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substantially different from that of the 2nd edition, is added here. Also included: Six hymns of Proclus; Boethius' 'Hymn to Jove'; Emperor Julian's 'To the Mother of The Gods'; Eighteen hymns by Thomas Taylor; and a simplified initial guide to the Greek Theogony by the editors. This is our second edition of this work, which now includes a set of seven hymns by Thomas Taylor previously only published in a 1930s magazine.

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Text: L G Westerink, translation: William O'Neill

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The late Platonists considered the First Alcibiades as the best starting point for the new student of philosophy because its primary theme is an exploration of the Delphic exhortation, "know thyself" - and since all human knowledge is shaped by our particular nature, unless we understand the nature of our self all further knowledge is dubious. This Commentary is an extensive summary of this theme, and its most important implications; it draws not only on the text but also upon the Chaldean Oracles, Orphic mythology, and the writings of Proclus' predecessors in the late Platonic tradition.

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The Fragments of Numenius of Apamea

Robert Petty

Numenius of Apamea was, according to John Dillon, the "most fascinating figure in second-century philosophy" and an important forerunner of what is commonly known as neoplatonism - so much so that at one point Plotinus was accused of merely appropriating Numenius' ideas. Unfortunately none of his works survive intact, so his full influence upon the development of Platonism must remain largely a matter of conjecture. Here, for the first time in a scholarly English edition are the extant fragments of Numenius presented with a detailed commentary. The text followed here is that established by Des Places in his Budé edition. The translation includes all fragments, but the commentary deals only with those fragments which are directly related to Numenius' own philosophy.

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Know Thyself - Plato's First Alcibiades & Commentary

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Plato's *First Alcibiades* was the recognised introduction to the dialogues of Plato in late antiquity, because it addresses the important question of the nature of the self. Only by discovering this can we understand the perspective from which to view the rest of reality. Approximate Stephanus pagination accompanies the text. Added in the form of additional notes and an introduction is much of Proclus' *Commentary* which reveals to the thoughtful student the depths of this important dialogue, its universal form, and its living heart - which is the quickening of the soul by the touch of divine vision. Plotinus' treatise *On the Descent of the Soul (Ennead IV, viii)* is also added. Three modern essays, written with the newcomer in mind, accompany the text and commentary: *A Survey of the Soul* and *Socrates as the Symbolic Daemon of the Alcibiades* by Tim Addey, and *Possibilities of Self* by Guy Wyndham-Jones.

Beyond The Shadows – The Metaphysics of the Platonic Tradition

Tim Addey & Guy Wyndham-Jones

(2nd Edition) 182pp paperback ISBN 978-1898910-954 £9.95

This volume presents an outline of the metaphysics of the Platonic tradition which the authors hold as having its roots in the mythic writings of Homer and Hesiod, having been developed through the Pythagorean and Orphic schools, scientifically unfolded by Plato, and receiving its finest written flowering in late antiquity in the works of Plotinus, Iamblichus, Proclus and many others.

The book is divided into two sections: in the first, introduced by Guy Wyndham-Jones, extracts from the works of ancient philosophers concerning The One and the Gods unfold the divine summit of Platonic metaphysics. This section especially demands more than ordinary study: each piece acts as a starting point for the deepest meditation, and calls upon the readers' deepest faculties. As the introduction of this section says, "The Platonic panorama describes, as far as is humanly possible, the universal order of all things, beginning with that which is most simple and beyond all definition, through the generations of all beings, and terminating in the indefiniteness of matter and space. "

The second section, by Tim Addey, aims to give the new student a framework from which to begin the serious study of the subject. It shows how the orthodox understanding of Plato, based on the division of reality into abstract form and material manifestation is inadequate for the proper understanding of the tradition. Instead a more subtle six-fold division of the universe is delineated as the way in which the divine sources of the universe unfold in progressive stages to the furthest extremity of things. It explains how the universe is understood in this tradition to be a single entity, which not only proceeds outwards in an ordered way, but also returns to its source in a similar manner.

