Hercules Choice: from ancient Greece to Temple Newsam



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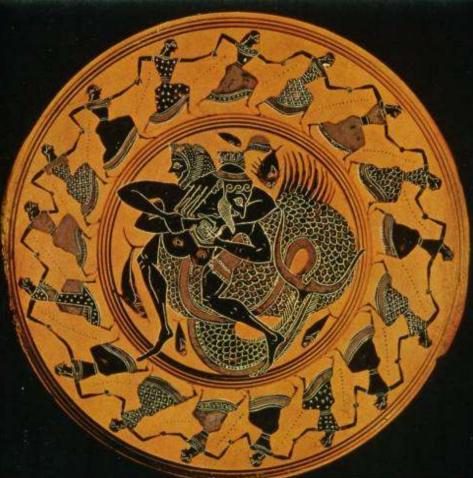
Temple Newsam, Leeds.

⇒The Picture Gallery.





Herakles the monsterslayer in archaic Greek literature and art (c.700-500 BC.





Herakles with Hermes, Athena and two other deities. Attic redfigure krater, painter of Louvre G508, c.400-380 BC (Paris).



↑ Medieval MS of Prudentius' Psychomachia (c.1000), Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Faith Smites Discord; Virtues Divide Discord; Virtues Build a Judgment Seat

⇒ Humility vanquishes Arrogance.





☆ Cesare Ripa,
 Iconologia (1593)
 no. 317: 'Heroic
 virtue'.

Hercules as type of virtue in 16th-17th century emblem books



 [↑] Andrea Alciato, *Emblemata* (1612 Padua edition) no.138: 'The Twelve Labours of Hercules'.
 Geoffrey Whitney,
 Choice of Emblems (1586):
 no. 40 'The crossroads of
 virtue and vice'





A Cranach Venus and Cupid

♣ Cranach's Charity (National Gallery)





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Lucas Cranach the Elder's Hercules:

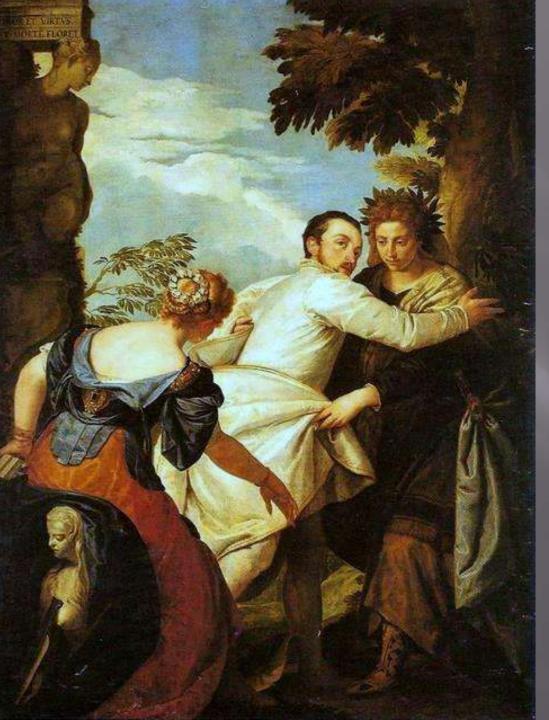
☆ Hercules and Omphale (1537, Braunschweig)

DEVS UIT SNS

OAT PICTORA

⇒ Antaeus (c.1530)





Paolo Veronese, *Hercules at the Crossroads* (c.1580).



Annibale Caracci, Hercules at the Crossroads (1595-7).



Paolo dei Matteis, *Hercules at the Crossroads* (1712), Temple Newsam, Leeds (25 x 30 in).

⇔Pompeo Batoni, Hercules at the Crossroads (1748), Liechtenstein Museum, Vienna.

Sketch for a 'Choice' painting by Felice Gianni (1758-1853).





Joshua Reynolds, *Garrick Between Tragedy and Comedy* (private collection, 1760-1).

Hogarth's season ticket to the Vauxhall Gardens:

VIRTUS VOLUPTAS FELICES UNA

'Virtue and Pleasure, happy together'?



Η E R С U E S

IA



Conference at University of Leeds, 24-6th June 2013.

Includes papers on Hercules' Choice!

See website for details.

Further Reading

J. Lomax, *Temple Newsam Paintings* (Leeds Museums and Galleries: Leeds 2000)

E. Panofsky, *Hercules am Scheidewege und andere antike Bildstoffe in der neueren Kunst* (*Studien der Bibliothek Warburg* 18), (Leipzig 1930)

E.J. Stafford, *Herakles* (Routledge Gods and Heroes in the Ancient World series: London 2012)



Head of Hercules: sculpture by John Thomas (c.1858) on Leeds Town Hall.

M. Warner, *Monuments and Maidens: the allegory of the female form* (2nd ed. London 1996)