Allison Rosenblum, "Entry on: Heracles the Strong by Rocco Negri, Ian Serraillier", peer-reviewed by Lisa Maurice and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/277. Entry version as of November 07, 2026.

Rocco Negri , Ian Serraillier

Heracles the Strong

United States (1970)

TAGS: Achelous Admetus Alcestis Alcmene Alpheus Amazons Amphitryon Apollo Ares Argonauts Artemis' Hind Athena Athens Atlas Augean Stables Centaur(s) Cerberus Charon Chiron / Cheiron Cithaeron (Mount) Creon Deianeira Delphic Oracle Elysian Fields / Elysium Erymanthus Eurystheus Eurytos Garden of Hesperides Geryon Golden Fleece Hades Hera Heracles Hercules Hippolyta's Belt Hydra Hyllus Iolaus Iole Iphicles Ladon Lerna Megara Minos Minyans Mycenae Nemean Lion Nereus Nessus Nymphs Orthrus Persephone Pholus Phyleus Pillars of Hercules Poseidon Prometheus Pygmies Stymphalian Birds Stymphalian Lake Styx Tantalus Thebes Theseus Tiresias Titans Twelve Labours of Heracles Zeus



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General information	
Title of the work	Heracles the Strong
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	1970
First Edition Details	Ian Serraillier, *Heracles the Strong*. New York: H. Z. Walck, Inc., 1970, 102 pp.
ISBN	0809820714
Genre	Action and adventure fiction, Illustrated works, Myths
Target Audience	Crossover (Children/Young Adults)
Author of the Entry	Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Lisa Maurice, Bar-Ilan University, lisa.maurice@biu.ac.il Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com

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Creators



Rocco Negri , b. 1932
(Illustrator)

Negri was born in Italy and moved to the United States in 1959. He studied at the Art Students League in New York City in 1960, the School of Visual Arts in New York City in 1964, and at the Pratt Graphic Center in New York City in 1975. He illustrated numerous children's books such as *Renfroe's Christmas*, *Casa Means Home*, *Tales from Count Lucanor*, *The Son of the Leopard*, and *Pampalche of the Silver Teeth*.

Sources:

Profile on Prabook (accessed: June 26, 2018).

Bio prepared by Allison Rosenblum, Bar-Ilan University, allie.rose89@gmail.com



Ian Serraillier , 1912 - 1994
(Author)

Serraillier was a British novelist and poet. He attended St. Edmund's Hall, a college of the University of Oxford, and worked as an English teacher for twenty-five years. He published his first children's book in 1946. He wrote retellings of English, Greek, and Roman legends such as *Beowulf*, and *The Canterbury Tales*. His book *The Silver Sword* (1956) is his most well-known children's book, and was adapted for television in 1957 and again in 1971 by the BBC. In 1948, Serraillier and his wife founded the *New Windmill* series, published by

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Heinemann Educational Books. He worked as co-editor of the series, producing over 350 titles, until the onset of Alzheimer's in the early 1990s.

Sources:

Profile at the seh.ox.ac.uk (accessed: January 23, 2018).

Profile at the penguin.com.au (accessed: January 23, 2018).

Profile at the Wikipedia (accessed: January 23, 2018).

Profile at the gradesaver.com (accessed: January 23, 2018).

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Additional information

Summary

Heracles, the son of a mortal woman and the god, Zeus, was hated by Hera. She inflicted him with madness and he committed a terrible crime. As penance, he served King Eurystheus and was set twelve difficult and dangerous labours to perform.

Analysis

In this book about Hercules there are 15 chapters that correspond to his birth, the Twelve Labours, and the end of his life. The narration is very story-like as opposed to having a didactic or historical/educational bend, almost matter-of-fact, and without any bias towards Hercules' side of the story. It is told in a way so as not to make Hercules seem egoistic, or the gods as malevolent beings, allowing the reader to draw their own opinion about the myth and the characters involved.

There are black and white woodcuts every few pages throughout the book, lending an ancient feel to the story although they are not influenced by classical Greek art.

Sources used by the author:

Euripides, *Alcestis and Other Plays* (translated by Philip Vellacott, Penguin Books, Inc.)

Euripides, *Medea and Other Plays* (translated by Philip Vellacott, Penguin Books, Inc.)

Graves, Robert, *The Greek Myths* (George Braziller, Inc.)

Kerenyi, C., *The Gods of the Greeks* (Vanguard Press, Inc.)

Kerenyi, C., *The Heroes of the Greeks* (Grove Press, Inc.)

Lempriere, J., *Classical Dictionary* (E.P Dutton & Co., Inc.)

Apollodorus, Apollonius Rhodius, Euripides, Ovid: *The Metamorphoses*, Sophocles, Theocritus. "Loeb Classical Library" (Harvard University Press)

Sophocles, *Electra and Other Plays* (translated by E. F. Watling,

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	Penguin Books, Inc.) Warner, Rex, *Men and Gods* (Random House, Inc.).
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Achelous Admetus Alcestis Alcmene Alpheus Amazons Amphitryon Apollo Ares Argonauts Artemis' Hind Athena Athens Atlas Augean Stables Centaur(s) Cerberus Charon Chiron / Cheiron Cithaeron (Mount) Creon Deianeira Delphic Oracle Elysian Fields / Elysium Erymanthus Eurystheus Eurytos Garden of Hesperides Geryon Golden Fleece Hades Hera Heracles Hercules Hippolyta's Belt Hydra Hyllus Iolaus Iole Iphicles Ladon Lerna Megara Minos Minyans Mycenae Nemean Lion Nereus Nessus Nymphs Orthrus Persephone Pholus Phyleus Pillars of Hercules Poseidon Prometheus Pygmies Stymphalian Birds Stymphalian Lake Styx Tantalus Thebes Theseus Tiresias Titans Twelve Labours of Heracles Zeus
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Authority Character traits Conflict Gaining understanding Heroism Justice Punishment Violence

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