A Glossary of Platonic terms, and a short extract from Proclus' Elements of Theology are added to complete the book.

The Unfolding Wings – The Way of Perfection in the Platonic Tradition

Tim Addey

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The author uses a wide range of extracts from the sages of true philosophy to illustrate the many aspects of the path: chapters on Dialectic Meditation, Contemplation, Theurgy, Initiation, the Guardian Daemon, Mythology, Virtue and Love demonstrate the richness hidden within this long-neglected yoga of the ancient west.

The book offers to the reader a starting point for a lifelong discipline which leads to the discovery within his or her own soul of the most profound wisdom, the broadest understanding of the self and the cosmos, the highest happiness, and, ultimately, a friendship with divinity. It does not, however, suggest any shortcuts - as Plato wrote in this Seventh Epistle: "For a thing of this kind cannot be expressed by words like other disciplines, but *by long familiarity, and living in conjunction with the thing itself, a light as it were leaping from a fire will on a sudden be enkindled in the soul, and there itself nourish itself.*"

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The Meno

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Making the philosophy of the Platonic tradition open and accessible to today's thinkers

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Algis Uždavinys

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Casting aside the unnatural limitations of modern philosophy, as well as the grave misunderstandings of Egyptologists, radical and exciting possibilities emerge for the serious philosopher. These possibilities will certainly change our view of the universe in general, but most particularly our view of ourselves. The Rebirth of the title is one that implies an expansion of consciousness both upwards towards the divine heights of reality, and outwards to embrace the whole of creation as a living image of the gods. The exercises of philosophy thus move from the rational to the intuitive, onward to pure contemplation and, ultimately, to a god-like energy in the divine drama.

The Philosophy of Proclus, the Final Phase of Ancient Thought

Laurence J Rosán

300pp hardback ISBN 978-1898910-442 £21

Laurence Jay Rosán's *The Philosophy of Proclus*, subtitled *The Final Phase of Ancient Thought*, has long been considered one of the finest overviews of late Platonic teaching: first published in 1949 it helped bring about a re-evaluation of Proclus and his work by modern scholars. Its clear and sympathetic approach to its subject allows the reader to follow, in the words of Rosán, "one of the most fascinating dialectics the human mind has conceived."

The philosophy of Proclus, built as it was on more than a thousand years of vigorous development by a series of profound philosophers and theologians, represents the last age in the West in which the highest human endeavours in philosophy, religion, science and art, were still united and integrated. In Proclus we find philosophy as inner discipline – a path to enlightenment – and his writings represent a fruition of a tradition which can be traced back through Iamblichus, Plotinus, Aristotle, Plato, Parmenides, Pythagoras, Homer, and, ultimately to its most ancient stirrings in Egypt. Proclus draws from ancient mystery celebrations, mythological dramas, inspired oracles, as well as from the truly scientific philosophy of Plato, in order to present to the meditative student a system at once full of truth and profoundly beautiful. To this comprehensive philosophy Rosán displays no small skill in finding a way to provide his readers with a framework for its initial consideration.

This new edition benefits from a revised bibliography kindly provided by Christoph Helmig and Sabrina Lange of Humboldt-Universität Berlin.

An Index to Plato - A Subject Index using Stephanus pagination

192 pp Hardback 978-1-898910-343 £11

This subject index is an invaluable aid to the study of Plato's writings and will be of use both to those who are familiar with his works and those who are coming anew to them. The index refers to the Stephanus pagination so that it can be used with any translation that includes this standard numbering. The main part of the index is a reproduction of the one that was compiled for Jowett's 1891 Plato. A number of further entries have been added, and a small index to the Epistles of Plato (I to XII) is also included.

