

Pompa Introitus Fernandi, commemorative book (Antwerp: 1641–42). c.1635. Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, inv. F.M. 240. [Held 1980, no. 306—ill. / Baudouin 1977, fig. 139 (print) / also Jaffé, no. 1183—ill.]

Thomas Dekker, 1570?2–1632. (Oceanus and Tethys in *London's Tempe*, or, *The Field of Happiness*. Pageant, with interpolated songs. First performed 29 Oct 1629, for Lord Mayor's inauguration, London. [Sharp 1969, 2:759, 1185 / DLB 1987, 62:46, 67]

Richard Fleckno, ?–c.1678. *The Marriage of Oceanus and Britannia: An Allegorical Fiction*. Opera. Libretto, composer. Published London: 1659. [Grove 1980, 6:634]

John Flaxman, 1755–1826. "Oceanus and Sea-Nymphs." Drawing, part of a cycle illustrating Hesiod's *Theogony*, 1807–14. / Engraved by William Blake, published London: Longman & Co., 1817. [Irwin 1979, p. 90 / Flaxman 1872, 7: pl. 28]

John Keats, 1795–1821. (Oceanus in) *Endymion* 3.994–1004. Poem. 1817. London: Taylor & Hessey, 1818. [Stillinger 1978 / De Selincourt 1951, p. 442]

———. (Oceanus in) *Hyperion: A Fragment* 2.167ff. Poem. c.Oct 1818–c.Apr 1819. London: Taylor & Hessey, 1820. [Stillinger / Aske 1985, pp. 85, 89]

Victor Hugo, 1802–1885. "Océan." Poem. 18 Feb 1854. No. 22 in *La légende des siècles*, last series (Paris: Hetzel & Lévy, 1883). [Hugo 1985–86, vol. 6 / Py 1963, pp. 178–79 / DLLF 1984, 2:1045, 1049, 1053]

Willem Kloos, 1859–1938. *Okeanos*. Epic, fragment. 1884. Modern edition by H. G. M. Preck and A. P. Verburg (The Hague: Jaffrow, 1971). [Meijer 1971, pp. 236, 240]

T. S. Eliot, 1888–1965. (Oceanus evoked in) "The Dry Salvages." Poem, part 2 of *Four Quartets* (London: Faber & Faber, 1943). [Eliot 1964 / Matthiessen 1958, pp. 186ff.]

Elias Venezis, 1904–1973. *Okeanos*. Poem. Athens: Kolourou, 1956. [EWL 1981–84, 4:542]

Ralph Gustafson, 1909–. (Oceanus evoked in) "At the Trevi Fountain: Rome." Poem. In *Ixion's Wheel* (Toronto & Montreal: McClelland & Stewart, 1969). [1960]

R. Murray Schafer, 1933–. *Okeanos*. Musical composition for 4–track tape. 1971. [Grove 1980, 6:589]

ODYSSEUS. One of the most famous Greek heroes, Odysseus was the son of Laertes, king of Ithaca, and Anticlea, daughter of Autolycus. Called Ulysses (Ulixes) by the Romans, Odysseus is best known through Homer's twenty-four-book epic the *Odyssey*, which chronicles his long return to Ithaca after the Trojan War. The hero also figures in Homer's *Iliad* and in the writings of Euripides, Sophocles, and Plato.

Odysseus was one of many suitors vying for the hand of Helen, the fairest woman in all of Greece. Knowing that his low social status would keep him from winning her, Odysseus gave up his suit and advised Helen's father, Tyndareus, to make all the suitors swear an oath of loyalty to whichever one

was chosen as bridegroom. Odysseus then married Penelope, the daughter of King Icarus of Sparta, and she bore him a son, Telemachus.

When Helen was taken to Troy by Paris, Odysseus and all the other unsuccessful suitors were bound by their oath to help her husband, Menelaus, regain her. Thus began the saga of the Trojan War. Odysseus, however, loath to leave his family, feigned madness to escape his obligation. He was found out by Palamedes, for whom he later laid an elaborate trap that resulted in the young man's death. After a tender farewell to his wife and son, Odysseus departed for Troy.

