

**THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY:  
EPIGRAMS FROM ANTHOLOGIA  
PALATINA XII. TRANSLATED  
INTO ENGLISH VERSE**

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The Greek Anthology: Epigrams from Anthologia Palatina XII. Translated into English Verse by Sydney Oswald

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**SYDNEY OSWALD**

**THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY:  
EPIGRAMS FROM ANTHOLOGIA  
PALATINA XII. TRANSLATED  
INTO ENGLISH VERSE**



To . . . .

*T*HIS little book to thee I dedicate,  
These ancient songs retold in halting rhyme,  
The Greeks who sang them in the olden time  
When Eros reigned, guessed not the present fate  
Of love sublime, mistrust and scornful hate.  
O come my Sweet, and let us seek a clime  
Where men be pure, and it shall be no crime  
To call thee friend of friends and my soul's mate.

Here in this book I will not write thy name,  
For this sad world shall never know the might  
Of our grand love ; so let it hidden stay,  
Graved in my heart ; and though men deem it shame  
That thou and I should love, the very sight  
Of thy dear face shall charm their scorn away.

## PREFACE

MY thanks are due to Mr. John Ellingham, without whose aid I could not have made these translations; and to Mr. J. W. Mackail for permission to use titles from his book, 'Select Epigrams from the Greek Anthology.'

SYDNEY OSWALD.

*London, 1914.*

## CONTENTS

*[The numbers in parentheses refer to the numbers in the  
Greek Anthology.]*

	PAGE		PAGE
<b>STRATO.</b>		<b>STRATO.</b>	
O Ox-engendered Bee (249) . . .	3	The Lucky Master (254) . . .	16
The First Kiss (177) . . .	3	Love's Way (203) . . .	17
To Theocles (181) . . .	4	Give and Take (204) . . .	17
The Bloom of Youth (195) . . .	4	To Menippus (176) . . .	18
To Philocrates (16) . . .	5	Constancy (10) . . .	18
Withered Blossoms (234) . . .	5	Coal-black Eyes (5) . . .	19
To Phaedon (21) . . .	6	Auburn Locks (244) . . .	19
The Barber (207) . . .	6	The Portrait (190) . . .	19
Love's Constancy (178) . . .	7	O Greedy One (237) . . .	20
The Eyes of Love (196) . . .	7	Omnes (198) . . .	20
My Advocate (208) . . .	8	Fascination (227) . . .	20
Ganymede (221) . . .	8	Drunken Vows (250) . . .	21
Hoarded Beauty (235) . . .	9	Not Art, but Nature (192) . . .	21
The Jealous Master (175) . . .	9	The Complaisant Boy (184) . . .	22
Retribution (188) . . .	10	Chaste Kisses (153) . . .	22
The Scornful Lover (186) . . .	10	Graphicos (15) . . .	23
To Cyrus (215) . . .	11	Diodorus (9) . . .	23
To Prometheus (220) . . .	11	Finis (258) . . .	23
The Garland Weaver (8) . . .	12		
The Tell-tale Heart (179) . . .	13	<b>MELEAGER.</b>	
To Daphnis (182) . . .	13	Love's Prisoner (132) . . .	27
Laudamus (189) . . .	14	Antiochus (133) . . .	28
Inconstancy (225) . . .	14	Summer Noon (127) . . .	29
Supplication to Zeus (230) . . .	15	The Garland of Kypria (256) . . .	30
Love's Immortality (248) . . .	15	Aristogorus (122) . . .	31
Envious Time (251) . . .	16	Peerless Beauty (106) . . .	31

## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
<b>MELEAGER.</b>		<b>MELEAGER.</b>	
The Scornful Beloved (158) . . .	32	Caridanos (68) . . . . .	52
Love the Gambler (47) . . . . .	32	Doubt (70) . . . . .	53
An Ash in the Fire (72) . . . . .	33	The Reveller (117) . . . . .	54
Love's Gift to Death (74) . . . . .	33	Laurel and Hyacinth (128) . . . . .	55
Antiochus and Eros (78) . . . . .	34	Nemesis (141) . . . . .	55
Love Unsmaged (80) . . . . .	34	The Price of Love (154) . . . . .	56
The Vision (125) . . . . .	35	The Crown (257) . . . . .	57
Dionysus (81) . . . . .	36		
The Little Torch (82) . . . . .	37	<b>UNCERTAIN.</b>	
The Billows of Kypria (84) . . . . .	38	Unrequited Love (19) . . . . .	61
In Friendship's Name (85) . . . . .	39	Mortality (39) . . . . .	61
The Choice (86) . . . . .	40	Hidden Beauty (40) . . . . .	62
For Me Alone (110) . . . . .	40	Beautiful Arctonoe (62) . . . . .	62
Bacchus, the Betrayer (119) . . . . .	41	Doritheos (66) . . . . .	63
The Wound of Love (126) . . . . .	42	Dionysus (67) . . . . .	63
Love's Guardians (157) . . . . .	42	Beware (79) . . . . .	64
The Guilt of Love (19 bis) . . . . .	43	The Inconstant Lover (87) . . . . .	64
The Echo (43) . . . . .	43	To Kypria (89) . . . . .	65
Relentless Passion (48) . . . . .	44	Sweet Fate (99) . . . . .	65
The Fervent Lover (52) . . . . .	44	Love and Hate (102) . . . . .	66
The New Love (54) . . . . .	45	All or Nothing (107) . . . . .	66
The Flower of Cos (56) . . . . .	45	Eros the Captive (112) . . . . .	66
The Sun among the Stars (57) . . . . .	46	The Shield Invincible (115) . . . . .	67
Heraclitus and Diodorus (63) . . . . .	46	Love's Light (116) . . . . .	67
Eros and Zoidus (76) . . . . .	47	The Boxer (123) . . . . .	68
Beauty Seared (92) . . . . .	47	Doubt (124) . . . . .	68
Eros in Bonds (113) . . . . .	48	Dositheos (130) . . . . .	69
The Harbinger of Ill (137) . . . . .	48	Ye Chattering Birds (136) . . . . .	69
Captive Eros (144) . . . . .	49	Kindly Fate (140) . . . . .	70
The Loadstar (159) . . . . .	49	Despair (145) . . . . .	71
The Meed of Kypria (164) . . . . .	50	A God or Stone (151) . . . . .	72
White and Black (165) . . . . .	50	Magnetic Heraclitus (152) . . . . .	72
The Shipwrecked Lover (167) . . . . .	51	Friendship or Hate (156) . . . . .	73
Theron (60) . . . . .	51	To Adrastia (160) . . . . .	73
Zeus the Robber (66) . . . . .	52		



## CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
<b>ALCEUS.</b>		<b>EVENUS.</b>	
A Prayer (64) . . . . .	74	Love and Hate (172) . . . . .	84
Protarchus (39) . . . . .	74	<b>FLACCUS.</b>	
<b>ASCLEPIADES.</b>		Swift Nemesis (12) . . . . .	85
Youth and Time (36) . . . . .	75	<b>JULIUS LEONIDES.</b>	
The Burden of Youth (46) . . . . .	75	Periander (20) . . . . .	86
Fleeting Day (50) . . . . .	76	<b>MNASALCAS.</b>	
Love's Double (75) . . . . .	76	The Autumn Bower (138) . . . . .	87
Young Love (105) . . . . .	77	<b>POLYSTRATUS.</b>	
Forgiveness of Eros (133) . . . . .	77	Two Loves (91) . . . . .	88
Dorcian (101) . . . . .	78	<b>PHYMOYLES.</b>	
Despair (166) . . . . .	78	The Bird of Time (32) . . . . .	89
<b>CALLIMACHUS.</b>		<b>POSIDIPPUS.</b>	
Contra Mundum (57) . . . . .	79	The Archer (45) . . . . .	90
Wine and Wisdom (118) . . . . .	79	The Love-sick Poet (98) . . . . .	90
Love's Sympathy (134) . . . . .	80	Love and Wine (120) . . . . .	91
Mistrust (139) . . . . .	80	Litanies to Love (168) . . . . .	91
<b>DIOSCORIDES.</b>		<b>RHIANUS.</b>	
Demophilus (14) . . . . .	81	The Charms of Menecrates (38) . . . . .	92
The Rival of Ganymede (37) . . . . .	81	Empedocles (58) . . . . .	92
To Zephyr (171) . . . . .	82	Evanescence of Youth (93) . . . . .	93
Plighted Troth (170) . . . . .	82	In the Field Path (121) . . . . .	94
Three Lovers (169) . . . . .	83		

STRATO.

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### O Ox-engendered Bee.

**O** X-ENGENDERED bee, from out what place  
Didst thou descry this honeyed boy of mine,  
And camest—flying o'er his tender face.  
Will'st thou not cease this buzzing voice of thine?

Strive not to cull with blossom-circling feet  
My boy's unsullied skin ; fly thou above  
Unto thy hive, thy honey-boys to greet,  
Lest I should sting, who bear the sting of love.

### The First Kiss.

**A**T even, when the hour drew nigh at which  
we say farewell,  
My Moeris kissed my lips, in dream or truth  
I cannot tell ;  
All else he said and asked, all else to me is clear,  
But if he kissed my lips, in truth I cannot swear ;  
But if the kiss divine were real, then this indeed  
I know,  
My joyous soul no more on earth can wander  
to and fro.