The Seven Myths of the Soul - Tim Addey

270pp, 8 colour prints, paperback, ISBN 978-1898910-374 £12.95

For more than one thousand years, the Pythagorean and Platonic philosophers of antiquity visited and revisited their primeval mythological heritage which was the living heart of their pagan religion, art and science. In earliest antiquity the inner truths of myth were held to be suitable only for those who had undergone the initiations and training of mystery cults and academies of philosophy, and were communicated in secret and guarded language; in later antiquity, circumstances forced their interpreters to become more open and commit their insights to writing. It is these writings upon which Tim Addey draws in order to present to the non-specialist reader a philosophic interpretation of the beautiful and powerful myths of the Greeks. *The Seven Myths of the Soul* is based on a passage from Damascius, the last head of Plato's Academy in Athens:

*The Soul descends into generation, after the manner of Kore;
She is scattered by generation, after the manner of Dionysus ;
Like Prometheus and the Titans , she is bound to body.
She frees herself by exercising the strength of Heracles;
Gathers herself together through the help of Apollo
And the Savior Athene , by truly purifying philosophy;
And she elevates herself to the causes of her being with Demeter.*

In the stories of Persephone (Kore), Dionysus, Prometheus, Heracles, Apollo, Athene and Demeter the trials, initiations and ultimate triumph of each human soul are outlined in mystical symbols. For those seeking soul wisdom this book provides the starting point for a cycle of profound meditations.

Platonism and the World Crisis - John M Dillon, Brendan O'Byrne, Tim Addey

80pp, p/back, ISBN 978-1898910-558 £6

Humanity faces a number of pressing problems – ecological, religious and political. In the 2006 inaugural lecture of a continuing series at the Dublin Centre for the Study of the Platonic Tradition given under the general title of 'Platonism and the World Crisis', John M Dillon put forward a number of bold and radical solutions to these problems, drawn from the Platonic tradition. This book presents an essay based on that lecture, together with two further essays – *The Urgency of Platonism: the Philosophical Background to the World Crisis* by Brendan O'Byrne, and *Towards a Philosophic Democracy* by Tim Addey. Together the three essays question the assumptions and goals of modernism, offering the reader intelligent alternatives to the seemingly unstoppable march of humanity towards the destruction of itself and its environment.

In a world in which an increasing number of thinkers are urgently looking for new solutions to emerging problems, here is evidence that the best answers have been waiting quietly for at least two and a half thousand years – waiting for us to notice the continuing relevance of the profound wisdom of the Platonic tradition.

Towards the Noosphere; Futures Singular and Plural

John M Dillon, Stephen R L Clark

80pp, p/back, ISBN 978-1898910-602 £6

This paperback continues the explorations begun in the Prometheus Trust's small paperback *Platonism and the World Crisis*. The two essays contained in this new book address the broad question, "What is to be done?" In the first, *Towards the Noosphere*, Professor John M Dillon explores the writings of Plotinus, Origen, and Teilhard de Chardin in order to consider the nature of the universe in which we live - and from their insights to consider the goals towards which we strive. In the second, *Futures Singular and Plural*, Professor Stephen R L Clark examines further speculations upon these matters from more recent theorists writing in disciplines of philosophy, science and science fiction.

Release Thyself: Three Philosophic Dialogues

Guy Wyndham-Jones

160 pp Paperback ISBN 978-1898910-565 £10

The Therapon, The Alphaeus, The Platon. Being a tribute to, and a celebration of, Socrates, Plato and the golden Platonic Tradition.

This volume of dialogues in the Platonic style is an offering of thanks by the author to those great heroes of the Platonic tradition who have set before the human race living images of wisdom. The dialogues are centred around Socrates and Plato, and as the author writes, "I have merely attempted to imagine certain occasions that may or may not have happened, and certain subjects of conversation that may or may not have been examined and rigorously explored."

Three dialogues - The Therapon, The Alphaeus and The Platon - are written in the Platonic style. The Therapon is an imagined exchange of ideas between Socrates and his jailer during Socrates' last night on Earth: it is sub-titled On the Nature of Ideas. The Alphaeus starts with a wealthy and self-satisfied man attacking Socrates and his philosophical ways soon after he has been charged to appear before the court of Athens - but ends with dramatic changes: it is sub-titled Concerning Human Happiness. The Platon explores what might have passed between Socrates and Plato during their last meeting together: it is sub-titled On Soul.

