

Heliodori Aethiopicarum Epitome Latina

Martin Kraus' 1590 Latin epitome of Heliodorus' *Aethiopica* (Ethiopian Stories) is a twenty-five-thousand-word continuous narrative prose text that is accessible to intermediate Latin readers. The epitome retains the narrative complexity and appeal of the original, making it a compelling text for extensive reading. The story begins *in medias res* on the shore of Egypt but, through nested internal stories and flashbacks and the main storyline, takes readers to Athens, Persian-ruled Egypt, and to Meroe, the main city of the Kushite kingdom. The story highlights Greek perspectives on other cultures in the ancient Mediterranean basin and cultures connected geographically, politically, economically, and culturally to them.

I created this edition (partly in collaboration with my advanced Latin students) because I wanted students to have an extensive continuous narrative to read that was compelling for the many of the same reasons as the books they already enjoy. In the text they encounter a combat-proficient female protagonist, her himbo-ish boyfriend, internal narrators of various (often dubious) reliability, a mysterious identity revealed, necromancy, and Greek beliefs about the science and culture of skin color.

This edition can be used as a main text for a class or to provide motivated students with engaging supplemental reading. Of course it can be read for pleasure as well!

The pages are laid out so that, when printed, the running vocabulary is on the left and Latin text is on the right. The vocabulary provided is guided by the [Dickinson College Commentaries core vocabulary](#). All non-core vocabulary words are glossed the first time they appear on a page throughout the collection. 70% of the vocabulary encountered is drawn from 90% of the DCC core. There is some help with orthography, syntax, and vocabulary uses that might not be familiar from a traditional Latin curriculum.

The first four chapters of Book I are available here at no cost. I plan to keep these freely available and to make other sections (1/2 to 1 book at a time) available at a modest price in future. If you would be interested in more materials like this or have any feedback, please get in touch at xylosphongium@gmail.com.