

CLASSICAL TIMES



The Twelve Labors of Hercules

by J. Marilyn Evans

I. Nemean Lion

At a town called Cleonae, Hercules' host offered to sacrifice an animal to pray for a safe lion hunt. Hercules asked him to wait 30 days, and if he returned with the lion's skin, they would sacrifice to Zeus. His normal weapons were useless so he used a club and his own arms to strangle the animal.

II. Lernaian Hydra

A monstrous serpent with nine heads, the hydra attacked with poisonous venom. Hercules set off to hunt the nine-headed monster with his nephew Iolaus. They discovered the hydra and attacked it, but each time one head was knocked off, more grew in its place. They eventually discovered that flames prevented the growth of heads and defeated the hydra.

III. The Cerynaian Hind

This was a special deer, because it had golden horns and it was sacred to the goddess of hunting and the moon, Diana. This meant that Hercules could neither kill the deer nor harm her. When the deer began to run away, Hercules shot it, but explained his situation to Diana and successfully completed his task.

IV. The Erymanthian Boar

Every day the boar would come crashing down from his lair on the mountain, attacking men and animals all over the countryside, gouging them with its tusks, and destroying everything in its path. Hercules eventually exhausted the animal and brought it back alive to Eurystheus.

V. The Stables of Augeias

Hercules was forced to clean up king Augeias' stables. He created a system whereby he redirected the course of the nearby river to flow through the stables, consequently washing them out regularly.

VI. The Stymphalian Birds

Hercules was to drive away an enormous flock of birds which gathered at and

infested a lake near the town of Stymphalos. He scared them away with the noise of rattles rather than kill them.

VII. The Cretan Bull

Hercules was sent to bring back the Cretan Bull, which was terrorizing the island, and bring it back to Eurystheus. Hercules accomplished this task, and Eurystheus later let the bull go free.

VIII. The Mares of Diomedes

Eurystheus sent Hercules to get the man-eating mares of Diomedes, the king of a Thracian tribe called the Bistones, and bring them back to him in Mycenae. Eurystheus also set these free.

IX. The Belt of Hippolyte

Queen Hippolyte, an Amazon, had a special piece of armor. It was a leather belt which had been given to her by Ares, the war god, because she was the best warrior of all the Amazons.

X. The Cattle of Geryoneus

The Geryoneus was the three-headed offspring of Chrysaor and Kallirhoe who lived in the island Erythia. On this island Geryoneus kept a herd of red cattle guarded by Cerberus' brother, Orthus, a two-headed hound, and the herdsman Eurytion.

XI. The Apples of Hesperides

Eurystheus commanded Hercules to bring him golden apples which belong to Zeus, king of the gods. These apples were given to him by Hera as a wedding gift. As a result, he sent Hercules to fetch the apples for him. Hercules asked for the help of Atlas, whose stipulation was that Hercules bore the weight of the Earth while he went to get the golden apples. When Atlas returned, Hercules tricked Atlas into carrying the Earth once more.

XII. Cerberus

Eurystheus ordered Hercules to go to the Underworld and kidnap the beast called Cerberus. Cerberus was a vicious animal that guarded the entrance to Hades and kept the living from entering the world of the dead.

[editor's note: This describes the objects of Hercules twelve labors found in the epic poem written by Peisandros of Rhodes, now lost, you can read D'Aularies' Book of Greek Myths to learn more.]

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LOQUITUR

Welcome to this weeks newsletter. The cartoon on the back is to remind you to work on your projects for convention. Even though pagan, the article on Hercules is a good overview on cultural issues of antiquity. Paul being a man of letters probably had to learn this stuff too.

Sarah Rust
 Editor



CALENDAR:

STATE PROJECTS

All State Precontests Due for Review
March 1st

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

Friday March 14th at 9a.m.

SPRING BREAK

March 17th to 21st

SPRING CERTAMEN

Wake Forest U. March 29th

SPRING CONVENTION

Wake Forest U. April 25th-26th

NATIONAL JCL

July 28th to August 2nd at Miami U.



FAMOUS CLASSICAL PHRASE

In rebus prosperis, superbiam,
fastidium
arrogantiamque magno opere
fugiamus

In prosperity let us most
carefully avoid pride, disdain,
and arrogance.

The Porch of the Karyatids

At the Akropolis on the Erechtheum's south side, one finds the famous "Porch of the Maidens", with six draped female figures (Karyatids) as supporting columns, each sculpted in a manner different from the rest and engineered in such a way that their slenderest part, the neck, is capable of supporting the weight of the porch roof whilst remaining graceful and feminine. Created by Alkamemes or Kallimachos, the statues were later named Karyatides after the young women from Karyes of Lakonia who danced in honour of the goddess Artemis. Five of them are in the Acropolis Museum and another in the British Museum; those on the building are casts. Copies of the Karyatids embellished the forum Augustum, the Pantheon, and Hadrian's villa at Tibur. [source: wikipedia, Hellenic Ministry of Culture & The Oxford Classical Dictionary].