

# RADCLIFFE G. EDMONDS III

Paul Shorey Professor of Greek  
Department of Greek, Latin, & Classical Studies, Bryn Mawr College  
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<https://www.brynmawr.edu/people/radcliffe>

## Education:

University of Chicago: Classical Languages and Literatures M.A. 12/94, Ph.D. 6/99.  
Yale University: Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude distinction, 6/92. nic philosophy.

## Publications:

### Books

1. Myths of the Underworld Journey: Plato, Aristophanes, and the 'Orphic Gold Tablets'  
University Press, 2004.

Reviews: Bernabè, *Estimatores* 2006 3: 1-13; des Bouy, *Journal of Religion* 2006 86.1: 153-154; Bruns, *BMC* 2005.04.66; Burke, *Gnomon* 2007 79.4: 294-297; Clark, *Mathesis* 2005 179: 215-219; Collobert, *Ancient Philosophy* 2007 27.1: 219-223; Halliwell, *Notre Dame Philosophy Review* 2005.05.01; Pirenne, *Delforge L'Antiquité Classique* 2006 75: 429-430; Ride, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 2006 126: 160-161.

2. *The Orphic Gold Tablets and Greek Religion: Further Thoughts*, Cambridge University Press, 2011, editor, also contributed introduction, critical edition of texts with translations, and one chapter

Reviews: Eidinow, *Heppuntis* (2011), Nr. 12; Pinchard, *BMC* 2011.10.54; Bowden, *The Classical Review* 62.2 (Oct 2012): 374-376; Pettipiece, *Review of Biblical Literature* 2012.09.06; Cureva, *Review of Biblical Literature* 2012.09.06.

Reviews: Parkes, *BMC* 2014.07.13; Graziosi, *Times Literary Supplement* 28 May 2014; Rodrigues, *Cadmo* (2013): 243-245; Cursaru, *Revue de métaphysique et de morale* (2016), p. 801.

Reviews: Brett Robbins, *BMC* 2018.05.20; Joëlle Delattre, *Études platoniciennes* 2018; Schultz, J. (2019) *PLATO JOURNAL*, 19, 9599.

5. *Drawing Down the Moon: Magic in the Ancient World*, Princeton University Press 2019.

Reviews: Warner, "Spellbound," *New York Review of Books*, July 2, 2020; Galoppo, *BMC* 2020.06.12; Lennon, *BMC* 2020.06.13; Costantini, *Classical Review* (5ia1 Tf 0G4-74.6 (l R(5ia1l R(5ia1 -50833?3R7 -50833?3R7 -08



15. Entries for “Afterlife”, “Necromancy”, “Styx”, and “Underworld” in The Homer Encyclopedia, ed. Margalit Finkelberg, Wiley-Blackwell (2010).
16. “Who are you? A brief history of the scholarship” in The Orphic Gold Tablets and Greek Religion, ed. Edmonds, Cambridge (2011), pp. 13.



“The Rhetoric of Secrecy in GEMF 57 and Related Texts,” *New Approaches to the Great Paris Magical Codex (PGM IV/GEMF, 57)*, C. Faraone & S. Torallas Tovar & Gruyter (forthcoming).

#### Reviews:

1. Felton, D., *Haunted Greece and Archaeology* *Oxyrhynchus* May/April 2000, pp. 568.
2. Brisson, Luc, *Plato the Mythmaker* *Journal of the History of Religions* 40.2 (2000), pp. 179-182.
3. Luck, Georg, *Ancient Pathways and Hidden Paths* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (01.01.01).
4. Morgan, Kathryn A., *Myth and Philosophy from Socrates to Plato* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (01.06.18).
5. Ogden, Daniel, *Magic, Witchcraft, and Ghosts in the Greek and Roman Worlds. A Sourcebook* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (03.07.01).
6. Detienne, Marcel, *The Writing of Orphism* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (04.07.54).
7. Bernabé, Albertus (ed.), *Orphicorum et Orphicis similibus testimonia et fragmenta. Poetae Graeci. Pars II. Fasc. I* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (04.12.29).
8. Graf, Fritz, and Johnston, Sarah Rea, *Real Texts for the Afterlife. Orpheus and the Bacchic Gold Tablets* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (07.10.35).
9. Bernabé Pajares, Alberto, and Ana Isabel Jiménez San Cristóbal, *Instructions for the Netherworld: The Orphic Gold Tablets* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (08.10.16).
10. Stratton, Kimberly B. *Naming the Witch: Magic, Ideology, and Stereotype in the Ancient World* *Women's History Review* (2011).
11. Tzifopoulos Yannis ‘Paradise’ Earned: The Orphic Lamellae of One Classical World *105.2* (2012) pp. 280-281.
12. Martin, Michaël *La magie dans l'Antiquité* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2012.07.04).
13. Schlesier, Renate, ed. *A Different God? Dionysos and ancient Polytheism* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2013.07.38).
14. Kindt, Julia. *Rethinking Greek Religion* *Journal of the History of Religions* 54:01 (2014) 3-16.
15. Herren, Michael W., *The anatomy of myth: The art of interpretation from the presocratics to church fathers* *Phoenix* 1, no. 3/4 (2017), pp. 300-302.
16. Pachoumi, Eleni *The concepts of the divine in the Greek magical papyri* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2018.02.58).
17. Ekroth, Gunnel and Ingela Nilsson. *Round Trip to Hades in the Eastern Mediterranean Tradition* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2019) (8.04).
18. Chrysanthou, Anthi *Defining orphism: the beliefs, the teletae and the myths* *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2021.03.13).

