

# Knowledge Builder™

for *Perseus*® 2.0

## Hephaestus

Wendy E. Owens



**AbleMedia**



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for *Perseus*® 2.0

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### About Knowledge Builders

Knowledge Builders are step-by-step instructions for expanding your knowledge of the *Perseus* software and the ancient Greek world. Each Knowledge Builder addresses a particular topic related to the ancient Greek world. Knowledge Builders provide students and teachers with start up information on a topic and directions for finding the information available on that topic in *Perseus*.

- Knowledge Builders assume that you have completed the assignments of the Quick Start System™ or that you have a working knowledge of *Perseus* and a Macintosh.
- Knowledge Builders give you a start on investigations of various topics related to the main Knowledge Builder topic(s). Look for “Possible Projects” in the text of the Knowledge Builder for ideas on how to turn ideas and investigative processes into a project.
- Each Knowledge Builder provides you with a list of Further Reference in *Perseus* for topics related to the main topic of the Knowledge Builder.
- Each Knowledge Builder provides you with an annotated bibliography of works relating to the main topics associated with the title of the Knowledge Builder.
- Knowledge Builders make an effort to use Vase, Coin, Site, Sculpture and Architecture Catalog cards in which Universal Images can be found. By using these Catalog cards, Concise version users can see large images and will learn which Catalog cards use Universal Images.
- Knowledge Builders get you started using *Perseus* and get you thinking with a large academic database. The methods for investigation used in Knowledge Builders are suggestions and other methods may be applied. You must come up with your own methods for making the most efficient use of *Perseus*.



# Hephaestus

1. Begin this *Knowledge Builder™* from the *Perseus Gateway*.

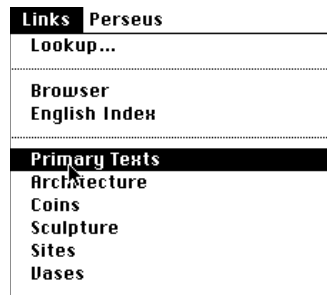
**\*Note:** When you perform an English Index search for Hephaestus, you should use the spelling “Hephaestus” when looking for textual references. To find archeological references, you must use the spelling “Hephaistos.” A “Starting Character” search will not get results for both spellings of Hephaestus.

## The God of Fire and the Forge

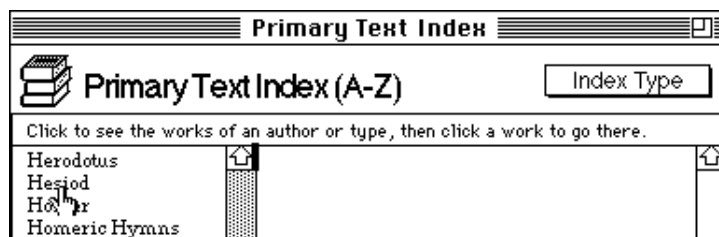
The most important aspect of Hephaestus’ identity is his association with craftsmanship. His skills in metal working earned him a place among the Olympians and a cult following on Earth. The works of Hephaestus are described in great detail by Homer and Hesiod. You will examine Hephaestus’ works and his teachings in the art of metal working and craftsmanship.

Hephaestus made a wonderfully ornate shield for Herakles. Hesiod describes each scene on the shield in his *Shield of Herakles*. Read the following passage to get an idea of the decoration on the shield.

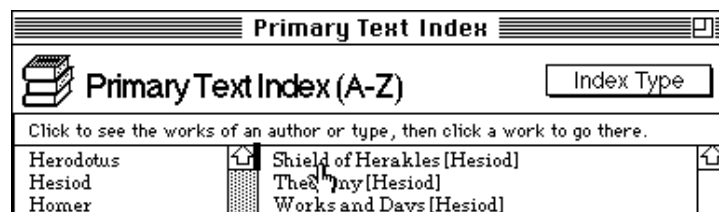
2. Choose “Primary Text” from the Links menu.



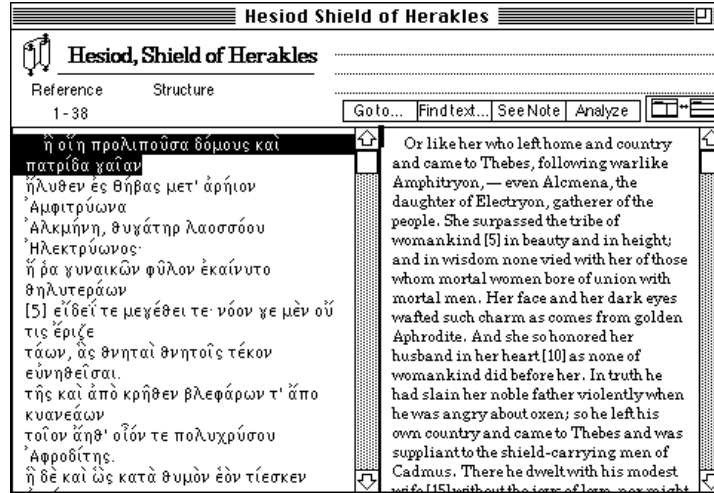
3. Click once on “Hesiod” in the list of authors in the left column.



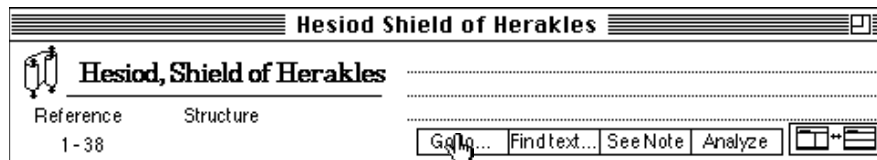
4. Click once on “Shield of Herakles” from the list of text in the right column.



