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THE ODYSSEY

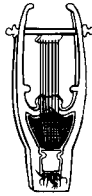
HOMER

Translated by Rodney Merrill

With Introductions by Thomas R. Walsh and Rodney Merrill

Ann Arbor
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THE ODYSSEY



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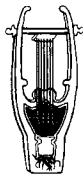
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Dedication and Acknowledgments

I started this work over twenty-five years ago, while I was living in the campground of Lisbon, Portugal, with not much else to do and nobody to tell me I was mad. Over the years, there would be enough of both sorts of distraction, but many people have been helpful and supportive. Of these, the ones I note first are those to whom I dedicate the translation: Alfredo C. Costa, my companion from 1973—including the year in Lisbon, *Olisipo*, the city of Ulysses—until his untimely death in 1994; Bruce Burton, my companion since 1994; and my parents, LaVaun S. Merrill (now deceased) and Ivanelle Harpster Merrill, whose financial support helped give me the leisure to pursue this long labor of love.

I must then acknowledge all the editors, commentators, scholars, and translators of the past who have contributed to my understanding of the Homeric epics and the circumstances of their production; some of them are named in the introductory essays in this book, but they and I have drawn freely on their predecessors, so that a full list would be quite unwieldy. Next, I record my deep appreciation to all the friends and colleagues who have responded to my version in its various stages. Frederic Amory, J. K. Anderson, Elizabeth Ditmars, and Michael Tillotson have been especially generous in carefully reading and learnedly commenting on various aspects of this project. They and the other members of the Berkeley Greek Club—Louise Chu, Mark Griffith, Gary Holland, Leslie Kurke, Kathleen McCarthy, Christopher Simon, and Andrew Stewart—have listened to me read much of the translation and have given me valuable suggestions for improvements. Other friends who have given me advice and support include Alex Billeter, Jean-Bernard Billeter, Leonard Cottrell, John Galvin, Terry Lee, Raymond and Mary Anne Oliver, Daniel and Ana Weissbein, and William and Gay Wiser. I also thank the many other friends and acquaint-

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