complete edition of his poems was published in 1952, and many of his works have been reissued in the 1980s.


Gert Hekma

HADRIAN (76-138)

Roman emperor from 117 to 138. Protected and adopted by the emperor Trajan, Hadrian had a military and political career before ascending the throne upon his protector's death. Hadrian traveled extensively throughout the Empire, undertook extensive administrative reforms, built cities, roads, public buildings, and aqueducts. He withdrew the Roman armies from Assyria, Armenia, and Mesopotamia to reduce the cost of maintaining the eastern frontier of the Empire, but fought a war against Bar Kochba's uprising in Palestine that ended with the devastation of the country and its decline as a center of Jewish cultural life.

Though married to Sabina, Hadrian is remembered most of all for his attachment to the youthful Antinous (ca. 111-130), whose beauty, perpetuated in countless busts and reliefs, won the emperor's affection. During a voyage up the Nile Antinous was drowned under circumstances that gossip enveloped in romantic legend, even to the point of asserting that the youth had sacrificed his life for his lover. In his grief Hadrian ordered the boy deified as god and hero, and even authorized the belief that Antinous had ascended to the firmament as a new star, though it was only in the Renaissance that Tycho Brahe confirmed the emperor's wish by assigning the name to a heavenly body.

In Egypt Hadrian founded a new city named after Antinous, and elsewhere in the empire the youth was commemorated by cult, festival, and statues. Surviving are numerous inscriptions in his honor, and Pancrates and Nicomedes composed poems to celebrate his qualities. Scandalized by these actions of the emperor, the early Christians contrasted their reverence for the saints and martyrs with this object of an "impure" passion.

A great patron of the arts, Hadrian brought the Roman revolution in architecture that had commenced under Nero to its fulfillment, as seen in the Pantheon, which still survives in the Eternal City. Outside Rome, at Tivoli, Hadrian's villa displays a series of innovative pavilions recalling places he had visited, so that he could revive the happy memories at his leisure. Hadrian may be deemed the archetypal of the wealthy homosexual traveler and connoisseur.

Hadrian's reign was marked by the flourishing of the neo-Greek manner in art, one of whose most frequent themes was the Antinous type of male beauty, echoed in scores of coins and statues that can be seen today in museums. The aura of mystery that enveloped the death of Antinous has inspired modern literary treatments of the liaison, some explicit in their analysis of the homosexual motif, such as Marguerite Yourcenar's Hadrian's Memoirs (New York, 1954). Antinous remains the archetypal of the handsome youth protected by a noble lover that was the ideal of Greek paiderastia, and the embodiment of the beauty of late adolescence immortalized by untimely death, while Hadrian stands out as one of the "good emperors" under whose enlightened rule Greco-Roman civilization flourished throughout the Mediterranean world.


HAFIZ (CA. 1320-CA. 1390)

Persian poet. Hafiz was the title of Shams al-Din Muhammad, whose tomb remains a pilgrimage site near Shiraz in southern Iran. While every detail of his life