

About the Authors

Pertti Anttonen, Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania (1993), works as a Research Fellow at the Academy of Finland, which is affiliated with the Institute for Cultural Research at the University of Helsinki. He is currently finishing two books: one on the concepts of tradition and modernity, the other on oral tradition, modernity, and Finnish national heritage.

Daniel Avorgbedor is Associate Professor in the School of Music and in the Department of African American and African Studies at Ohio State University. His major research areas include urban ethnomusicology, continuities in the African Diaspora, musical traditions in contemporary African churches, and crosscultural aesthetics. He has published articles in *Ethnomusicology*, *Oral Tradition*, *World of Music*, *Cahiers de musiques traditionnelles*, and others.

Egbert J. Bakker is Professor of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin. His main interests are oral tradition, pragmatics, and narratology in ancient Greek literature. His books include *Poetry in Speech: Orality and Homeric Discourse* (1997) and the *Brill Companion to Herodotus* (co-ed., 2002).

Michael Barnes is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Honors College at the University of Houston. His research interests include the Greek epic tradition and Hellenistic poetry. His dissertation, "Inscribed *kleos*: Aetiological Contexts in Apollonius of Rhodes," focuses on the intersections of aetiology, poetic tradition, and contemporary sociopoetics in the *Argonautica*.

Felice Belle is a poet, playwright, and the former curator/host of the Friday Night Slam at the Nuyorican Poets Café in New York City. Her work has been published in *Roots and Culture*, *SLAM*, *Drumvoices Revue*, *Longshot*, and Def Jam's *Bum Rush the Page* (2001). She currently works as the director of Youth Speaks, New York City.

David Bouvier teaches Greek language and literature at the University of Lausanne and is a member of the Centre Louis Gernet, Paris. He works on Homeric poetry and intellectual relations in ancient Greece. His most recent book is *Le Sceptre et la lyre: L'Iliade ou les héros de la mémoire* (2002).

Lina Bugiene serves as a scientific researcher at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Vilnius. Her Ph.D. thesis, "Mythical Images of Water in Lithuanian Legends and Folk-Beliefs," was subsequently published in the "Folklore Studies" series (1999). Her current interests include different genres of folk narrative, folk beliefs, and popular religion.

Casey Dué is Assistant Professor of Classical Studies in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of Houston and Executive Editor for Publications at the Center for Hellenic Studies. Among her interests are ancient Greek oral traditions, Homeric poetry, Greek tragedy, and textual criticism. Recent publications include *Homeric Variations on a Lament by Briseis* (2002).

Mark W. Edwards is Emeritus Professor of Classics at Stanford University. His main research interest is ancient Greek epic, and he is the author of several books on Homer, including *Homer: Poet of the Iliad* (1987) and volume 5 of the Cambridge University Press commentary on the *Iliad* (1993).

Professor *Elizabeth C. Fine* is Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Virginia Tech. Among her books are *The Folklore Text* (1984) and *Soulstepping: African American Step Shows* (2003).

Margalit Finkelberg is Professor and Chair of Classics at Tel Aviv University. Her recent publications include articles in *Classical Philology*, the *Colby Quarterly*, and *Homer, the Bible, and Beyond: Literary and Religious Canons in the Ancient World* (2003).

Ruth Finnegan is Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Open University, UK. Her research addresses the anthropology of communication and performance. She has published major works such as *The Hidden Musicians* (1989), *Oral Poetry* (2nd ed., 1992), *Oral Traditions and the Verbal Arts* (1992), and *Communicating: The Multiple Modes of Human Interconnection* (2002).

H. C. Groenewald is a senior lecturer in the Department of African Languages at the University of Johannesburg (formerly Rand Afrikaans University). His research interests include performance and Zulu drama. His recent publications include an article on Ndebele praise poetry in *Oral Tradition* and a study of Zulu theatre in the *South African Theatre Journal*.

Thomas A. Hale holds the Liberal Arts Professorship in African, French, and Comparative Literature at the Pennsylvania State University. He studies West African epic and *griots*, both of which are addressed in his *Griots and Griottes: Masters of Words and Music* (1998).

