

# THE *ODYSSEY* BETWEEN GREECE AND THE LATIN WEST

International Symposium, 14 and 15 November 2014

Long before Dante's *Divina Commedia* and Joyce's *Ulysses*, poets, novelists and philosophers read the *Odyssey* as an archetypal journey narrative, a metaphor of political and intellectual conquest, or even as an allegorical journey of the human soul. To some, it was a versified discussion about kingship and rule, to others just a picturesque adventure narrative. It could be read as an encyclopedic arsenal of myths to be put to the service of local patriotism, or as a manifesto of cosmopolitan ideas.

Greek and Roman antiquarians believed that Circe lived in Latium and that she bore Latinus, the eponymous king of the Latins, to Odysseus. Thanks to this fanciful mythographical invention, Rome appeared on the map of Homeric mythology. It was probably to appeal to the pride of the Romans that Livius Andronicus, a Greek from Tarentum, chose to translate the *Odyssey* into Latin. But after the Greeks had fallen under Roman rule, the map of Odysseus' wanderings came to converge with the map of the Roman Empire. It was with Odysseus in mind that Virgil interpreted Aeneas' journey from Troy to Italy as a *reconquista* of the West.

The story of Odysseus was passed down to the Western Middle Ages through literature in Latin, and the Latin tradition kept shaping the reception of the poem centuries after the appearance of the first printed edition of the Greek text in 1488. The first complete English translation of Homer by George Chapman (1616) was heavily influenced by the prose Latin versions of the Capodistrian humanist Andreas Divus (1537). For many 17th and 18th century readers who read Latin but not Greek, the choice was between modern adaptations, travesties and faithful translations into Vergilian hexameters. The Latin Homer, who belonged to the European intellectual élite, eventually had to cede his place to widely accessible modern translations. Almost nobody read Homer in Latin in the 20th century, but some insisted. If Ezra Pound, the father of modern poetry, acknowledges his debt to the dry *Odyssea ad verbum translata* by Divus in the first of the *Cantos*, he does so not as a bibliophile but to conjure up the prosaic charm, the proto-modernist asceticism of a Renaissance Latin *Odyssey*:

*And he strong with the blood, said then: "Odysseus  
"Shalt return through spiteful Neptune, over dark seas,  
"Lose all companions." Then Anticlea came.  
Lie quiet Divus. I mean, that is Andreas Divus,  
In officina Wecheli, 1538, out of Homer.*

# MARIJ PREGELJ, 1913-1967 EXHIBITION OF ILLUSTRATIONS OF HOMER'S *ODYSSEY*, 1951

Museum of Modern Art, Cankarjeva 15, Ljubljana, 14-23 November 2014

Extensive and varied, Marij Pregelj's oeuvre is undoubtedly among the most notable modernist oeuvres in Slovenia and the former Yugoslavia, with illustration being its especially significant chapter. Together with his illustrations of the *Iliad*, Pregelj's illustrations of the *Odyssey* represent a turning point both in the development of his illustration and his entire oeuvre, having also a notable impact on the general understanding of modernism in postwar Slovenia. The human figure with its eloquent poses, gestures, and facial expressions also reflects – in addition to various West European references indicative of Pregelj's vast knowledge of art history – the artist's experience of World War II, as well as intimate questions of human condition that came to the fore in the postwar period. The exhibition of Pregelj's illustrations for the *Odyssey*, accompanied by a selection of his preparatory studies, thus sheds a special light on the selection of his key paintings, which are on view in Moderna galerija's permanent exhibition *20th Century. Continuities and Ruptures*.



European Commission Representation in Slovenia  
[ec.europa.eu/slovenija/index\\_sl.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/slovenija/index_sl.htm)



Moderna galerija, Ljubljana  
[www.mg-lj.si](http://www.mg-lj.si)



Department of Classics, University of Ljubljana,  
Faculty of Arts  
[www.ff.uni-lj.si](http://www.ff.uni-lj.si)

[www.odiseja.eu](http://www.odiseja.eu)

# ODYSSEUS VISITING THE CAPITALS OF EUROPE

Moderna galerija / Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana,  
Cankarjeva 15, Ljubljana



International symposium: 14 and 15 November 2014  
*The Odyssey Between Greece and Latin West*

Exhibition: 14-23 November 2014  
*Translations of the Odyssey in Languages of the European Union*  
Marij Pregelj: *Illustrations for the First Slovenian Translation of the Odyssey*

Exhibition Opening: Saturday, 15 November 2014, 19:00

# TRANSLATIONS OF THE ODYSSEY IN LANGUAGES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Museum of Modern Art, Cankarjeva 15, Ljubljana, 14–23 November 2014



A travelling exhibition of the *Odyssey* in 24 official languages of the European Union was initiated by the Field Offices of Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission. The exhibition started its tour in May. Before the end of this year it will visit a number of capital cities of Europe, accompanied by various cultural events. The *Odyssey* in modern translations reminds us both of our common European heritage and of the linguistic diversity of the European continent. Cultural diversity and multilingualism are values defining the European Union from its beginnings and represent one of the cornerstones of integration. The 10th anniversary of EU membership celebrated by Slovenia and nine other countries in 2014 is thus an opportunity to appraise the contribution of languages and literatures of those countries, including translations of Homer and other works of Graeco-Roman antiquity, to Europe as a cultural unity.

