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Reviews

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(Lori Bernier)

ON FIRST LOOKING INTO HOMER'S ODYSSEY: EXPLORING THE BARD'S DRAMATIC ARTISTRY (PAPERBACK)

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AUTHORHOUSE, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The author of On First Looking into Homer's Odyssey reports of this work: My enthusiasm for the Homeric epics dates to 1933, when in Frank Durkee's sophomore English class in Somerville (New Jersey) High School, I was introduced to the Odyssey in the Butcher Lang prose translation. We students had already been exposed to Classical mythology in the elementary grades, and I had read on my own Bulfinch's Age of Fable, a treasured birthday present. Mr. Durkee presented the Odyssey as a collection of fabulous adventures, and I read with excitement about the Cyclops, the witch Circe, the Sirens and Scylla and Charybdis. In my late teens and early twenties I read and re-read the Iliad in various translations, eager to explore the events which preceded the Odyssey. In my mid-thirties, I undertook to master Classical Greek, impelled in great part by a desire to read Homer in the original. When I declared to Vera Lachmann, a Brooklyn College Classics professor who invited me to read Greek with her on Saturday mornings, that I was coming to believe that there was Homer and other literature, she exclaimed, It's about time you came to that conclusion! Returning to university in 1961 to pursue courses toward a doctorate, I exposed in my dissertation Byron's critique of the Homeric epics in his comic epic, Don Juan. Appointed in 1966 to found a Classics department at Brock University, a newly established Ontario institution, I developed an intensive survey course of Classical literature in translation (from which I hoped to recruit students for courses in Latin and Greek). The first day of class of the survey course, I...

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