



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS A BOOK DISCUSSION OF HOMER'S CLASSIC "ILIAD"

A Continuation of the Exciting "Page and Stage" Series

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today* series with a book discussion. San Diego Public Library is one of only 16 libraries nationwide to receive a grant to host this series. The discussion of Homer's *Iliad*, translated by Stanley Lombardo, will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 pm in the Wangenheim Room on the third floor of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

In this impressive translation of the *Iliad*, Lombardo concedes from the start that "Homer's musicality cannot be heard in any kind of English," and so he does not compose his *Iliad* in hexameters or, for that matter, in any standard, regular meter. Instead, based on his experience as an oral performer of Homer's poetry, he writes the lines "based on the cadences of natural speech." The result is a Homer that "is brought to life" for the modern reader with no loss of original integrity--the achievement of a scholar, translator, and performer. Accessible and readable as Lombardo's translation is, it is rendered even more so by the superb, comprehensive introduction by Sheila Murnaghan, which provides a rich but lucid discussion of the classical context of the epic.

Anthony Edwards, Ph.D., Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, at the University of California, San Diego, will facilitate the discussion.

City of San Diego Public Library cardholders who would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to read and discuss a classic work with a scholar and need a copy of the book may pick one up in the Literature Section of the Central Library, or go online to place a hold on the title with their library account and PIN to have it sent to a San Diego Public Library branch.

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Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today is a ground breaking in-depth partnership between the library and the theatre sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York’s acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association that represents Classics professors in the U.S., the Urban Libraries Council and New York University’s Center for Ancient Studies. The events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life. For more information about *Page and Stage*, visit www.pageandstage.org online.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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