The specific focus of the events taking place in Ljubljana in November is symbolically linked to Odysseus' journey from Greece to Italy, the two countries holding the presidency to the EU in 2014. The international symposium *The Odyssey Between Greece and the Latin West* and the presentation of the Latin translation of the *Odyssey* by the Renaissance scholar Andreas Divus from Koper will invite the visitor to reflect on the contribution of authors, scribes and translators who transmitted the poetic wealth of the poem to medieval Europe, to the European Renaissance and to the modern world.

The exhibition of translations and the symposium will be accompanied by an exhibition of illustrations for the first Slovenian edition of the *Odyssey* by Marij Pregelj (1913-1967).

FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER

17:00

Opening Addresses

17:15

Marko Jenko (Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana)

Marij Pregelj: *Illustrations for the First Slovenian Edition of the Odyssey*

17:45

*Inventing the Latin Homer*

Sophia Papaioannou (National and Kapodistrian University, Athens)

*The Journey to the West Begins: Livius Andronicus and the First Translation of the Odyssey*

Ahuvia Kahane (Royal Holloway College, University of London)

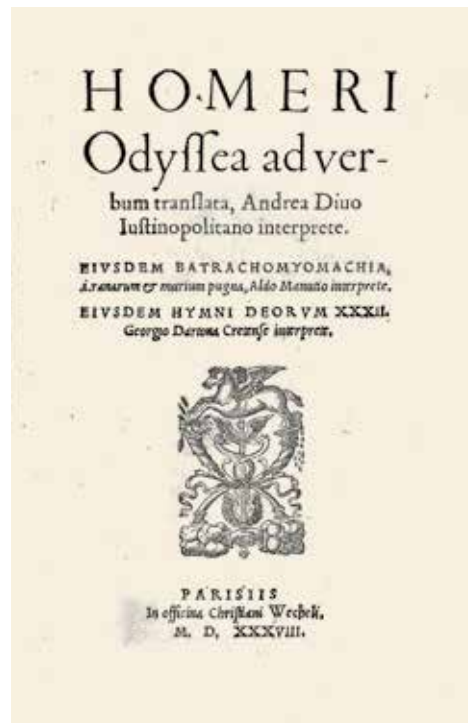
*Divine Homer's Odyssey and the Worldly Andreas Divus*

19:15

*The Odyssey in the Larger Latin World*

Andrew Laird (University of Warwick)

*Odysseus beyond the Pillars of Hercules*



SATURDAY, 15 NOVEMBER

9:15

*Roman Memories of the Odyssey*

Marco Fernandelli (Università degli studi di Trieste)  
*Theocritus, Virgil and the Memory of the Odyssey*

Marco Fucecchi (Università degli studi di Udine)  
*L'eroe, il viaggio, il racconto: Enea sulle tracce di Ulisse*  
*The Hero, the Journey, the Narrative: Aeneas in the Footsteps of Odysseus*

11:00

*From Paradigm to Fiction*

Massimo Gioseffi (Milano, Università Statale / Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)  
*Enea vs. Odisseo. Paradigmi eroici nell'epica antica*  
*Aeneas vs. Odysseus: Heroic Paradigms in Classical Epic*

Marko Marinčič (University of Ljubljana)

*Myth Demystified: The Odyssey in Ovid's Metamorphoses*

15:00

*The Odyssey in the Roman Empire*

Luca Graverini (Università degli studi di Siena)  
*Sub domina meretrice. Circe in the Latin West*

Katerina Carvounis (National and Kapodistrian University, Athens)  
*Leaving Troy: The Odyssey, the Latin Tradition, and Later Greek Poetry*

16:45

*Medieval and Early Modern Odysseys*

Edith Hall (King's College, University of London)  
*On the European Margins: The Odyssey in Medieval Ireland*

Petra Šoštarić (University of Zagreb)  
*Ulysses in the Latin Odyssey by Bernardus Zamagna*

19:00

Exhibition opening

Opening words

*Hommage to Andreas Divus: The Odyssey in Six Movements* (music and readings in several languages by students of the Department of Classics and Erasmus Exchange Students: Gašper Kvartič, Ana Bembič, Marija Gardina, Shaneen Gorman, Ourania Kaltsa, Matej Petrič, Mateja Počkaj)

Barbara Graziosi (University of Durham)  
Homeros Kosmopolites: *Homer, Citizen of the World*