

THE
DELPHIC
ORACLE

. . . ἔνθα ἀναξ τεκμήρατο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων
νηὸν ποιησάσθαι ἐπήρατον εἰπέ τε μῦθον·

Ἐνθάδε δὴ φρονέω τεύξειν περικαλλέα νηὸν
ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώποις χρηστήριον οἳ τέ μοι αἰεὶ
ἐνθάδ' ἀγινήσουσι τεληέσσας ἑκατόμβας,
ἡμὲν ὅσοι Πελοπόννησον πείειραν ἔχουσιν,
ἡδ' ὅσοι Εὐρώπην τε καὶ ἀμφιρύτους κατὰ νήσους,
χρησόμενοι· τοῖσιν δ' ἄρ' ἐγὼ νημερτέα βουλήν
πᾶσι θεμστεύοιμι χρέων ἐνὶ πτόνι νηῶ.

—Homeric Hymn to Apollo 285–293.

The oracles are dumb,

No voice or hideous hum

Runs through the archèd roof in words deceiving,

Apollo from his shrine

Can no more divine,

With hollow shriek the steep of Delphos leaving.

No nightly trance or breathèd spell

Inspires the pale-eyed priest from the prophetic cell.

—John Milton, *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity* xix.

THE DELPHIC ORACLE

Its Responses and Operations

with a Catalogue of Responses

JOSEPH FONTENROSE

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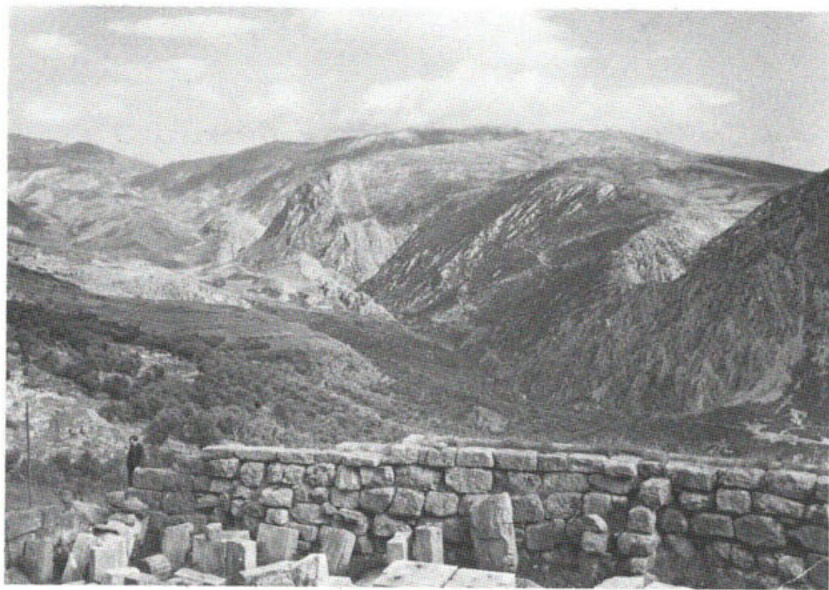
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In Memory of
IVAN M. LINFORTH
My teacher and friend, a great Hellenist,
καλὸς καὶ ἀγαθὸς ἀνὴρ



View of the Pleistos Valley and Mount Kirphis from Apollo's Temenos at Delphi.