Among the most recent publications of *Joel M. Halpern*, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology (1992), University of Massachusetts, Amherst, are *A Serbian Village in Historical Perspective* (1986) with Barbara Kerewsky-Halpern and *The Far East Comes Near: Autobiographical Accounts of Southeast Asian Students in America* (co-ed., 1989).

Lee Haring is Professor Emeritus of English at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. His research in island folklore of the Indian Ocean has appeared in *Verbal Arts in Madagascar: Performance in Historical Perspective* (1992), numerous journal articles, and a collection of translations entitled *Indian Ocean Folktales* (2002).

Richard Horsley is Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. His most recent book, *Hearing the Whole Story: The Politics of Plot in Mark's Gospel* (2001), treats oral tradition leading to oral-derived Gospel texts.

Professor of English at Eastern Illinois University, *Bonnie D. Irwin* has published scholarly and pedagogical essays on frame tales. She is currently writing a book-length study of the *1001 Nights* in American popular culture.

Martin S. Jaffee is Professor of Comparative Religion and Jewish Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. His most recent work on oral tradition appears in *Torah in the Mouth: Writing and Oral Tradition in Palestinian Judaism, 200 BCE – 400 CE* (2001).

Werner H. Kelber is the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Cultures at Rice University. His signature work is *The Oral and the Written Gospel: The Hermeneutics of Speaking and Writing in the Synoptic Tradition, Mark, Paul, and Q* (1983; 2nd ed., 1997).

Professor of Asian Religions at Rice University, *Anne Klein* researches Indo-Tibetan Buddhist thought and practice as well as comparative and crosscultural work on women and Buddhism. The second edition of her *Knowledge and Liberation: Tibetan Buddhist Epistemology* (1986) was published in 1999.

Peace B. Lee is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at Ohio State University. Her research focuses upon the cultures and oral traditions of ethnic minorities in northeast China. Her transcription and translation of “Seongju puri” is included in the forthcoming *Reader in Folk and Popular Literature in China*.

Richard P. Martin is the Antony and Isabelle Raubitschek Professor of Classics at Stanford University. His interests include early Greek poetry (especially Homer), Greek myth and religion, modern Greek studies, medieval Irish literature, and ethnopoetics. His latest book, *Rhapsoidia*, will appear in 2004.

Catharine Mason is Maître de Conférences (Associate Professor) in English at the Université de Caen. She explores diverse oral genres in various English-speaking cultures, including contemporary song. Her current research focuses on the stylistic features of Victoria Howard's Clackamas Chinookan narratives.

Thomas A. McKean, a Research Fellow at the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, specializes in the Scots and Gaelic song traditions of Scotland. His publications include *Hebridean Song-Maker: Iain Macneacail of the Isle of Skye* (1997) and articles on various aspects of Scottish tradition.

Gregory Nagy's latest publications include *Plato's Rhapsody and Homer's Music: The Poetics of the Panathenaic Festival in Classical Athens* (2002) and the second edition of Albert Lord's *The Singer of Tales* (co-ed., 2000). Since 2000 he has been the Director of the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., as well as the Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard.

Susan Niditch is Samuel Green Professor of Religion at Amherst College, where she has taught since 1978. A student of Albert Bates Lord and Frank Moore Cross, she explores ways in which the study of early and oral literatures deepens appreciation for ancient Israelite culture. Her most recent book is *Oral World and Written Word: Ancient Israelite Literature* (1996).

Elizabeth Oyler is Assistant Professor of Japanese at Washington University, St. Louis. Her specialty is medieval war tales and related narrative and performance genres. She is also a student of the performance art of *Heike biwa*.

Shelley Fenno Quinn is Associate Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Ohio State University. She researches performance traditions of Japan, especially the Noh theatre. Among her publications is "Oral and Vocal Traditions of Japan" in *Teaching Oral Traditions* (1998).

