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## Hebe (mythology)

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In Greek mythology, **Hēbē** (Greek: Ἥβη) is the goddess of youth<sup>[1]</sup> (Roman equivalent: **Juventas**).<sup>[2]</sup> She is the daughter of Zeus and Hera.<sup>[3]</sup> **Hebe** was the cupbearer for the gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus, serving their nectar and ambrosia, until she was married to Heracles, (Roman equivalent: Hercules); her successor was the young Trojan prince Ganymede. Another title of hers, for this reason, is "**Ganymeda**." She also drew baths for Ares and helped Hera enter her chariot.<sup>[4]</sup>

In Euripides' play *Heracleidae*, **Hebe** granted Iolaus' wish to become young again in order to fight Eurystheus. **Hebe** had two children with her husband Heracles: Alexiars and Anicetus.<sup>[5]</sup> In Roman mythology, Juventas received a coin offering from boys when they put on the adult men's toga for the first time.

The name *Hebe* comes from Greek word meaning "youth" or "prime of life". *Juventas* likewise means "youth", as can be seen in such derivatives as *juvenile*. In art, **Hebe** is usually depicted wearing a sleeveless dress. There is a bronze statue of **Hebe**, by Robert Thomas; (1966), in Birmingham city centre, England (at 52.484438°N 1.892175°W). Antonio Canova also sculpted four different statues of **Hebe**: one of them is in the Museum of Forlì, in Italy.

The figure of **Hebe** was popular in the 19th century and early 20th century for garden fountains and temperance fountains, and was widely available in cast stone. Tarentum, Pennsylvania displays two such cast stone statues of **Hebe**.<sup>[6]</sup> The mold for these statues was donated to the borough by the Tarentum Book Club on June 6, 1912. In Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Bloom Fountain installed in 1927 near the municipal rose garden, thanks to a bequest of \$6,500 in the will of Louis Bloom,

**Hebe**



*Hebe* by Antonio Canova

### Cupbearer to the Gods

<b>Abode</b>	Mount Olympus
<b>Consort</b>	Heracles
<b>Parents</b>	Zeus and Hera
<b>Siblings</b>	Ares, Hephaestus, Eileithyia and Enyo
<b>Children</b>	Alexiars and Anicetus
<b>Roman equivalent</b>	Juventas

features a **Hebe** of cast zinc. At Bowling Green, Kentucky, the **Hebe** fountain in Fountain Square follows Canova's model, in patinated cast iron, purchased in 1881 from the J. L. Mott Iron Works of New York, at a cost of \$1500.<sup>[7]</sup> similar **Hebe** fountains, probably also from Mott, are located in Court Square, Memphis, Tennessee and in Montgomery, Alabama, and one with bronze patination was formerly the Starkweather Fountain in Ypsilanti, Michigan, installed in 1889.<sup>[8]</sup>

## See also

- Hebephilia
- Hebephrenia

## Notes

1. ^ "**Hebe**'s name... means 'Flower of Youth'. She was another version of her mother in the latter's quality of Hera Pais, "Hera the young maiden," observes Karl Kerényi, *The Gods of the Greeks* 1951:98.
2. ^ Ovid does not detect a unity of Hera (Juno) and **Hebe** (Juventas): he opens *Fasti* vi with a dispute between Juno and Juventas claiming patronage of the month of June (on-line text).
3. ^ Hesiod, *Theogony* 921; Homer, *Odyssey* 11. 601; Pindar, Fourth Isthmian Ode; pseudo-Apollodorus, *Bibliothēke* 1.13, and later authors.
4. ^ *Iliad*, v. 722.
5. ^ Pseudo-Apollodorus, *Bibliothēke*, ii.7.7,
6. ^ They are located at 40.59977°N 79.752621°W and 40.601603°N 79.757264°W).
7. ^ "The City of Bowling Green, Ky: Fountain Square"
8. ^ Ypsilanti Historical Society: "Lost Ypsilanti: The Starkweather Fountain"; the single figure of **Hebe** cost \$750. Other cast zinc **Hebe** fountains by Mott and other manufacturers are documented by Carol A. Grissom, *Zinc sculpture in America, 1850-1950* 2009:301ff.

## External links

- Photo of Birmingham Statue
- Pantheon.org - **Hebe**
- Theoi Project - **Hebe**
- art + jupiter + **Hébé**(Spanish)

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