**Ode to Athens: for the Athens Olympics 2004**

Commissioned by Mary Glen-Haig for the International Olympic Committee

Composed by Armand D’Angour

τᾶς Ἀθάνας γᾶς ἱερὸν τέμενος 1

 καὶ πόλιν ἀθάνατον Θησέος καὶ

 Ἐρεχθεϊδᾶν

ὑμνήσομεν, ἔνθεν Ἀθαναῖοι παλαιοί

καί ποθ᾽ ἥρωες πρὸς ἀγῶνα μόλον 5

 τᾶς Ὀλυμπίας φαεννᾶς·

νῦν τάδ᾽ ἄεθλα χρόνῳ δευτέρῳ σὺν τύχᾳ

 αὖθί σε δεξαμέναν

ἀγλαΐζωμεν μέλει σὺν Πινδαρείῳ.

δεῦτ᾽ ἐς ὀμφαλόν, νέοι ἠδὲ κόραι 10

 τηλόθεν ἐρχόμενοι χωρῶν ἀπὸ

 μυριάδων

ἀλκᾷ μὲν ἀγαλλόμενοι γνώμᾳ τε πιστοί

ἀμφὶ νίκας, ἡσυχίας τε χάριν

 ἀντιαζέμεν πρόθυμοι. 15

τοῖς γὰρ ἀεθλοφόροις ἔσσεται μὲν χάρις

 ἀμφ᾽ἀρεταῖς μεγάλαις.

ἐν δ᾽ἀώτῳ μοθσικᾶς σφε κωμάσωμεν.

ἄλλοτε δ᾽ἄλλῳ ἑπέσθω φίλον εὐτυχίας

δῶρον Ὀλυμπιονίκαις, δίδωσι γὰρ θεός 20

 οἷς θέμις καὶ καιρὸς ἔπεστι λαχεῖν.

ἀλλὰ σὺν θεῷ γε λάμποι φάος ἀθάνατον

 καὶ τᾷ πόλει,

τᾶς ξενίας ἕνεκεν τᾶς τε φιλοφροσύνας.

ὦ ματροπόλις σοφίας ἐξαίρετος 25

 καθ᾽ Ἑλλάδα,

νῦν ἀσμένως δέξαι τόδ᾽ ἄγαλμα λόγων

 ἀρχαΐω τετελεσμένον τρόπῳ.

τέλος δὲ καὶ φωνᾷ μεγάλᾳ μακαρίζω-­­­­­­

 μεν σ᾽ ἀκμάζοισαν ὄλβῷ. 30

Blesséd Athens, land of Athena divine,

 city eternal of Theseus and the

 Erechtheïd line,

of you will we sing, whence Athenians and heroes

 once of old set forth to contend in the Games

 of Olympia the shining.

Now as good luck has decreed that you welcome the games

 here on your soil once again,

let us hail your glory with Pindaric music.

Men and women, come to the hearth of the world,

 gathering here from afar, from nations and

 lands beyond count,

Exultant in strength and physique, steadfast in purpose

 to prevail, and keen in the service of peace

 to compete with one another.

There will be grateful reward for the ones who excel

 thanks to their marvellous skills,

so with finest music let us sing their praises.

May the sweet gift of success fall to each victor in turn,

 joy to the winners to whom God decrees it is their due –

 timely grace for victory justly attained.

But, with God’s assent, may there shine on the city as well

 undying light,

due to her welcoming gifts and her benevolent grace.

Now, O mother-city of wisdom, famed throughout

 the length of Greece,

receive with gladness this precious offering of words

 carefully wrought in the style of ancient times.

So in finale, come let us hail you, with voices

 raised, at your height of fortune.

1 Παλλάδος γαίας proposuit W. Henry 5 ἀγῶν᾽ἔμολον C. Willink 6 τᾶς κλυτᾶς Ὀλυμπίας (─) W. Henry

11 χωρῶν pro χώρων C. Willink 13 χερσίν μέν...ποσίν τε κραιπνοῖς W. Henry 28 ἀρχαίῳ (sine diaerisi) W. Henry

Metrical analysis: dactylo-epitrites (D/e): D: ─ ∪ ∪ ─ ∪ ∪ ─ e: ─ ∪ ─ E: ─ ∪ ─ ∨ ─ ∪ ─

Strophe/antistrophe:

 **Lines: 1 / 10 2 -3 / 11-12 4 / 13 5 / 14 6 /15 7 / 16 8 / 17 9 / 18**

e ∨ D D ─ D ─ D ─ e ─ e ─ D E ─ D e e D E ∨ e ─ ⎪⎪

e ∨ D D ─ D ─ D ─ e ─ e ─ D E ─ D e e D E ∨ e ─ ⎪⎪

Epode: **Lines: 19 20 21 22 - 23 24 25 - 26 27 28 29-30**

 D D D E e ─ D E D ─ e D D ─ D ─ E ─ e ─ D D ∪ e ∪ e ─ D ─ e e ─ ⎪⎪⎪