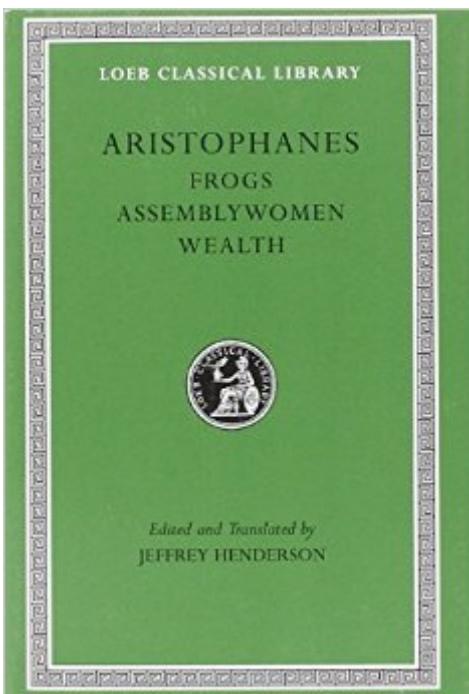


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Aristophanes: Frogs. Assemblywomen. Wealth. (Loeb Classical Library No. 180)



Synopsis

Aristophanes, one of the world's greatest comic dramatists, has been admired since antiquity for his iridescent wit and beguiling fantasy, exuberant language, and brilliant satire of the social, intellectual, and political life of Athens at its height. This is the fourth and final volume in the new Loeb Classical Library edition of his plays. *Frogs* was produced in 405 BCE, shortly after the deaths of Sophocles and Euripides. Dionysus, the patron god of theater, journeys to the underworld to retrieve Euripides. There he is recruited to judge a contest between the traditional Aeschylus and the modern Euripides, a contest that yields both sparkling comedy and insight on ancient literary taste. In *Assemblywomen* Athenian women plot to save Athens from male misgovernance. They transfer power to themselves and institute a new social order in which all inequalities based on wealth, age, and beauty are eliminated—with raucously comical results. The gentle humor and straightforward morality of *Wealth* made it the most popular of Aristophanes' plays from classical times to the Renaissance. Here the god *Wealth* is cured of his blindness; his newfound ability to distinguish good people from bad brings playfully portrayed social consequences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book, the fourth in Dr. Henderson's fine series of parallel translations, is perhaps the best of the series, containing as it does the comic masterpiece "Frogs," in my opinion the finest of Aristophanes' works. Henderson's translations are crisp, clear, and hilarious, and his extensive use of vulgarity is always textually and philologically sound (as a few comparisons of Liddell-Scott and

the OED will surely reveal). In short, it is the definitive edition of Aristophanes' works, and the only translation accurate enough to be worth having on your bookshelf (and believe me, I've read quite a few).

Yes, Aristophanes was a genius in using satire to sting the then politicians. Oh! How we could we use his abilities today in the US! I highly recommend this (and other similar) books to anyone who likes or loves to read excellent books with morals. With this book I now have all of Aristophanes's plays to read over and over to my grandchildren, who love them. Thank you.

I had to read 'Frogs' for school, all the translations I'd found were awful, then I stumbled upon Mr. Henderson's translation and hit the jackpot. No Dryasdust prissiness here, the language is earthy and accessible, and the scholarly footnotes are also very well done.

Good

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