Although a reluctant warrior, Odysseus took an active role in the Trojan conflict. He first tried to negotiate a peaceful end to the hostilities, leading an unsuccessful embassy to King Priam to demand Helen's return. Odysseus was the one who found the young Achilles hiding among the daughters of King Lycomedes of Scyros and compelled him to join the Trojan expedition. Later, when Achilles had removed himself from the battlefield because of his quarrel with Agamemnon over the captive Briseis, Odysseus unsuccessfully implored him to reconsider.

With Diomedes, Odysseus undertook two night expeditions into the Trojan stronghold, on one of which they captured the Palladium, the statue of Athena that protected the city of Troy. The theft set the stage for the sack of Troy. Odysseus also had a hand in the stratagem of the wooden horse, which led to the Greek victory.

After the death of Achilles, Odysseus and Ajax competed to see which of them deserved to wear the hero's armor; Odysseus's skill at rhetoric assured his victory, which led the humiliated Ajax to commit suicide. Odysseus brought Neoptolemus, Achilles' son, and Philoctetes, owner of the charmed bow and arrows of Heracles, to Troy in fulfillment of a prophecy that said that Troy would not fall without their presence. According to some legends, during the sack of Troy Odysseus threw the Trojan royal prince, Astyanax, from the battlements of the city, assuring the end of Priam's dynasty.

Odysseus's return to Ithaca after the Trojan War, chronicled in the *Odyssey*, took ten years. The voyage led him into numerous adventures, in many of which his shrewd resourcefulness served him well. Homer's narrative begins on the island of the nymph Calypso, where Odysseus had languished for eight years, prevented by Poseidon from departing. The early books of the epic also relate Telemachus's unsuccessful search for his father. With Athena's intercession, Odysseus was allowed to leave Calypso's isle and resume his homeward journey. He proceeded to Phaeacia where, as a guest of King Alcinous, he

described his previous ordeals. These included a stop at the land of the Lotus-eaters, where several of his men succumbed to the fruit of forgetfulness; imprisonment in the cave of the cyclops Polyphemus; a near disaster when Odysseus's men opened the bag of winds given him by the god Aeolus; a battle with the cannibalistic Laestrigonians; a year spent as the lover of the witch Circe, who had turned his men into swine; a visit to the Underworld, where he consulted the shade of Tiresias; negotiation of the perils posed by the Sirens, Scylla, and Charybdis; a storm sent by Zeus after some of Odysseus's men had slaughtered and eaten cattle belonging to the sun-god Helios (or Hyperion), in which all his remaining men perished; and the destruction of the raft on which he sailed from Ogygia, when he was saved by the sea-goddess Leucothea and delivered to the Phaeacian coast.

When Odysseus arrived home in Ithaca, he found Penelope besieged by suitors, who had encamped at the palace in his absence. With the aid of Telemachus and the goddess Athena, he slew all the suitors and was at last reunited with his wife. In thanksgiving for his safe arrival, he built a shrine to the god Poseidon. Many years later, Odysseus was killed by Telegonus, his son by Circe. According to an alternate tradition, Odysseus grew restless after several years at home and departed on another voyage.

The Odysseus of the *Iliad* is portrayed as cool and cunning, but in the *Odyssey* he is also seen as possessing great self-control and fortitude, with a ceaseless yearning for home. Other classical authors, however, characterized him as heartless and unscrupulous. Classical vase painters often illustrated scenes from the *Odyssey*. Odysseus's reputation suffered at the hands of medieval authors, who considered him villainous, in contrast to Aeneas, who was seen as pious and chivalrous. Odysseus's prudence and pragmatic wisdom, however, won admirers: Christian apologists saw the pattern of his long journey, beset by temptations, setbacks, and danger, as an allegory for man's earthly experience and preparation for heaven.

