

Simone Weil's
The Iliad or the Poem of Force

“Holoka deserves our gratitude for having provided this exemplary edition, which supplies all the help necessary for the non-classical reader to understand and appreciate the essay, but which also contains much that is of interest to the classicist.... All scholars interested in Homer, and all libraries of universities where literature is taught, should buy this book.”

Richard Whitaker, University of Cape Town,
Scholia Reviews 13 (2004) 10

“Holoka’s new presentation of Weil’s essay as a text to be studied rather than an oracular utterance gives the essay an ongoing currency that it certainly deserves and helps us to appreciate it for what it is: a shaft of light illuminating one aspect of a complicated poem and an inspiring example of how an ancient Greek text can serve a modern reader struggling with her own life and times.”

Sheila Murnaghan, University of Pennsylvania,
Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2004.02.24

“With Holoka’s commentary at hand, we find that we are not merely reading Weil: we are seeing how Weil’s interpretation of the *Iliad* may be situated in the context of scholarly works on Homer and in the context of meditations on war in general.”

Rebecca Resinski, Hendrix College,
The Key Reporter [Phi Beta Kappa] 69.2 (Spring 2004) 11

“[Holoka’s] sensitivity, not only to [Weil’s] approach to the poem, but also to her direct and unelaborate style, is reflected in his translation, which is strong and simple, conveying the tragic weight of the original.... A welcome addition to Simone Weil studies, and one which brings out the relevance of the philosopher to today’s war-torn world.”

J.P. Little, St. Patrick’s University College, Dublin,
French Studies 58.3 (2004) 438