5. Your screen should look like the one below.



6. Click once on the “Go to” command button.

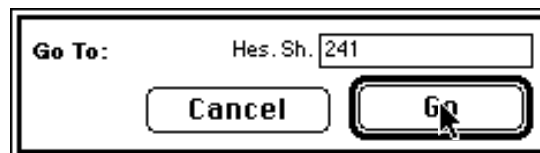


7. Type “241” on the line.

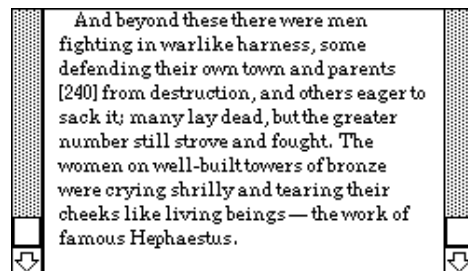


**Remember, give *Perseus* something to do and then give it a command.**

8. Click once on the “Go” command button.



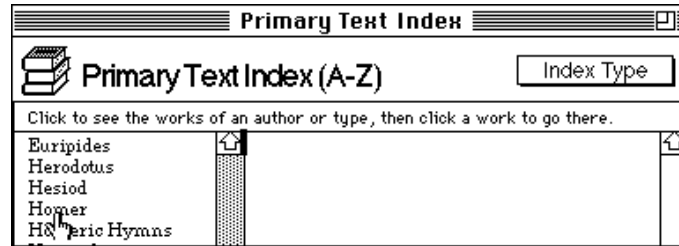
9. Read this card from line 241-244 and beyond.



In the nine years he spent with Thetis, Hephaestus made brooches, spiral arm-bands, rosettes and necklaces.

10. Choose "Primary Text" from the Links menu.

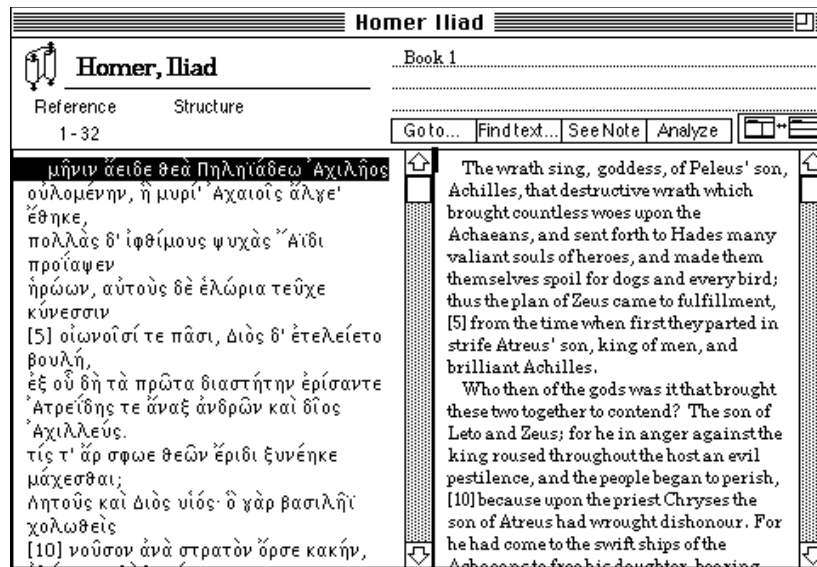
11. Click once on "Homer" in the list of authors in the left column.



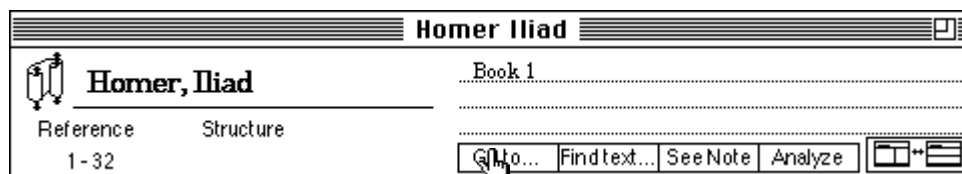
12. Click once on "Iliad" from the list of text in the right column.



13. Your screen should look like the one below.



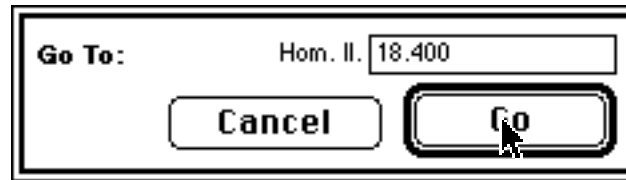
14. Click once on the "Go to" command button.



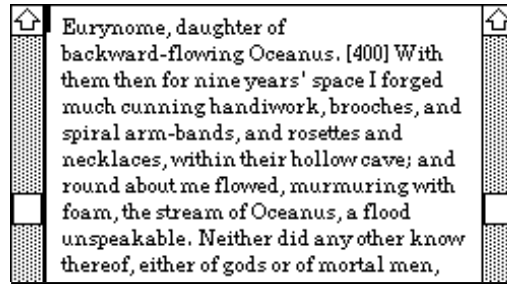
15. Type "18.400" on the line.



16. Click once on the “Go” command button.

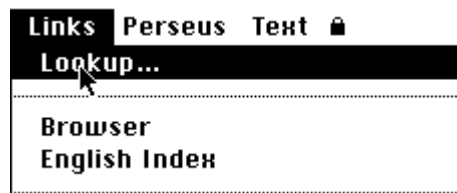


17. Read from line 400.

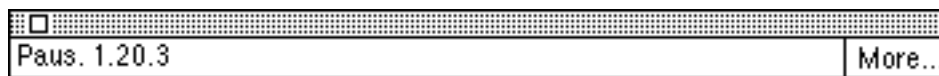


Pausanias tells the story of a piece of work Hephaestus created as a trap. Hera threw Hephaestus from Olympus so he made a golden throne with hidden fetters in which to bind her. Hephaestus would not release his mother until Dionysos got him drunk and brought him to Olympus.

