# M.D. UsherPUBLICATIONS

#### **Academic**

How to Care about Animals: An Ancient Guide to Creatures Great and Small(Princeton University Press, 2023)

How to Say No: An Ancient Guide to the Art of Cynicism (Princeton University Press, 2022).

How to Be a Farmer: An Ancient Guide to Life on the Land (Princeton University Press,  2021)

Plato's Pigs and Other Ruminations: Ancient Guides to Living with Nature(Cambridge University Press, 2020)

A Student’s Seneca (University of Oklahoma Press, 2006)

Homerocentones Eudociae Augustae (B. G. Teubner/K. G. Saur, 1999)

Homeric Stitchings: The Homeric Centos of the Empress Eudocia (Rowman & Littlefield, 1998)

“Classics and Complexity in Walden’s ‘Spring’,” Arion, A Journal of Humanities and the Classics 27.1 (2019) 113-152

“An African Oresteia: Field Notes on Pasolini’s Appunti per un’ Orestiade Africana,” Arion  21.3 (2014) 111-149

“Teste Galba cum Sibylla: Oracles, Octavia, and the East,” Classical Philology 108.1 (2013) 21-40

“Diogenes’ Doggerel: Chreiaand Quotation in Cynic Performance,” Classical Journal104:3 (2009) 207-223

“Theomachy, Creation, and the Poetics of Quotation in Longinus Chapter 9,” Classical Philology 102:3 (2007) 292-303

“Carneades’ Quip: Orality, Philosophy, Wit, and the Poetics of Impromptu Quotation,” Oral Tradition 21:1 (2006) 190-209

“Satyr Play in Plato’s Symposium,” American Journal of Philology 123.2 (2002) 205-28

“The Strange Case of Dr. Syntax and Mr. Pound,” Classical and Modern Literature 16.2 (1996) 95-106

“The Sixth Sibylline Oracle as a Literary Hymn,”Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies 36.1 (1995) 25-49 [Reprinted in Greek Literature, Vol. 9, ed. by Gregory Nagy (Routledge, 2001) pp. 55-79]

#### **Books for Children**

POEM: A Mashup,  Illustrated by T. Motley (Fomite Press, 2022)

The Golden Ass of Lucius Apuleius, a creative reworking of the classic comic novel for young readers of all ages, with illustrations by T. Motley (David R. Godine, 2011)

Diogenes (about Diogenes the Cynic philosopher, cast literally as a dog), with illustrations by Michael Chesworth (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009).

Wise Guy: The Life and Philosophy of Socrates, with illustrations by William Bramhall (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005)

#### **Opera**

NERON KAISAR: A Poetic Opera in 10 Scenes by John Peel, libretto in ancient Greek, Latin, and English by M. D. Usher. Commissioned, in progress; selections performed in Salem, Oregon and St. Hilda’s College, Oxford University. See [www.neron-kaisar-the-opera.org](http://www.neron-kaisar-the-opera.org/)

Voces Vergilianae, Latin libretto and English translation for an opera-oratorio by composer John Peel, selected, adapted, and arranged by M. D. Usher from the poetry of Vergil (Premiered March 10 and 14, 1999 at the Mary Stuart Rodgers Music Center, Willamette University, by the Willamette Chamber Choir, the Salem Chamber Orchestra and five vocal soloists.

#### **In Progress**

Following Nature’s Lead: Ancient Ways of Living in a Dying World, forthcoming from Princeton University Press, to be published simultaneously in French by Presses universitaires de France.

Uneducated: Unusual Students, Unorthodox Teachers and the Ends of Education, a book of essays about educational theory and practice disguised as short biographies of famous persons throughout history who have received, or have provided, unusual educations.

Oral Landscapes: The Worlds of Ancient Epic, an interpretation of some of the world’s great epics using a method that combines oral-poetic theory and landscape studies (with chapters on Gilgamesh, the Iliad, the Odyssey, the Kalevala of Finland, the Icelandic Vinland Sagas, the Ramayana, and the Sundiata epic from medieval Mali).