The Platonic tradition is both old and young but the vital subjects to which it addresses itself are those of perpetual importance to rational beings such as ourselves – the nature of the human self, of the good life, of the great universe in which we find ourselves, and of its source. In these three new dialogues we find these subjects discussed in earnest: answers are offered but in such a way as to stimulate the reader's own thoughts about these matters – and this is the key to the tradition: for unless questions are genuinely thought through by the reader, any answers suggested by the author are merely another set of opinions.

A Casting of Light by the Platonic Tradition

Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

120pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-572 £12

Sometimes it is necessary to cut back in order to strengthen life. We live in a world already saturated with the printed word, and beginning a second inundation of the electronic word: we are in danger of allowing the mind to become servant to the tongue, the pen and the keyboard. Here is a small book which hopes to reverse the tide: here is a little crystal cup dipped into the great flood of words, and in its measure of bright delight, it offers refreshment and music to the soul.

The best writers in the Platonic tradition have been sensitive to the pulse and rhythm of the universe and their works resonate with it: they knew the processions which emerged from the still and silent centre, and the reversions of all things back to that centre which is the Good. Above is an example, from Plotinus. The adaptor writes, "The following work illustrates the music of philosophy, to be found within the prose of the philosophers of the Platonic tradition. It is a little book of beauty and of truth; and the pieces it contains are as I heard them, while I listened to their various voices over an extended period of time. Each piece is a meditation in itself. The intention of this book is to inspire . . ."

The Beautiful Essence

Where can there be any thing beautiful,
Deprived of being?
And where again can essence abide,
If it wants the presence of beauty?
For while beauty is taken away,
Essence is destroyed.
On this account being itself is desirable,
Because being, and beauty are the same:
And the beautiful is lovely;
Because it is being.

The Song of Proclus

Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-626 £12

From the introduction: "The numerous offerings in this little book will present you with a flavour of both the nature and scope of the beautiful vision of this extraordinary lover of wisdom [Proclus]; and they will illustrate the music of philosophy, to be found within the prose of the philosophers of the Platonic tradition. Together they represent the Song of Proclus; and each piece is a meditation in itself."

The Chant of Plotinus

Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-657 £12

From the introduction: "My own experience, from frequent and prolonged reading of the various works of Plotinus, is that it often appears as if I am listening to a dialogue, an interior dialogue, between the man and his deepest self; but at other times it is as if he is talking directly to the soul of the reader, calmly yet firmly demanding a kind of clarity of thought and concentration which is both rare and to a certain degree unnecessary in ordinary daily life; and yet at other times it is as if he is chanting to an audience, either present or imagined, intimate yet vast, and drawing it into a truly psychical world of profound investigation and dialectic inspection. He does not seem to write merely for the sake of necessity, but because he desires from his soul to talk with whoever is willing and ready to listen and engage with him – and I can only imagine that he wrote as he thought and as he spoke: which is one reason why his pieces are so vibrant and vital, as one is engaged with a whole soul immediately present."

The Music of Plato

Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-671 £12

At once scientific, full of reasons, enlightening, controversial, divisive, beautiful, accurate and mystical, the words of Plato have resounded through the years, until all who look at philosophy look at Plato and all who look at Plato look at philosophy – so central has been his music to all subsequent generations of seeking souls. The tradition he generated lives on until this day and will continue for so long as the love of wisdom inspires mankind. It is replete with golden links and precious gems, the souls of men and women imbued with such a love, like a glittering chain about the breast of the goddess, radiating such wisdom and beauty as they are truly able. It is the friend of every other tradition that places the wisdom of the good at its head; and as Philosophy is the mother, so the Platonic Tradition is one of her most beautiful offspring.

Filled with Nectar

Every soul when on high
Is conversant with sublime concerns,
Governs the whole world, and ascends,
Together with the presiding Gods,
To the contemplation of the felicitous
And most perfect energy
Of truly existing being,
And surveying all the forms that it contains,
Is filled with the nectar which is there . . .