18. Choose “Lookup” from the Links menu. Lookup is at the top of the Links list.

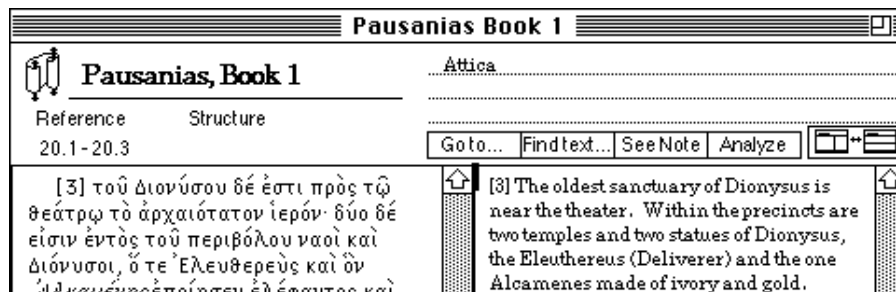


19. Type “Paus. 1.20.3” into the Lookup box.



20. Choose “Primary Text” from the Links menu.

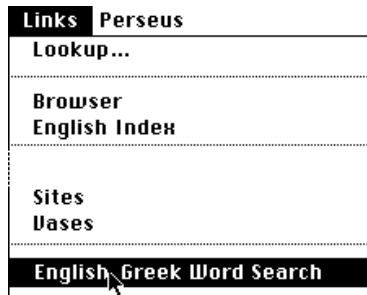
21. Begin reading this text at section 20.3.



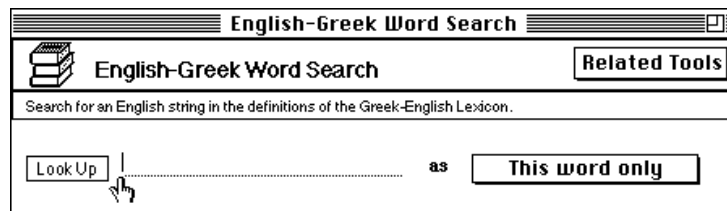
## Epithet

The names of gods and goddesses are often accompanied by a finite number of traditional epithets that describe the personality or associations of the divinity. You can form a better understanding of how the Greeks and other cultures viewed the nature of their gods and goddesses from the list of epithets associated with a god or goddess.

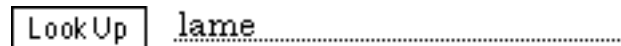
22. Choose "English-Greek Word Search" from the Links menu.



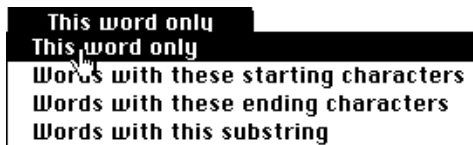
23. Set the cursor on the line next to the "Look up" command button.



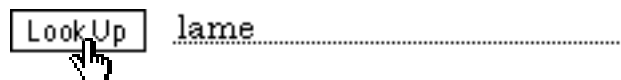
24. Type in the word "lame."



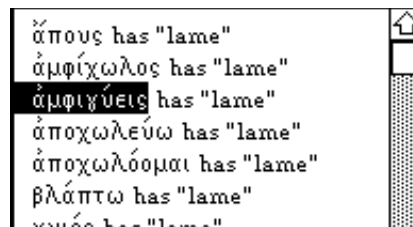
25. Choose "This word only" from the pop-up menu button next to "as."



26. Click once on the "Look Up" command button.



27. Highlight the Greek word as seen below.



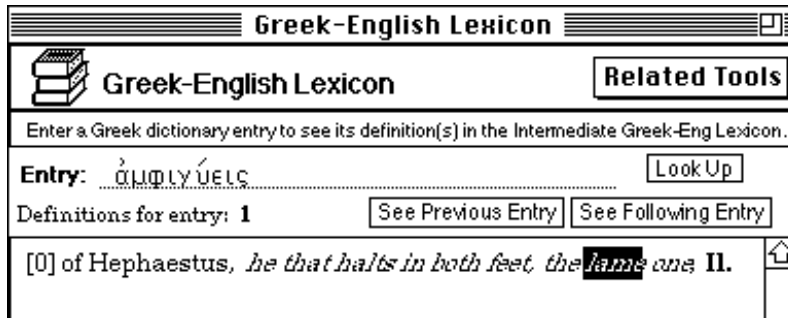


**Remember, give *Perseus* something to do and then give it a command.**

28. Choose "Greek English Lexicon" from the "Related Tools" pop-up menu button.



29. Read the definition for this word.



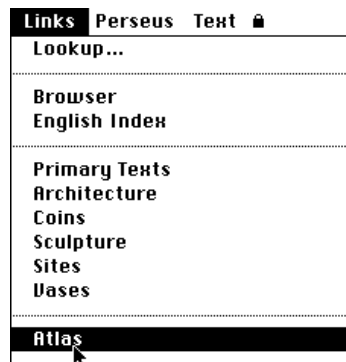
## Atlas

Temples, sanctuaries and precincts of Hephaestus appear all over the Greek world. As a demonstration of the wide spread influence of Hephaestus, you should plot the sites listed below. This will also serve as practice in the use of the Atlas. Directions will be given for the plotting of two sites so you should plot the remainder on your own.