#### Other Media:

Interviewed on *A Very Square Podcast* by Brian Collins, June 23, 2020, *Eisler vs. the Flat Earth*, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/a-very-square-podcast-series-about-polymath-roberte-isler-episode-3-eisler-vs-the-flat-earth/>

“Plato’s Virtual Reality: The Dangerous Power of Images,” *Institute of Art and Ideas News* (91, Sept. 8, 2020), [https://iai.tv/articles/platos-virtual-reality-aid1632?\\_aid=2020](https://iai.tv/articles/platos-virtual-reality-aid1632?_aid=2020)

Interviewed on The Ozymandias Podcast by Lexie Henning, February 3, 2021,  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-radcliffe-edmonds/id1537896277?i=1000507549005>

Interviewed on The Secret History of Western Feudalism by Earl Fontainelle, July 27, 2021, episode 122  
<https://shwep.net/podcast/radcliffe-edmonds-ii-on-the-mithrasliturgie/>

Interviewed on The Archaeology of the Journey Podcast by Lindsey Calla, February 14, 2022,  
<https://archeologyofthejourney.libsyn.com/language-of-the-ancients-part-ii-erotic-love-spells-magic-and-ritual-with-author-and-scholar-radcliffe-edmonds>

Interviewed on College Knowledge Podcast by Dave Kozak, June 17, 2022. 'Exploring the Classics'  
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1192046/10772799>

#### Reviews of other works in progress

Reviews of book proposals and manuscripts for Routledge Press, Continuum Books, Lockwood Press, Blackwell Press, Peter Lang Press, Fests Press, British Archaeological Reports Publishing, Edinburgh University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Harvard University Press, Princeton University Press.

Reviews of articles for *American Journal of Philology*, *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte*, *Antiqua*, *Asdiwal* (revue genevoise d'anthropologie et d'histoire des religions), *CADMO - Revista de História Antiga*, *Pu /P <</MCI 12 v.T59 -1.12u(a)-5 1-4 .1(t)-1 ( ( A)--5*

- "The Rhetoric of Secrecy," keynote address for Secret Knowledge in the Ancient World: Acquisition and Concealment, the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Classics graduate student conference of the Graduate Center at the City University of New York (CUNY), May 6, 2022 via Zoom
- "Notes on the Erased Hexameters," presented at The Erased Greek Hexameters of S. ar. NF 66: Content and Context, Online Workshop sponsored by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, September, 2021.
- "Drawing Down the Moon: Defining Magic in the Ancient Greco-Roman World," Old Guard group in Princeton, via Zoom, May 5, 2021.
- "What is Sacred about an Orphic Hieros Logos?" presented at Orphic Writings, Ideas and Rituals. New Perspectives in Old Questions conference, sponsored by the University of Ioannina Greece, April 3, 2021.
- "Who Does That?: Further Conversation Drawing Down the Moon" presented at the Society for Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Panel on "Commentary on Radcliffe Edmonds, Drawing Down the Moon: Magic in the Ancient Greco-Roman World," November 10, 2020.
- "Beyond Hogwarts: Why Teach About Magic?" Symposium on Religion & Public Engagement with David Frankfurter, Boston College, the Ohio State University Center for the Study of Religion, February 20, 2020.
- "Magic and the Art of Bicycle Maintenance: Defining Magic in the Ancient Mediterranean World," presented at the Society for Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego, California, November 26, 2019.
- "Are you all laughing at me because I am drunk? Humour in Plato's Symposium" presented at Plato & Humour, France, November 8, 2019.
- "Co