The Cause of Union

Soul first sees the intellect which she contains,
But the vision proceeds into her,
And the two become one.

The Good, however,
Extending itself to these,
And adapting itself to the condition of both,
Runs above them,
And uniting the two,
Imparts to them a blessed sensation
And vision.

Gaining Empire

Every king is able to do
But a little with his hands,
And the whole of his body,
Towards the possession of empire,
But much by the wisdom
And strength of his soul.

The Hymn of Thomas Taylor Adapted by Guy Wyndham-Jones

128pp Hardback ISBN: 978-1898910-688 £12

Transcending the limitations of his birth, his education, his health and any desires for personal comfort, Thomas Taylor dedicated his life to the understanding and promotion of the philosophy of the Platonic tradition – for no other reason than it is of the greatest good for humanity upon this earth – and in this, he left to us such a remarkable body of work, that it is difficult to comprehend that this was the production of one man in one life; surely only enabled through inspiration and by divine allotment. Surrounded by ignorant contempt in his time he ever kept his eye upon the goal, and in the fervent hope that a more enlightened posterity would appreciate, embrace and continue the work.....and I join with him in that hope and that the anticipated time is now.

By Night

As Penelope,
Who is the image of Philosophy,
Unwove by night
What she had woven by day,
So Ignorance reweaves
What Philosophy unweaves.

A Flight of Souls: Invocations and Songs

Edited by Guy Wyndham-Jones

160 pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-695 £14

The spontaneous urge to give thanks for goods received is natural to the human condition. All the pieces in this little book, drawn from the Platonic tradition of philosophy, are genuine expressions of such thanks; and of certainty, faith, truth, belief, need, experience and love. Aesthetics alone should be put aside when considering or using these invocations and songs, as they are regarding subjects which defy commonplace modes of expression.

This book has some seventy-five devotional pieces drawn from the many centuries of philosophical experience, including passages from Homer, the Orphic Hymns, Plato, Plotinus, Iamblichus, Proclus, Thomas Taylor and several modern writers. The Platonic tradition is very much alive and Philosophy continues to sing through this tradition's years and life, for the well-being and the good of all – and so this book seeks to inspire its readers.

Song of the Solipsistic One Deepa Majumdar

192 pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-633 £16

This anthology consists of 70 poems, on philosophical topics such as the One, The Divine Name, Cosmic Union, Cosmology, Cosmic Illusion, Afterlife, Self, Imagination, Desires, Thoughts, Body, Love, Virtue, Beauty, Time, Eternity, History, Death.

"My influences are many, but my inspiration remains the perennial, universal mystic vision of oneness. I admire greatly the depth of thought in the works of western thinkers like Plato, Plotinus, William Wordsworth, Emily Brontë and Bertrand Russell ... but my ultimate inspiration comes from the great sages and poet seers of the Indian tradition, whose highest trans-discursive experiences have shaped the basic vision of Advaita Vedanta. My work is rooted in a consistent existential- theological-metaphysical paradigm drawn from this Advaitic experience... This vision asserts that there is, in the end, only one Reality – namely God (Brahman). Inasmuch as this solitary Reality is the universal Self – a supreme object-free Subject – it becomes the solipsistic One. When this Reality enters human history ... that is, when the Infinite appears in the guise of the finite ... it comes in the form of the Divine Incarnation or Avatara.

In this work, I envision the Divine, poetically, as a magnificent Sun ... coiling round and round ... animated by the twin powers of contemplation and aspiration. Our human prayers and meditation rotate this flaming wheel. But the whirling Sun, in turn, attracts to itself thought lanterns from the human mind."