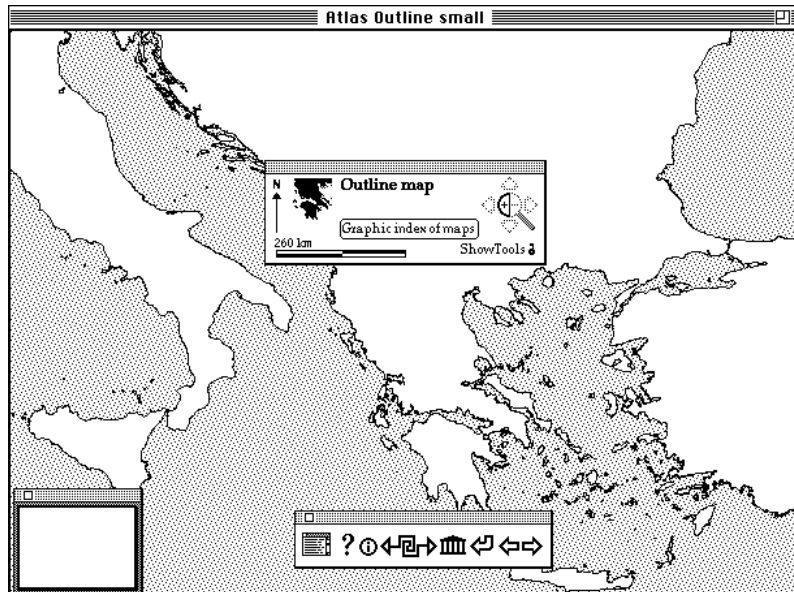
### Sites of temples and sanctuaries

Lemnos, Sicily, Crete, Olympia, Patrae, Hieria, Memphis (Egypt).

30. Choose "Atlas" from the Link menu.

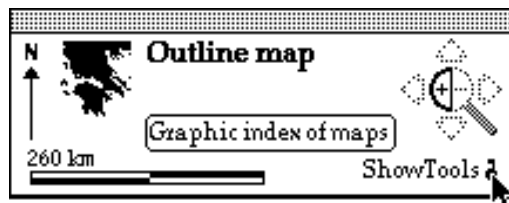


31. You should now be at the "Outline" map of the *Perseus* Atlas.



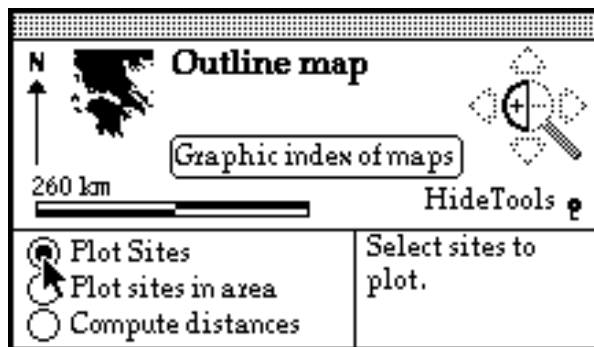
Notice that a new word appears at the top of the screen next to "Perseus." Some Atlas commands can be found under the word "Atlas."

32. Move your mouse arrow onto the "flag" next to "Show Tools" in the lower right corner of the Tools Palette and click once on the flag so that the bottom drops out of the Tools Palette.



33. Move the Atlas Tools Palette to one side of the Atlas map.

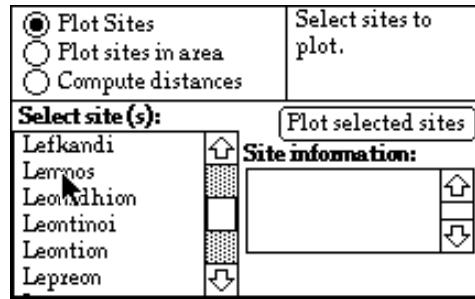
34. Click once inside the radial button next to "Plot site."



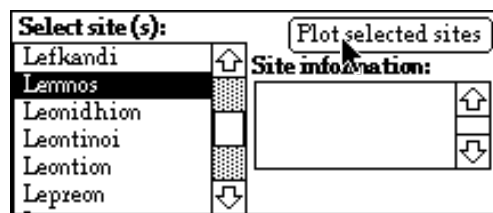
35. Scroll down through the site list to "Lemnos."



36. Click once "Lemnos" so that it is highlighted.



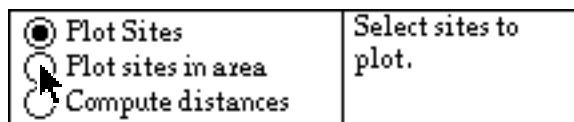
37. Click once on the command button "Plot Selected Sites."



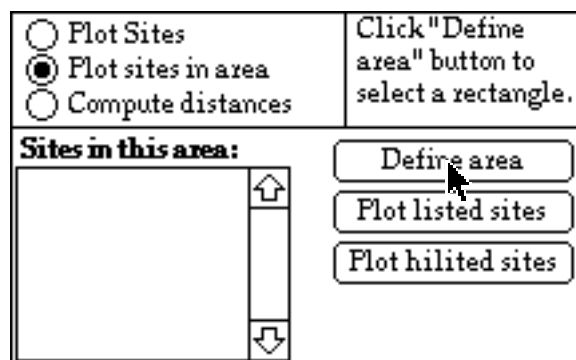
**When you plot a site and it seems not to appear on the screen it may be hiding under the Atlas Tools Palette or Navigator. Check there before you worry.**

Sicily is considered a region in the *Perseus* Atlas. To find out where this region is follow the directions below.

38. Click once on the "Plot sites in area" command button.



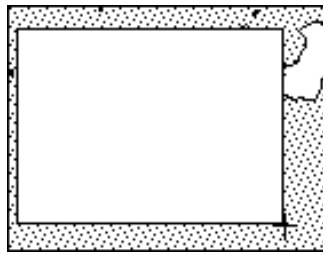
39. Follow the flashing directions.



