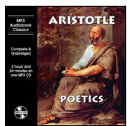


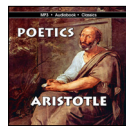
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Poetics

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC) Translated by Ingram Bywater (1840-1914)

Read by: Robert Foster
 Length: 2 hours 24 minutes
 Genre(s): Non-Fiction, Philosophy

Language: English
 Style: Solo

Format	Package	SKU	UPC/EAN	List
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1277	0701236969979	\$8.99
MP3 CD	Jewel case	JB-1277	TBD	\$8.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1277	Special order	\$3.99
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Poetics is the earliest known work that develops a theory of drama and related literary forms. His term poetics encompasses lyric and epic poetry as well as drama in its major forms of comedy, tragedy and what was called the satyr play. All literary forms are “imitations of life” but can be broken into genres by defining attributes that differ in three ways: differences in music rhythm, meter, harmony and melody; differences in the goodness of the characters; and differences in how the narrative is presented, either acted out or told. The original work was divided into two books, each on a separate scroll, and only the first book survives. The first book is focused on tragedy and epic poetry and is divided into five sections. After an opening discourse on tragedy, epic poetry and comedy, he defines tragedy and sets forth rule for the proper construction of a tragedy in the second part. The third section

dives into definition and analysis of the qualitative parts, the fourth discusses common criticisms and responses, and the fifth argues for tragedy as the superior form. Given the weight given to tragedy in the first book, scholars speculate that the lost second book likely treated comedy with a similar depth. The work was lost for centuries and found its way back to the Western world through a Latin translation of an Arabic version written by Averroes. It has been part of a classical education in the Western tradition and has been subject to an ongoing diversity of opinions.

Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC) was a Greek scientist and philosopher who may well be the most influential intellectual in history. His work laid the foundations of scientific inquiry, outlined a comprehensive system of philosophical thought, and shaped thinking about poetry and the arts. He was born the son of the physician to the King of Macedon and joined Plato’s Academy in Athens at age 18, where he remained for nearly twenty years until Plato’s death. He then served as tutor to Alexander the Great at the request of his father, Philip of Macedon, which enabled him to establish a library at Lyceum that produced hundreds of books. His thought ranged from the Platonism of his tenure with Plato but moved to a deep immersion in empirical study based on observation and saw perception itself as the basis of knowledge. His writings covered many subjects - biology, zoology, physics, metaphysics, ethics, logic, aesthetics, poetry, music, rhetoric, linguistics, economics, politics and government – in a style described by Cicero as a “river of gold”. Called “the first genuine scientist in history”, many of his views shaped scientific scholarship until the Enlightenment. His study of logic evolved into the discipline of modern formal logic in the 19th century. His ethics have been studied continuously and have gained recent currency with the advent of the study of virtue. His metaphysics continues to influence Christian theology. Although an abundance of material survives, scholars believe that it represents only about a third of his output.