- “Holy Places: Some Ancient Theorizations of Sacred Space,” presented at annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies in Toronto, on January 6, 2017.
- “Putting him on a pedestal: (Re)collection and the use of images in Plato’s Phaedrus” presented at the Society for Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion conference, Atlanta, Georgia, Nov. 22, 2015.
- “Alcibiades the Profane: Mystery Imagery in Plato’s Symposium” presented at Beauty and Happiness in Plato’s Symposium, at Université de Louvain, Belgium, March 20, 2015.
- “When I walked the dark road of Hades: Orphic katabasis and the katabasis of Orpheus,” presented at Katábasis in Greek Literary Tradition and Religious Thought, University of Montreal, May 3, 2014.
- “Imagining the Afterlife in Greek Religion”, the Pauline Professor of Greek professorship lecture, at Bryn Mawr College, February 24, 2014.
- “Putting him on a pedestal: (Re)collection and the use of images in Plato’s Phaedrus” presented at Plato & the Power of Images, Université de Louvain, in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, February 14, 2014.
- “Plato and the Power of Images: An Introduction,” presented at Plato & the Power of Images at Bryn Mawr College, October 11, 2013.
- “There and Back Again: Temporary Immortality in the Mithras Liturgy”, presented at Conversion and Initiation in Antiquity: shifting identities, Aarhus University, Denmark, 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012.



University of Reading, July 5, 2008 and Bridges between Life and Death: Dionysus, Mystery and Magic in the Ancient Greek and Roman World, April 24, 2009 University of Chicago.  
“Some Reflections upon Unexpected Death,

- “At the Seizure of the Moon: The Absence of the Moon in the Mithraic Liturgy”, presented at “Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World”, University of Washington, March 5, 2000 and at Heaven as it is on Earth at Princeton University, January 15, 2001.
- “Whip Scars on the Naked Soul: Myth and Elenchos in Plato’s Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, 1/99, and CAMWS 1999 Annual Meeting, 4/99.
- “Did the Mithraists Inhale? A-Technique for Theurgic Ascent in the Mithras Liturgy, the Chaldaean Oracles, and some Mithraic Frescoes”, APA, 1997 Annual Meeting, Special Panel on Theurgy, 12/97.
- “Roads Not Taken: Explorations of the ‘Orphic’ Gold Tablets”, organized a conference of graduate student and faculty speakers at the Chicago Humanities Institute, 12/97.
- “Tearing Apart the Zagreus Myth: A Few Disparaging Remarks on Orphism and Original Sin,” Workshop on Ancient Societies, University of Chicago, 5/97.
- “Socrates the Beautiful: Role Reversal and Midwifery in Plato’s Symposium on Rhetoric and Poetics, University of Chicago 4/97.
- “Genitive Confusions in Plato’s Symposium (199d-27)”, APA 1996 annual meeting, 12/96.
- “The Married and the Dead: Mythic Problems and Ritual Solutions in the Transitions of Marriage and Death in Ancient Greece”, Ancient Societies Workshop, University of Chicago, 5/95.

Professional Associations:

- Society for Classical Studies (formerly the American Philological Association)
- International Plato Society
- Society for Biblical Literature
- Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions

Academic Honors:

- Center for Hellenic Studies Fellowship, ~~2007~~
- Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship, ~~2004~~
- Dissertation Fellowship, Chicago Humanities Institute, 1998-  
(now the Franke Institute for the Humanities)
- Junior Fellowship, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, 1997  
(now the Martin Marty Center)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, Isthmia Excavation Project, 1995
- University of Chicago Century Fellowship, ~~1993~~
- Phi Beta Kappa, Yale University, 1991

Teaching Experience:

Bryn Mawr College, Department of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies

Paul Shorey Professor of Greek 2013

Fall 2023

- Cosmos: Myth, Medicine, and Law: Classical Studies 206
- Interpreting Mythology: Classical Studies 375/675
- Death and Beyond SEM 619

