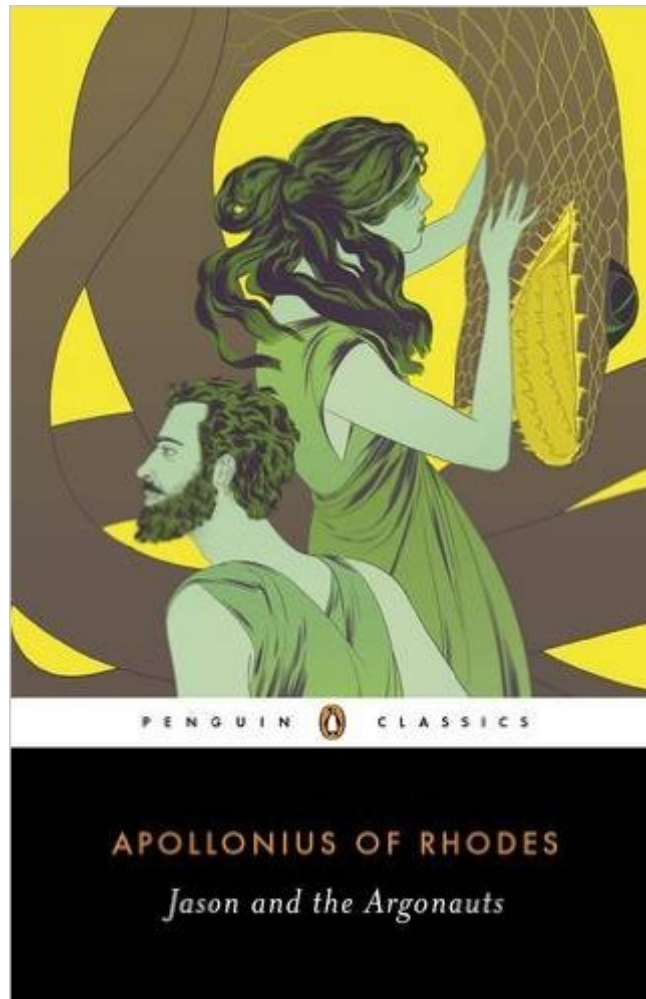


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Jason And The Argonauts (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The first new Penguin Classics translation of the *Argonautica* since the 1950s. Now in a riveting new verse translation, *Jason and the Argonauts* (also known as the *Argonautica*) is the only surviving full account of Jason's voyage on the *Argo* in quest of the Golden Fleece aided by the sorceress princess Medea. Written in the third century B.C., this epic story of one of the most beloved heroes of Greek mythology, with its combination of the fantastical and the real, its engagement with traditions of science, astronomy and medicine, winged heroes, and a magical vessel that speaks, is truly without parallel in classical or contemporary Greek literature and is now available in an accessible and engaging translation. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Translation 5/5 starsIntro 3/5 starsNotes 3/5 starsThis version of *Jason and the Argonauts* is a blank verse translation of Apollonius of Rhodes' epic poem into English. It was a 2011 National Endowment for the Arts project. Aaron Pochigian's translation is delightful and written---with

very few exceptions---in accessible English. (See what I say about "ichor" below for one of the few exceptions.) The poetry itself flows smoothly and seems very natural. If it weren't for the content, you would not guess it's a translation. In other words, there's much to love in this translation. It is well worth the money for the sake of reading a modern, well-written version of an intriguing, and at times, surprising poem. However, I can't be quite as glowing about the introduction and notes. Penguin Classics are meant to be accessible to modern readers and I found that the notes often failed to make the work as accessible as they could have. Often I just felt lost. For example, Typhoeus is brought up in the text, but there is no note explaining who he is (the deadliest monster in Greek Mythology and "Father of all the monsters" according to Wikipedia.) Sometimes perhaps Acosta-Hughes felt it was clear from the context as with Maia's famous son (Hermes), and Eleithuia (goddess of childbirth) but I have to admit I often didn't know who was being referenced and more notes explaining who various gods and people were and their back stories would have made for faster and more pleasurable reading. Definitions of unusual and obscure words could have been included. For example the text describes a man made of bronze scraping his ankle on a rock so that "all the ichor drains from him like molten lead."

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