Classical Sources. Homer, *Iliad* 1, 9, 10 passim; *Odyssey*. Sophocles, *Ajax*; *Philoctetes*. Euripides, *Heautus*; *Rhesus*; *The Cyclops*. Plato, "The Vision of Er" (close of the *Republic*). Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 13 passim, 14.223–320. Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca* E7. Hyginus, *Fabulae* 14, 125–27, 141.

Listings are arranged under the following headings:

- General List
- The Lotus-eaters
- Polyphemus
- Circe
- Odysseus in the Underworld
- The Sirens
- Scylla and Charybdis

- Calypso
- Leucothea
- Nausicaä
- Return of Odysseus
- Death of Odysseus
- Last Voyage

See also ACHILLES, at Scyros, Afterlife; AJAX; CHRYSEIS; DROMEDUS; HELEN OF TROY; PALAMEDES; PENELOPE; PHILOCTETES; TELEMACHUS; TROJAN WAR.

General List

Dante Alighieri, 1265–1321. (Ulysses among the counselors of evil in) *Inferno* 26.55–142. c.1307–c.1314? In *The Divine Comedy*. Poem. Foligno: Neumeister & Angelini, 1472. [Singleton 1970–75, vol. 1]

Anonymous French. (Stories of Ulysses related in) *Ovide moralisé* 14.2101–2354. Poem, allegorized translation/elaboration of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. c.1316–28. [de Boer 1915–86, vol. 5]

Giovanni Boccaccio, 1313–1375. (Ulysses, companion of Diomedes, in) *Tesida* 7.17, 103, 120; 8.19, 22–26; 9.46. Poem. c.1340–42. [Branca 1964–83, vol. 2 / McCoy 1974]

Christine de Pizan, c.1364–c.1431. (Ulysses, playing chess during the siege of Troy, seen as image of the good knight who knows when to sport and play, in) *L'épître d'Otthéa à Hector* . . . [The Epistle of Otthéa to Hector] chapter 83. Didactic romance in prose. c.1400. MSS in British Library, London; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; elsewhere. / Translated by Stephen Scrope (London: c.1444–50). [Bühler 1970 / Hindman 1986, p. 202]

Apollonio di Giovanni, c.1415–1465. "The Adventures of Ulysses." Painting. Mid-15th century. Art Institute of Chicago, no. 37.1006. [Chicago 1965; cf. p. 299 / Berenson 1993, p. 18—ill.]

———. 2 paintings, depicting scenes from the *Odyssey*. Formerly Lanckoronski coll., Vienna. [Berenson] ———. "The Story of Odysseus." Painting, fragment. Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, inv. 23.42. [Warburg]

Franco-Flemish School. "Eloquent Ulysses" (on board ship), "Penelope at the Loom." Tapestries. 1480–83. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. [Stanford 1974, p. 182, pls. 155–56]

Sandro Botticelli, 1445–1510. Drawing, depicting Ulysses and Diomedes in a flame, illustrating *Inferno* 26, part of a series of illustrations to Dante's *Divine Comedy*. 1480s/early 1490s. Kupferstichkabinett, Berlin-Dahlem. [Lightbown 1978, 1:147ff., 2:172f., no. E39—ill.]

Piero di Cosimo, c.1462–1521, formerly attributed (questionably attributed to Francesco Granacci, 1477–1543). "The Blinding of Polyphemus," "The Battle with the Laestrigonians," "The Return of Ulysses." Paintings. c.1500? "Polyphemus" and "Laestrigonians" in Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; "Return" in Mortimer coll., New York (or Litchfield, Conn.). [Bacci 1966, pp. 123, 127 / Berenson 1963, pp. 99f.]

Luca Signorelli, 1441–1523. Cycle of grisaille frescoes depicting scenes from Homer. 1499–1503. Capella di S. Brizio, Duomo, Orvieto. [Berenson 1968, 1:399]

Utili, fl. 1476–1504. "The Story of Ulysses." Painting.