Spring 2022

Plato – Cratylus: Greek 644

Fall 2021

Interpreting Mythology: Classical Studies 375/675

Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201

Spring 202

Magic in the Ancient Greek Roman World: Classical Studies 242

Ancient Magic: Classical Studies 645

Fall 2020

Her(i)3 1 ( o/P :)4 (a3)3 10 T

Spring 2014

Homer: Greek 104

Eros in Ancient Greek Culture: Classical Studies 209

Plato's Phaedrus: Greek 644

Fall 2013

Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201

Interpreting Mythology: Classical Studies 375/675

Associate Professor, 2007-2013

Spring 2013

Magic in the Ancient Greek/Roman World: Classical Studies 212

Ancient Magic: Classical Studies 645

Fall 2012

Herodotus: Greek 101

Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201

Ancient Greece: Classical Studies/History 205

Fall 2011

Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201

Readings in the Greek Historiic (k 201)a(a)-3 01ag 2013

- Magic in the Ancient Greek Roman World: Classical Studies 212
- Ancient Magic: Classical Studies 645
- Spring 2006
  - Eros in Ancient Greek Culture: Classical Studies 209
  - Sex & the City Rhetoric & Gender in the Attic Orators: Classical Studies 639
- Fall 2005
  - Ancient Greece: Classical Studies/History 205
  - Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201
  - Herodotus: Greek 101
- Spring 2004:
  - Reading Greek for the Golden Age: Greek 017
  - Interpreting Mythology: Classical Studies 675
  - Ancient Greece: Classical Studies/History 205
- Fall 2003:
  - Reading Greek for the Golden Age: Greek 016
  - Magic in the Ancient Greek Roman World: Classical Studies 212
- Spring 2003:
  - Reading Greek for the Golden Age: Greek 017
  - Interpreting Mythology: Classical Studies 275
  - Plato's Phaedrus: Greek 644
- Fall 2002:
  - Reading Greek for the Golden Age: Greek 016
  - Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201
- Spring 2002:
  - Reading Greek for the Golden Age: Greek 017
  - Eros in Ancient Greek Culture: Classical Studies 209
- Fall 2001:
  - Ancient Greece: History 205
  - Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201
  - Ancient Magic: Classical Studies 645

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2001

- Spring 2001:
  - Homer: Greek 104
  - Mag(s)-Dc (s)-DP <</MCe- 0 T

2000:

- Ancient Greece: History 205
- Plato & Thucydides: Greek 201
- Plato2 (eoc)-1.9 ( M)4 (y)-2 (t)3 (h)1 (: G)2 (r)4 (e)-2 (e)-2 (k 644)]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 9.99 0 Td ( )Tj EMC /P <</MCID 39
- Visiting Assistant Professor, 1999
- Spring 2000: Latin2002, 1 ( & T)-.1 (r)4 (ld)1 ( L)4 (it)3 (e)-2 (r)4 (a)-3 (t)3 (u)1 (r)4 (e)-2 ( l)5.1 ( , G)2 (r)4 (e)-2

Fall 1997 Humanities 120: Greek Thought and Literature  
Graham School of General Studies  
Greek History and Civilization Fall 1997  
Greek Mythology Summer 1997

Committees and Service:

Undergraduate Admissions Committee, 2002/3, 2003-

Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship Selection Committee 2003/4

Flexner Lecture Selection Committee 2005

Committee on Faculty Awards & Grants 2006

Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum 2007 (Chair for 2009-2010)

Curricular Renewal Working Group 2008 (co-chair for 2009-2010)

Presented (along with the Provost) Bryn Mawr College's Plan for Curricular Renewal at the  
Middlebury College August 13-14, 2010

Preliminary Examination Committee, Emily Stevens, Department of Classical & Near Eastern Archaeology, 2010.

Preliminary Examination Committee, Nicholas Cosimo, Department of Classical & Near Eastern Archaeology, 2010.

Preliminary Examination Committee, Diane Amico Connor, Department -1 (o)ent -1 (o)1 (o) -1 ((

Preliminary Examination Committee, Kathryn Brewer, Department of Classical & Near Eastern Archaeology, 2022  
Preliminary Examination Committee, Jenni Glaser, Department of Greek, Latin, & Classical Studies, 2022.  
Preliminary Examination Committee, Mallory Fitzpatrick, Department of Greek, Latin, & Classical Studies, 2023

Theses Supervised:

Doctoral Dissertations:

Bride of Hades to Bride of Christ: The Virgin and the Otherworldly Bridegroom in Ancient Greece