40. Move the mouse arrow onto a starting point on Sicily. See the picture below for help.

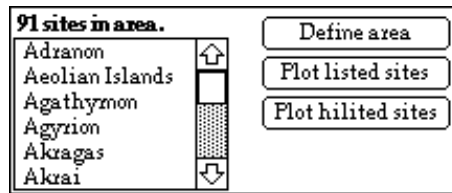


41. Hold down the mouse button and drag the cross-hairs in the direction of the area you want to define.
42. Once the island of Sicily is defined in the box you have drawn, release the mouse button.

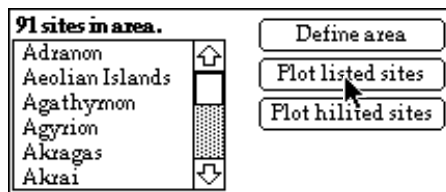


**If you get the message, “Not enough memory to use the painting tools,” click “OK.” This means that there is not enough RAM allotted for the use of *Perseus* or that you have used the allotted amount up. Quit *Perseus* and check your RAM allotment and start *Perseus* again.**

43. If you are successful in defining an area, *Perseus* will list the sites found in that area in the “Site List” section.



44. You can plot all the listed sites by clicking once on the “Plot listed sites” command button.



45. Otherwise, plot one site at a time by clicking on a site name so that it is highlighted. Then click once on the “Plot hilited sites” command button.

Sicily will now appear labeled and with black dots on it representing the Sicilian sites.

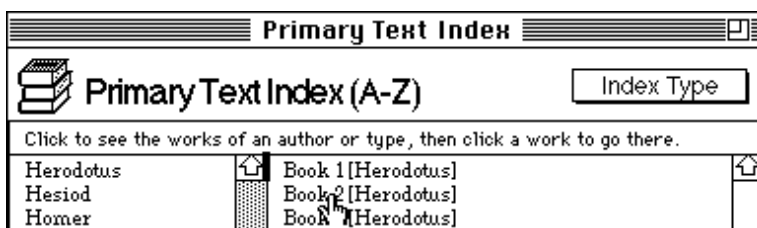


## Associated Rituals

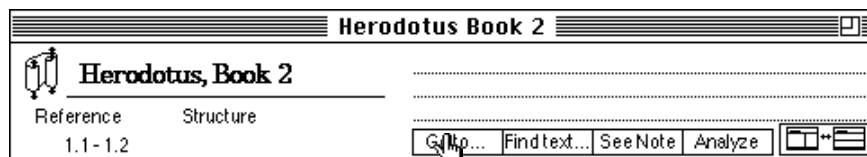
An important part of the nature of a god or goddess may be discerned from the rituals performed for the favor of that god or goddess. You will now look at the ritual performed in association with Hephaestus. You will also want to discover where the rituals are performed, who performs the rituals and whether the societies that include this ritual in their religious practices worship only Hephaestus or Hephaestus along with other gods and goddesses. Pay attention to what a suppliant asks for in return for sacrificing to the god.

In Egypt, Hephaestus is known as Ptah and this passage deals with the tradition of using a helmet to pour libations to Hephaestus. The pouring of libations was performed by kings.

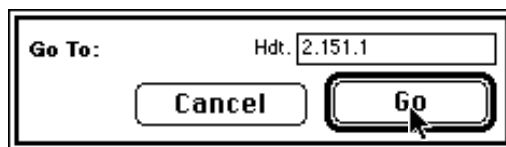
46. Choose "Primary Text" from the Links menu.
47. Click once on "Herodotus" in the list of authors in the left column.
48. Click once on "Book 2" from the list of text in the right column.



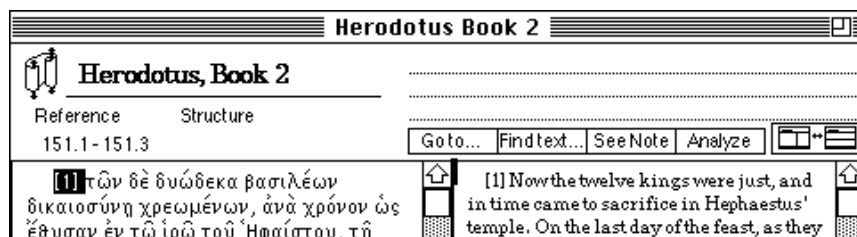
49. Click once on the "Go to" command button.



50. Type "2.151.1" on the line.
51. Click once on the "Go" command button.

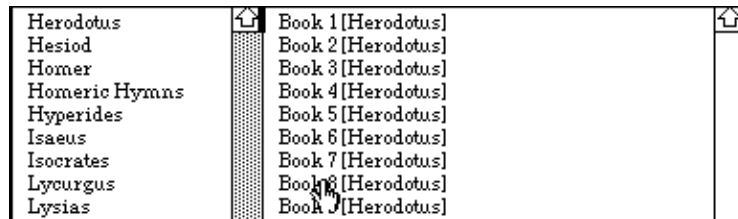


52. Read section 151.1 through section 151.2.

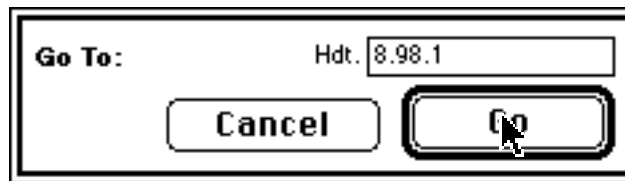


In this passage you will read about riders who carry torches and pass them from one to the next in the torch race held in honor of Hephaestus.

53. Choose "Primary Text" from the Links menu.
54. Click once on "Herodotus" in the list of authors in the left column.
55. Click once on "Book 8" from the list of text in the right column.



