Statement of Originality

Except where due acknowledgement is given, this thesis is the result of my own research carried out under the supervision of Dr Elizabeth Minchin of the Classics Program of the Australian National University with the advice of Dr Judith Slee of the Division of Psychology of the Australian National University.

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Michael O’Neill Power
May 2006
Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to everyone who has made the completion of this thesis possible: to those with whom I have discussed my ideas (whether at conferences or in cafés); to Dr Alan Rumsey of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies for his advice; and to the staff of the Classics Program at The Australian National University. I must also voice my thanks to Mrs Mary Harber for her assistance in translating Wilhelm Grimm’s “Die Sage von Polyphem” and for correcting a final copy of the manuscript.

Early versions of several chapters of this thesis were presented at a range of conferences and seminars and benefited greatly from the questions they evoked: a version of Chapter 2 was delivered at ASCS XXVI, at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand in 1995; versions of Chapter 4 were delivered at The Homer Seminar II, at The Australian National University, Canberra, in 2003, and at ASCS XXV, at La Trobe University, Bendigo, in 2004; and a version of Chapter 5 was presented at The Homer Seminar III, at The Australian National University, Canberra, in 2005. I wish to thank the attendees of those presentations — among many others, Dr Anne Geddes, Dr Peter Gainsford, Dr Greg Horsley, and Dr Patrick O’Sullivan — for their contributions.

The experiment could not have been conducted without the financial assistance generously provided by the Faculty of Arts at The ANU, the sound-proof environment made available to me by the School of Language Studies within the faculty (and by Dr Phil Rose in particular), and the good will of the forty-one students who agreed to participate in it; I especially wish to thank Dr Judy Slee of the School of Psychology for her advice and her unflagging support from the initial design of the experiment to its final analysis, and for her willingness to take on a project which pushed the limits of being “in her field.”

I owe my greatest debts of thanks, however, to Dr Elizabeth Minchin for her exemplary supervision, and to my family — my lovely wife, Viv, and my children, Benedict, Megan, and Zoë — without whose support there would be no thesis.
Précis

This thesis investigates the impact of transportation — the phenomenon of “being miles away” while receiving a narrative — on audience response. The poetics of narrative reception within the Homeric epics are described and the correspondences with the psychological concept of transportation are used to suggest the appropriateness and utility of this theory to understanding audience responses in and to the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. The ways in which transportation complements and extends some concepts of narrative reception familiar to Homeric studies (the Epic Illusion, Vividness, and Enchantment) are considered, as are the ways in which the psychological theories might be adjusted to accommodate Homeric epic. A major claim is drawn from these theories that transportation fundamentally affects the audience’s interpretation of and responses to the narrative; this claim is tested both theoretically and empirically in terms of ambiguous characterization of Odysseus and the Kyklôps Polyphêmos in the ninth book of the *Odyssey*. Last, some consideration is given to the ways in which the theory (and its underlying empirical research) might be extended.
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