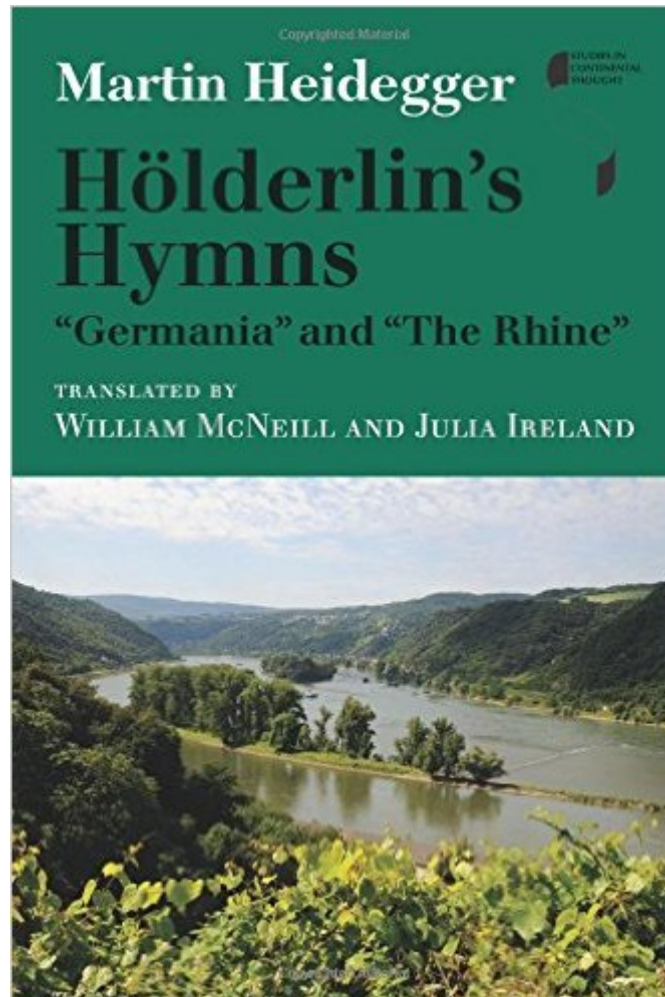


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Hölderlin's Hymns "Germania" And "The Rhine" (Studies In Continental Thought)



Synopsis

Martin Heidegger's 1934-1935 lectures on Friedrich Hölderlin's hymns "Germania" and "The Rhine" are considered the most significant among Heidegger's lectures on Hölderlin. Coming at a crucial time in his career, the text illustrates Heidegger's turn toward language, art, and poetry while reflecting his despair at his failure to revolutionize the German university and his hope for a more profound revolution through the German language, guided by Hölderlin's poetry. These lectures are important for understanding Heidegger's changing relation to politics, his turn toward Nietzsche, his thinking about the German language, and his breakthrough to a new kind of poetic thinking. First published in 1980 as volume 39 of Heidegger's Complete Works, this graceful and rigorous English-language translation will be widely discussed in continental philosophy and literary theory.

Book Information

Series: Studies in Continental Thought

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Indiana University Press (September 16, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0253014212

ISBN-13: 978-0253014214

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.9 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #607,937 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > European > German #208 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Phenomenology

Customer Reviews

To those who know their philosophy, Martin Heidegger is to thinking what Christopher Nolan arguably is to film-making, that is, bloody talented. This lecture course, which runs just shy of three hundred pages, is a long commentary and dissection of two Holderlinian hymns, Germania and the Rhine, with plenty of scattered references to other texts by Holderlin. To Heidegger enthusiasts this lecture book remains familiar territory with familiar Heideggerian takes on poetry, the gods, commencements as opposed to beginnings, the perceived cheapness and gratuity of modern representations of culture and religion; in short the long list of anti-modern posturings which make

up Heideggeriana. In his own words, "everything modern is always already out of date before it has even seen the light of day." For most writers such partis pris would jar in their ludicrous generality and negative outlook, glossing over all the great and interesting facets of the Modern World and, to be sure, Heidegger has his detractors. But for want of a better word, books by Heidegger have something sacred about them in their poetical sensitivity and care for the German language which translates well into English (certainly better than French in my opinion, but I'm biased as English is my mother tongue). At times reading the text I couldn't help but smile or even chuckle at Heidegger's wit and cynicism which nonetheless is not of the cheap, easy kind but rings true to those who have an eye and sensation for all that is profoundly contradictory and alarming in the world of modern technology, Facebook, Apple and . A Capitalist Yankee, Heidegger most definitely is not.

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