56. Click once on the "Go to" command button.
57. Type "8.98.1" on the line.
58. Click once on the "Go" command button.



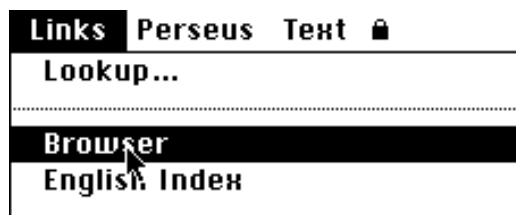
59. Read section 98.1 through section 98.2.

## The Lame God

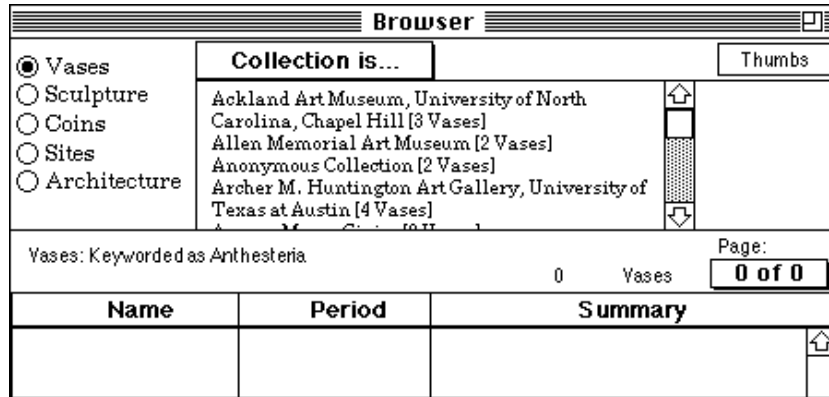
It is unexpected that a god or goddess would be less than physically perfect. Hephaestus was lame at birth and as Homer put it walked on thin legs. Why might the Greeks include a less than perfect god in their pantheon? There are variations in the story of Hephaestus' survival as an imperfect god. You will investigate what Hephaestus endured at the hands of his parents for his imperfections. Pay close attention to Hephaestus acceptance into the pantheon for the skills he possessed. Below are some references to Hephaestus early life and handicap.

On this vase, Hephaestus rides an ithyphallic mule while carrying a double ax in his right hand. Compare Hephaestus' legs to those of the satyrs who accompany him.

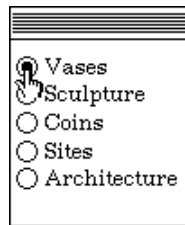
60. Choose "Browser," the last Link on the Links menu.



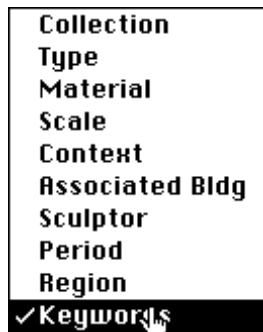
61. Your screen should look like the one below.



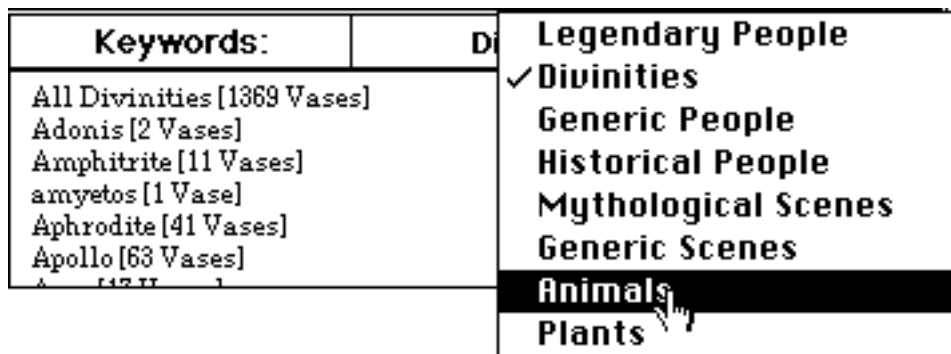
62. Click once inside the radial button next to "Vases."



63. Choose "Keywords" from the first pop-up menu button.



64. Choose "Animals" from the second pop-up menu button.



65. From the list of "Animals," choose "mule."

Keywords:	Animals
marten [1 Vase]	
mule [7 Vases]	
octopus [18 Vases]	
owl [19 Vases]	
ox [2 Vases]	
panther [79 Vases]	

66. From the list of vases, click once on "Harvard 1960.236."

Name	Period	Shape
Boston 01.17 [1 image]	Archaic	Neck amphora
Florence 4209 [72 images]	Archaic	Volute krater
Harvard 1960.236 [111 images]	Archaic	Calyx krater
London 171.11-1.1 [31 images]	Archaic	Dinos

67. You will now be at the Vase Catalog card for "Harvard 1960.236."

**Vase Catalog**

**Harvard 1960.236** Thumbs Description  
Index

**Collection:** Cambridge, Harvard University Art Museums  
**Ware:** Attic Red Figure      **Shape:** Calyx krater  
**Decoration:** Return of Hephaistos, with Dionysos and satyrs.

**Painter:** attributed to the Kleophrades Painter  
**Potter:**  
**Date:** ca. 500 BC      **Period:** Archaic

**Views** (Click on a view to see the image)      **Number of Views:** 111

Side A: scene at center  
 Side A: oblique from right  
 Handle: right of side A  
 Side B: oblique from left  
 Side B: scene at center  
 Side B: oblique from right  
 Handle: right of side B

68. Look at the image "Side B: Hephaistos on mule with satyrs at either side" by clicking once on these words in the Views section.

