



## The Poetics and Rhetoric of Aristotle

*Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)*

### **Poetics**

Translated by Ingram Bywater (1840-1914)  
Read by Robert Foster  
Length: 2 hours 24 minutes

### **Rhetoric**

Translated by Thomas Taylor (1758-1935)  
Read by Geoffrey Edwards  
Length: 8 hours 32 minutes

Language: English  
Style: Solo  
Genre: Philosophy, Criticism  
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case  
Catalog: DB-1160  
UPC: 0683422134753  
MSLP: \$11.99  
Total Length: 10 hours 55 minutes

*Poetics* and *Rhetoric* together with *Ethics* and *Politics* constitute the pillars of Aristotle's Practical Philosophy. *Poetics* is earliest known work that develops a theory of drama and literary forms. His term poetics encompasses lyric and epic poetry as well as drama in its forms of comedy, tragedy and the satyr play. All are imitations of life but 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 work was lost for centuries and found its way back to the Western world though 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.

*Rhetoric* is the first known attempt to develop a system of techniques in the art of persuasion and is still considered "the most important work on persuasion ever written". It was not written for publication, but is rather a collection of his students' notes from his many lectures. It shows the progression of his thought from his decades at Plato's Academy through his later work at his Lyceum. During this time the subject evolved from being seen as a potentially dangerous and immoral tool of manipulation of emotion and omission of facts to one of the three elements of philosophy alongside logic and dialectic.

**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.