum, to kindle, set fire to, burn.
\textsuperscript{446} masc. nom./acc. pl. of ignis, -is, fire.
\textsuperscript{447} emittit, 3rd sing. pres. act. ind. of emitto, -mittere, -misi, -missum, to send forth, sent out, emit.
\textsuperscript{448} neut. sing. of cor, cordis, the heart.
\textsuperscript{449} masc. acc. pl. of gemo, gemere, gemui, gemitus, to sigh, groan.
\textsuperscript{450} masc. nom. sing. of adficio, -ficere, -feci, -fectum, a state of mind.
\textsuperscript{451} 3rd sing. pres. act. inf. of ostendo, -tendere, -tendi, -tentum and -tensum, to hold out, show, display.
\textsuperscript{452} fem. acc. pl. of inlecebra, -ae, enticingment, allurement, charm.
And while they are entrusted
to the protection of a person
They cast it to the ground
And, through flattery,
It soon drags you down
They stain the souls of not no one
With the most repulsive spot.
These ignoramuses
By beauty,
Even by the ugly,
By insolent gestures,
By youthful boldness,
To stinging hooks,
They seize,
They drag,
They snatch,
And hold;
And when there should be a door
to the heart,
Through them violent desire
Sends messengers to the mind
Through them
Desire inspires deep breaths
And kindles blinding fires
Through them the heart emits a groan
And a state of mind shows them
Charms.
Quos, si quis recte saperet, aut clauderet, aut in celum erigeret, aut in terram demergeret. Nullum illis inter utrumque tutum iter est; quod si omnino peragendum sit, sunt cohibendi, ne lasciviant, freno. Apposuit illis natura fores, non ut in somnum clauderentur solum, sed ut obsisterent noxiis.
If anybody should rightly understand,
He would either shut them,
Or lift them to the sky,
Or lower them to the ground,
Nothing looked at by them
Is the way;
But if
He should be altogether
Transfixed,
They,
Not to be lacivious,
Are to be restrained
By a sharp bit.
Nature put
Doors upon them
Not only to be shut
In sleep alone,
But to stand in the way
Of crime.
Eos\textsuperscript{482} quippe\textsuperscript{483} si potens\textsuperscript{484} clausisset\textsuperscript{485} Medea, aut aliorum\textsuperscript{486} flexisset,\textsuperscript{487} dum erexit\textsuperscript{488} avida\textsuperscript{489} in Iasonem, stetisset\textsuperscript{490} diutius\textsuperscript{491} potentia\textsuperscript{492} patris,\textsuperscript{493} vita\textsuperscript{494} fratris\textsuperscript{495} et sue\textsuperscript{496} virginitatis\textsuperscript{497} decus\textsuperscript{498} infractum.\textsuperscript{499} que omnia\textsuperscript{500} horum\textsuperscript{501} impudicitia\textsuperscript{502} periere.\textsuperscript{503}
Obviously,

If Medea were able to shut them,

Or would have turned them

In another direction,

When for Jason

Desire was aroused,

The power of her father

The life of her brother,

And the dignity

Of her virginity,

Would have stood unbroken

Longer:

All of this,

Through shamelessness,

Was lost.
Operas Citatas