**Views** (Click on a view to see the image)      **Number of Views:** 111

Side B: satyr with aulos and wineskin, satyr with cithara, Hephaistos  
 Side B: Hephaistos on mule with satyrs at either side  
 Side B: Hephaistos, satyr with amphora, satyr with mallets  
 Handle, side A at right: satyr with krater, satyr with mallets, satyr with krater  
 Side A: satyr with krater, satyr playing barbiton, Dionysos  
 Side A: palmette decoration above satyr playing barbiton

It appears that even when seated Hephaestus needed some sort of support. In this sculpture, Hephaestus supports himself with a staff under his right arm and turns back towards Athena to speak.

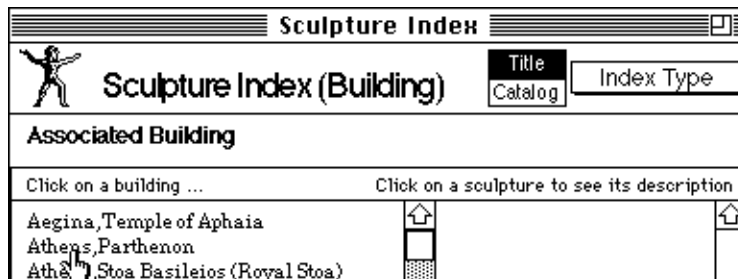


69. From the Links menu, choose "Sculpture" by highlighting the word.
70. You should now be at the Sculpture Index.
71. Move your mouse arrow onto the "Index" pop-up menu button in upper right corner of the card.
72. From the Index menu, choose "Associated Building."

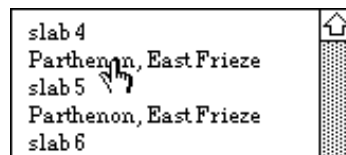


A list of all the buildings in *Perseus* will now appear on the left side of the card.

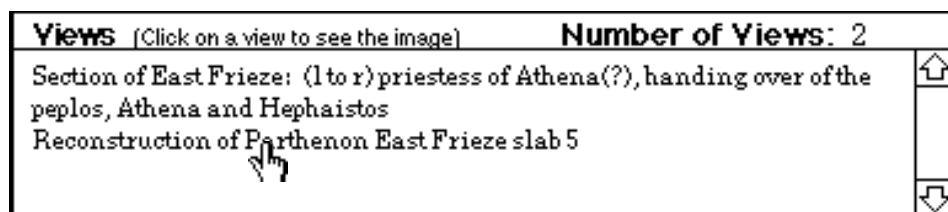
73. From this list, choose "Athens, Parthenon."



74. A list of sculptures will appear in the right column. Choose "Parthenon East Frieze slab 5" from the list.



75. You should now be at the Sculpture Catalog card for "Parthenon EF.5.33-37."
76. Look at a view for this vase by clicking once on the words "Reconstruction of Parthenon East Frieze slab 5."



In this passage, the gods and goddesses laugh heartily as Hephaestus makes his way through the palace at Olympus. Homer uses an epithet for Hephaestus that describes him as the “limping god” who has built a house for each of the gods.

77. Choose “Lookup” from the Links menu. Lookup is at the top of the Links list.

78. Type “Hom. Il. 1.598” into the Lookup box.



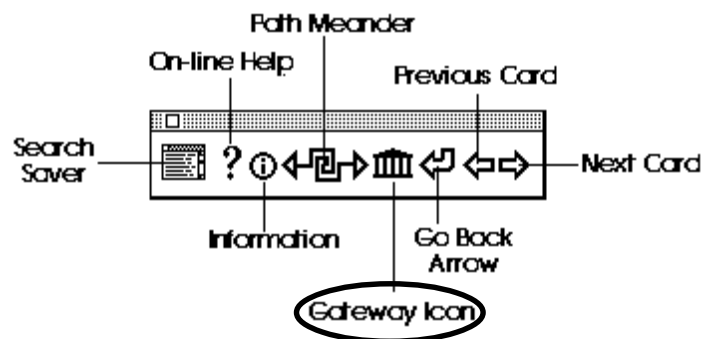
79. Choose “Primary Text” from the Links menu.

80. Begin reading this text on line 598 and continue reading to line 606.

## Encyclopedia

As one of the twelve main gods, Hephaestus' relatives and offspring appear in many main stream and well-known myths. The Encyclopedia entry for Hephaestus tells of Hephaestus' family, including his children by various mortals and goddesses.

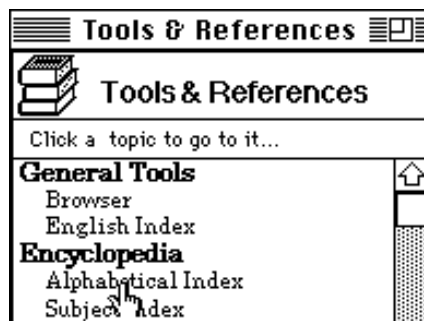
81. Click once on the “Gateway” icon on your Navigator.



82. Click once on the “Tools & Reference” icon on the Gateway.



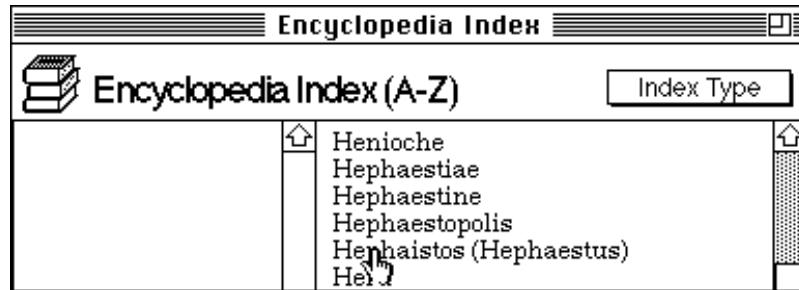
83. Under the bold “Encyclopedia” heading, click once on “Alphabetical Index.”