Steve Reece is Associate Professor of Classics at Saint Olaf College. He has published widely in the areas of Homeric epic, comparative oral traditions, oral poetics, Greek lexicography, and New Testament studies, including *The Stranger's Welcome: Oral Theory and the Aesthetics of the Homeric Hospitality Scene* (1993).

Amy Shuman is Associate Professor of English and Anthropology at Ohio State University, where she also directs the Center for Folklore Studies. She is the author of *Storytelling Rights: The Uses of Oral and Written Texts by Urban Adolescents* (1986) and *Redeeming Narrative: Speaking from Experience* (forthcoming).

Saad Abdullah Sawayan is Professor of Anthropology and Folklore at King Saud University. He has published articles in Arabic and English on the oral literature and spoken language of the Arabian nomads. His major works in English are *Nabati Poetry: The Oral Poetry of Arabia* (1985) and *The Arabian Oral Historical Narrative: An Ethnographic and Linguistic Analysis* (1992).

Beverly Stoeltje is Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Culture, Indiana University, Bloomington. She is author of *Beauty Queens on the Global Stage: Gender, Contests, and Power* (1995) and has published articles about Africa, power, law and culture, and American culture.

Professor Timothy R. Tangherlini holds a joint appointment in the Scandinavian Section and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at UCLA. His current work focuses on storytelling and rural community organization in late nineteenth-century

Denmark and on critical approaches to Korean cultural geography. His publications include *Interpreting Legend* (1994) and *Talking Trauma* (1998).

Sybil A. Thornton, Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University, has published extensively on medieval Jishû (a Japanese Buddhist order), the epic, and Japanese cinema.

Alison Tokita is Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at Monash University, Melbourne. Her publications on Japanese narrative music include *Kiyomoto-bushi: Narrative Music of the Kabuki Theatre* (1999) and the forthcoming *Japanese Music: History, Performance and Research* (co-ed.).

Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Vermont, *M. D. Usher* is currently working on an opera libretto based on the *Iliad*, and on a Homeric reader from an oralist perspective. He has published books and articles on the Homeric Centos, Euripides, Plato, and Ezra Pound.

Ülo Valk is Professor of Estonian and Comparative Folklore at the University of Tartu. During 2003-04 he is a Fulbright scholar at the Center for Folklore and Ethnography at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include genre theory, demonology, and belief. His most recent book is *The Black Gentleman: Manifestations of the Devil in Estonian Folk Religion* (2001).

Linda White (Ph.D. in Basque Studies, 1996) is a researcher at the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. She co-authored the *Basque-English English-Basque Dictionary* as well as translated six books on the Basques; she has also published some thirty articles on various Basque topics.

Yamashita Hiroaki, Professor Emeritus from Nagoya University and currently Professor at Aichi Shukutoku University, has published several annotated editions of the *Tale of the Heike*, most recently the *Shin Nihon bukugaku taikei Heike*. He has authored and edited numerous volumes on the *Heike* and other war tales, including *Ikusa monogatari to Genji shôgun (War Tales and the Minamoto shôgun)* (2003).

Yang Enhong currently serves as Senior Researcher and Director of the Division of Tibetan Literature at the Institute of Ethnic Literature, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. She has closely studied performances by singers of the epic *Gesar* and published many articles in this field. She is the author of *Investigations and Research into Singers of the Epic Gesar* (1995) and *Gesar: A Heroic Epic from Chinese Ethnic Minority Traditions* (1990).

Jonas Zdanys earned a Ph.D. in English literature from the State University of New York at Buffalo and has taught at Yale University and the State University of New York. He serves presently as Chief Academic Officer in the Connecticut Department of Higher Education. His poetry and translations of Lithuanian literature have filled some twenty volumes, including *Water Light* (1997) and *Lithuanian Crossing* (1999).

Steve Zeitlin (Ph.D. in Folklore, University of Pennsylvania) is the Founding Director of City Lore: The New York Center for Urban Folk Culture, and co-director of the People's Poetry Gathering. His research interests include poetry from the world's endangered languages and poetry competitions in the Americas. He has edited *Because God Loves Stories: An Anthology of Jewish Storytelling* (1997).