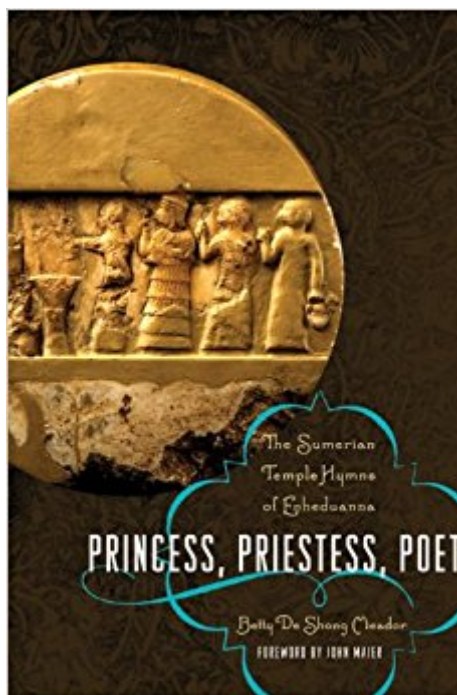




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Princess, Priestess, Poet: The Sumerian Temple Hymns Of Enheduanna (Classics And The Ancient World)



Synopsis

Living in 2300 BCE, Sumerian high priestess Enheduanna became the first author of historical record by signing her name to a collection of hymns written for forty-two temples throughout the southern half of ancient Mesopotamia, the civilization now known as Sumer. Each of her hymns confirmed to the worshipers in each city the patron deity's unique character and significance. The collected hymns became part of the literary canon of the remarkable Sumerian culture and were copied by scribes in the temples for hundreds of years after Enheduanna's death. Betty De Shong Meador offers here the first collection of original translations of all forty-two hymns along with a lengthy examination of the relevant deity and city, as well as an analysis of the verses themselves. She introduces the volume with discussions of Sumerian history and mythology, as well as with what is known about Enheduanna, thought to be the first high priestess to the moon god Nanna, and daughter of Sargon, founder of one of the first empires in human history.

Book Information

Series: Classics and the Ancient World

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: University of Texas Press; 1 edition (May 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0292723539

ISBN-13: 978-0292723535

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #530,449 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Assyria, Babylonia & Sumer](#) #1427 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology](#) #107857 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality](#)

Customer Reviews

"Meador succeeds in presenting very unusual poetic material (translated beautifully) and in providing historical and cultural material that is still, alas, not well known to modern readers. [This work] is exceptional in succeeding at these difficult purposes." (John Maier, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of English, SUNY College at Brockport)

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providing historical and cultural material that is still, alas, not well known to modern readers. [This work] is exceptional in succeeding at these difficult purposes." (John Maier, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of English, SUNY College at Brockport)

An interesting history behind a talented woman raised to the tumultuous rise of the Akkadian Empire as the daughter of an Akkadian father and Sumerian mother. However, we are only given excerpts of her poetry and are given more of a grand tour of the deities of the Sumerian pantheon.

Enheduanna's passionate relationship with the goddess Inanna is every bit as intense as Jeremiah's with the god of the Old Testament. The description of the gods, cities and rituals flesh out Enhaduanna's world. It was part of her job to present a civilization from falling apart through the cultural force of poetry. Her writing was well preserved thankfully and can be enjoyed by we denizens of the 21st century.

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