

Past

by JEANETTA BOSWELL



ruined Iliad...

A bibliography of English and
American literature based on
Greco-Roman mythology

THE SCARECROW PRESS, INC.
Metuchen, N.J., & London MCMLXXXII

Also by Jeanetta Boswell:

Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Critics (1979)
Walt Whitman and the Critics (1980)
Herman Melville and the Critics (1981)
Henry David Thoreau and the Critics (with Sarah Crouch) (1981)
Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Critics (1982)
What Men or Gods Are These? A Genealogical Approach to
Classical Mythology (with Fred Boswell) (1980)

PR
149
M95A11
1982

Once again, to the memory of
my husband and fellow student,

Fred P. Boswell

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Boswell, Jeanetta, 1922--
"Past ruined Ilion--".

Includes index.

1. English literature--Bibliography. 2. American
literature--Bibliography. 3. Mythology, Classical,
in literature--Bibliography. 4. Mythology in
literature--Bibliography. 5. English literature--
Stories, plots, etc. 6. American literature--
Stories, plots, etc. I. Title.
Z2011.B67 [PR149.M95] O16.82'08'015 82-5541
ISBN 0-8108-1549-4 AACR2

Copyright © 1982 by Jeanetta Boswell
Manufactured in the United States of America

READ, continued

- 1012 _____ . "Sappho," in Collected Poems (1966), is a slight poem, making but a single point. Sappho collects the material of her poetry from nature itself--the stone steps, the golden sunlight, the electric air. She will "elicit lyric analogues of the rocky kingdom."
- 1013 _____ . "Sappho and Atthis," in Collected Poems (1966), refers to one of the lovers of Sappho with whom it is said the poet had a rather violent relationship. This monologue could be narrated by Sappho or Atthis, and examines their relationship. At the end an image of a fishing net is created, and the narrator says that she wishes the fishermen could "unravel the intricate mesh" of their love.
- 1014 _____ . "The White Isle of Leuce," in Collected Poems (1966), is based on the myth that at their deaths Helen and Achilles went to Leuce Island, a kind of Elysium, where they were married and enjoyed a kind of immortality. Here Helen remains beautiful forever, and Achilles remains the brave young warrior.

REED, Henry (1914- , English)

- 1015 "Chrysothemis," in A Map of Verona. London: Cape, 1946. This daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra is presented, as a minor character, only in Sophocles' "Electra." In this play she is sympathetic to her sister's loyalty to their murdered father, but is opposed to defying Clytemnestra and Aegisthus. In Reed's poem, narrated by Chrysothemis herself, she is the haunted survivor of the many tragedies that befell the House of Atreus. She is haunted by the memory of her father's murder at the hands of her mother and Aegisthus; she remembers her brother, Orestes, who later killed Clytemnestra and Aegisthus; she recalls Orestes and Electra fleeing for their lives--she alone remains, to protect and watch over the innocent children of Clytemnestra and Aegisthus. She declares herself "not guilty of anybody's blood," and yet the conclusion of the poem raises the question of her guilt: was she guilty by means of association, by what she did not do rather than what she did? Finally, the all-important question, will she protect the innocent children, or will the old avenging fury fall on them also? There is little mythology concerning these children--a son, Aletes, and a daughter, Erigone. One source says that Orestes killed them when he returned from exile after his mother's death.
- 1016 _____ . "Philoctetes," in A Map (1946), is a lengthy mono-

logue in which the hero reviews his past life and tries to analyze his future. Ten years ago he had been put ashore on the island of Lemnos by Odysseus and other men of the ship because they could no longer bear the stinking wound that Philoctetes had incurred. With him they also put ashore his bow and arrows, the gift that he had inherited from Heracles. Through all these years he has suffered--mentally, from the isolation and loneliness, and physically, from the great wound that would not be healed. He grew bitter and rancorous, but always he knew that Troy could not be taken without him and his bow and arrows. Now they have come for him, and he says, "I have changed my mind; or my mind is changed in me." He prepared to depart with Neoptolemus, the son of Achilles, and Odysseus, whom he has hated above all others. "The wound is quiet, its death/ Is dead within me," he says.

RENAULT, Mary (pseudonym of Mary Challans, 1905- , English)

- 1017 Bull from the Sea. New York: Pantheon, 1962. This novel, the sequel to The King Must Die, covers the later years in the life of Theseus, King of Athens. It begins after his experiences in Crete, with the death of his father, Aegeus. It covers the Ariadne story, with Theseus deserting her on the island of Naxos; his love for the Amazon Hippolyta and the son she bore him; and his marriage to Phaedra, the younger sister of Ariadne. Finally it embraces the story of Hippolytus, the ill-fated son who was destroyed by Phaedra, his stepmother, and his father's curse for Poseidon to send a "bull from the sea" and mangle the son who Theseus believed and seduced his own wife. The novel ends with Theseus resigning his kingship and going into exile to meet his death. For the most part the reviewers rated this novel as a very high performance, but perhaps lacking in the color and excitement of The King Must Die.
- 1018 _____ . The King Must Die. New York: Pantheon, 1958. The focus of this work is on the youth of Theseus, beginning with the first time he left Athens and was crowned king at Eleusis. This kingship proved to be of short duration, for in a year he was challenged, and he had to kill the challenger or be killed. He killed the challenger, but chose not to continue as their king. The bulk of the novel is a recreation of the Minotaur episode, in which Theseus kills the bull-man and escapes Crete with the daughter of Minos. This part of the novel has been well researched, and the events of the Bull Court and the Bull Dancers are realistic and highly detailed. The reviewers felt that this mythological novel was altogether excellent in form and presentation, with sharply outlined characters and realistically explained events.