Selections from the Prometheus Trust Conferences 2006-2010

Edited by Linda H Woodward

224 pp Paperback ISBN 978-1898910-664 £12

It is a delight to present to the reading public a selection of 14 papers presented at the first five annual conferences of the Prometheus Trust: in making our selection we have attempted to reflect the nature of these conferences which bring together academic specialists, academics stepping outside their specialism, and non-academics. The contributors are, we hope, drawn by a common love of wisdom so that each is willing to cross those mental boundaries which habit so often allows – almost unnoticed – to circumscribe our understanding, and each is willing to share the insights of their own pursuit of truth in whatever fields and down whatever paths they have chosen.

Metaphysical Patterns in Platonism

– Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Modern Times

Edited by John F Finamore and Robert M Berchman

256 pp Paperback ISBN 978-1898910-831 £12

This anthology of 18 essays by scholars from around the world is published in association with the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies: it contains many of the papers presented in their 2005 annual conference. Contents:

The Platonic Tripartite Soul and the Platonism of Galen's on the Doctrines of Hippocrates and Plato - *John F. Finamore*;
Who Thought the Stars are Causes? The Astrological Doctrine Criticized by Plotinus - *Marilynn Lawrence*;
The Transcendence of Sophia in Plotinus' Treatise On Intelligible Beauty - *Daniele Bertini*;
The Good's Beauty is Above Beauty: Plotinus' Argument In Ennead VI.7- *Martin Achard*;
Plotinus On The Being of The One - *John Bussanich*;
Consulting the Oracle: The Mantic Art and its Causation in Iamblichus' De Mysteriis - *Crystal Addey*;
Astrology as Divination: Iamblichean Theory and its Contemporary Practice - *Gregory Shaw*;
The Roles of Apollo & Dionysus in Nietzsche's Birth of Tragedy and in the Emperor Julian's Theology - *Jay Bregman*;
Augustine, Proust and the Rhetoric of Time and Creation - *Burcht Pranger*;
Monophysitism and the Evolution of Theological Discourse in Christian Neoplatonism - *Edward Moore*;
Eriugena, Emerson and the Poetics of Universal Nature - *Willemien Otten*;
Marsilio Ficino's Platonism on Human-Divine Kinship and Assimilation - *Mary Lenzi*;
The Place of the Universe: Science and Platonism in Copernicus' De Revolutionibus - *Gina Zavota*;
Mapping Knowledge & Consciousness of Being: Categories as Transcendentals in Plotinus & Hegel - *Robert M. Berchman*;
Critique and Rescue: On Adorno's Diagnosis of Aristotle's Metaphysics - *Russell Ford*;
Wincenty Lutoslawski Platonic Studies: Plato as an Inspiration for Polish Messianism - *Tomas Mróz*;
Neoplatonism in Science Past and Future - *Bruce MacLennan*;
The Primordial Tradition of the World's Religions and the Reconstruction of Neoplatonic Metaphysics - *Atsushi Sumi*.

The Collected Works of Thomas Moore Johnson: The Great American Platonist

432 pp Hardback ISBN 978-1898910-824 £18

Thomas Moore Johnson (1851-1919) can rightly be said to be a great American Platonist: he was one of a number of men and women of that period who sought to promulgate the philosophy of the Platonic tradition as a spiritual and intellectual discipline. Had not the tide of rationalist and sceptical thinking run so strongly in the last one hundred years, Johnson – along with his fellow philosophers such as Hiram K Jones, William Torrey Harris and Bronson Alcott – would today be recognised as a great contributor to the cause of true philosophy in the modern west. Johnson edited two journals, *The Platonist* and *Bibliotheca Platonica*, between 1880 and 1890, as well as publishing three books in the following years.

Contents:

Iamblichus' Exhortation to Philosophy (or Protrepticus)

Proclus' Elements of Theology (or Metaphysics)

Fragments from the Epistles of Iamblichus

Fragments of Ammonias Saccas

Proclus on the Chaldean Oracles

Two Hymns of Synesius

Six treatises from Plotinus' Enneads:-

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On the Essence of the Soul (1) IV, i

On the Essence of the Soul (2) IV, ii

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Intelligibles not external to Mind, and on the Good V, v

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