- Byzantine Enamel and the Aesthetics of Technological Power, Ninth to Twelfth Centuries Steiner, PhD., Bryn Mawr College, May 2020 (secondary reader).
- Magical Art vs. Divine Nature: Competition over Miracles and “Divine Man” Tradition in the Second Sophistic and Beyond. C. Henriques. Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin July 2020 (outside reader).
- A passagem da allegorese à transposição dos mitos e Ristemesigge Sarão da Silva. PhD., Universidade Federal do Ceará, October (2020) (secondary reader)
- Inimitabilem Maronis maiestatem assequi. Latin Supplements to Virgil’s Aeneid, 1400–1700. Luca A. D’Anselmi. PhD., Bryn Mawr College, May 2021 (secondary reader).
- Resistance to the Rise of the Punic Empire: A Study of Literary Allusions to Augustus’ Rivals. Christie Villareal. PhD., Bryn Mawr College, May 2022 (secondary reader).
- Hacia una hermenéutica integral de los Himnos órficos: traducción y examen de los antecedentes papirológicos órficos, y su relevancia para el fenómeno hisiolo. Afisrach. PhD., Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Buenos Aires, June 2022 (outside reader)
- The Votive Deposits from the Hera Sanctuary at Perachora: From Deposition to Maintenance Wrenn Heglar. PhD., Bryn Mawr College, May 2023 (secondary reader).
- An Epic of Tragic Proportions: [In]forming the Politics of Statius’ Thebaid through Greek Tragic Dianne Elizabeth Boetsch. PhD., Bryn Mawr College, May 2023 (secondary reader).
- Jurists and Orators: Rhetorical and Legal Perspectives on the Roman Republic. Ph.D. Bryn Mawr College, May 2023 (secondary reader).
- Reading Selves/Writing Selves: An intellectual history of writing as a Genealogy of the self Hopewell, PhD., Bryn Mawr College, May 2023 (secondary reader).

#### Master’s Theses:

- “Plato and Anthropology: An Interpretation of Laws 3,” Stephen Foy, M.A. Greek, June 2001.
- “Early Byzantine Pilgrimage Art: Image and Experience,” Joelle Collins, M.A. History of Art, June 2002 (second reader).
- “The Pelinna Tablets Revisited,” Feyo Schuddeboom, M.A. Classical & Near Eastern Archaeology, June 2003.
- “Rhetorical Strategies in the Homeric, Orphic, and Magical Hymns,” Michelle Domondon, M.A. Greek, June 2003.
- “The Representation of Aphrodite in the Erotic spells of the Magical Papyri,” Yasmin Mathew, M.A. Greek, June 2003.
- “Brides, Prostitutes, and the lux: Symbols of Eros,” JoAnn Luhrs, M.A. Classical Studies, June 2003.
- “The Modern Interpretations of the Dorian Ision,” Andrea Guzzetti, M.A. Classical & Near Eastern Archaeology, December 2005 (second reader).

- “Love Drunk Puppets: On the Politics of Philosophic Erotic Reciprocity in Plato’s Laws  
Paul Hays, M.A. Classical Studies, May 2012.
- “An Angelic Digression: The Significance of **1.18**-within the Cur Deus Homo” Charlie  
Kuper, M.A. Classical Studies, May, 2013 (second.reader)



- "A Slippery Matter: Reproduction and a Radical Hierarchy of Gender in the Apocryphon of John," Cristian Espinoza, Senior Thesis, 2018.
- "Cult and the Polis: Real Housewives of Dionysus," Mairead Ferry, Senior Thesis, 2018.
- "It's Complicated: Relations Between Greek Settlers & Indigenous Sicilians at Megara Hyblaea, Syracuse, and Leontini in the 8th & 7th Centuries BCE," ACF Sterngass, Senior Thesis, 2019 (second reader).
- "Isis & Cleopatra in Rome: How One of History's Most Famous Queens Influenced an Egyptian Cult in the Heart of the Roman Empire," Clara McCafferty Wright, Senior Thesis, 2019 (second reader).
- "The Platonic Defense of Homeric Allegoresis in Porphyry's On the Cave of the Nymphs," Kwon, Senior Thesis, 2019.
- "The One of the Soul, Divine Providence, and Mystical Union in Iamblichus," Alexandra Tucker, Senior Thesis, 2020.
- "The Virtues of the Dead: Women's Funerary Monuments in Classical Attitudes," (no title) (no author) (no year) (no institution)