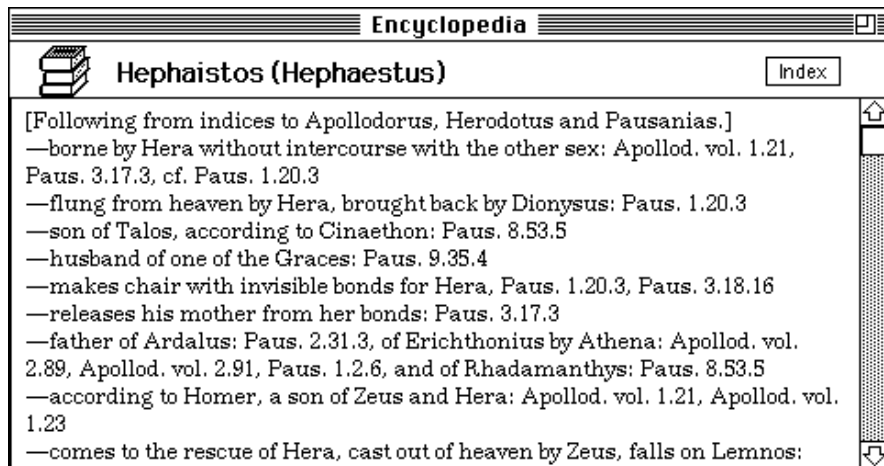
84. Click once on the letter "H" from the alphabet at the bottom of the card.



85. Scroll through the list of "H" words until you find "Hephaistos (Hephaestus)." Click once on the words "Hephaistos (Hephaestus)."



86. Your screen should look like the one below.



87. Read through the notes on Hephaestus to learn more about his family.

## Associated Items and Beings

A god or goddess alone is inadequately defined since the people, beings, animals and things associate with a god or goddess say a lot about them. Through visual aids and texts, you can learn about the whole god or goddess by the items, people, beings, animals and things that accompany them or that are used in their exploits. Below are texts that depict one of the things associated with Hephaestus, his art.

This passage describes the house of Hephaestus that is the preeminent house of the gods. The house is wrought with bronze and covered in stars. In the house Hephaestus is making tripods at his forge.

88. Choose "Primary Text" from the Links menu.

89. Click once on "Homer" in the list of authors in the left column.



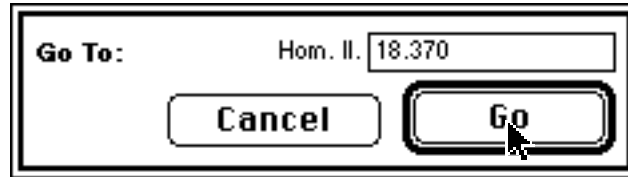
90. Click once on "Iliad" from the list of text in the right column.



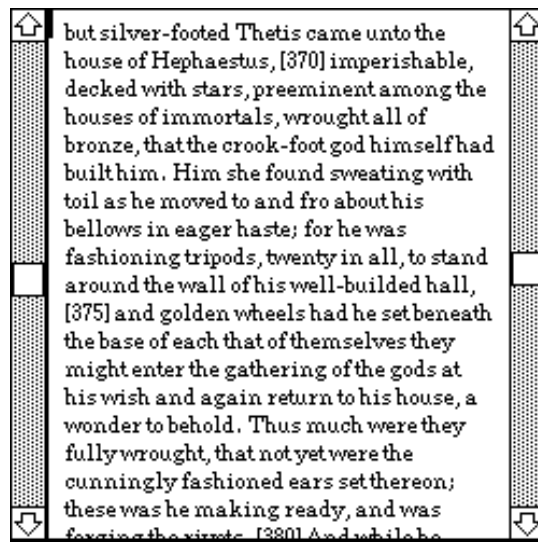
91. Click once on the "Go to" command button.

92. Type "18.370" on the line.

93. Click once on the "Go" command button.



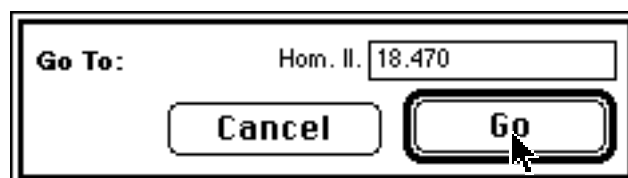
94. Read from line 367 to line 380.



This next passage describes the shield of Achilles. Classicists have been able to draw a lot of information about daily life in Homeric age from this description of Hephaestus' work.

95. Click once on the "Go to" command button.

96. Type "18.470" on the line and click once on the "Go" command button.



97. Read from line 470 to line 569.

**Homer Iliad** Book 18

Reference: 462-489 Structure

Goto... Findtext... SeeNote Analyze

τὴν δ' ἠμείβεται ἔπειτα περικλυτὸς ἀμφιγυήεις· θάρσει· μή τοι ταῦτα μετὰ φρεσὶ σῆσι μελόντων. αἶ γάρ μιν θανάτοιο δυσηχέος ᾧδε δυναίμην [465] νόσφιν ἀποκρύψαι, ὅτε μιν μόρος αἰνὸς ἰκάνοι, ὡς οἱ τεύχεα καλὰ παρέσσεται, οἷά τις αὐτε ἀνθρώπων πολέων θαυμάσσεται, ὅς κεν ἴδῃται.

his bellows, and he turned these toward the fire and bade them work. [470] And the bellows, twenty in all, blew upon the melting-vats, sending forth a ready blast of every force, now to further him as he laboured hard, and again in whatsoever way Hephaestus might wish and his work go on. And on the fire he put stubborn bronze and tin [475] and precious gold and silver; and thereafter he set on the anvil-block a great anvil, and took in one hand a massive hammer, and in the other took he the tongs.

Congratulations! You have completed this Knowledge Builder™. Review any information with which you do not feel comfortable.



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