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By Aristotle

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Aristotle of Stagirus (384–322 BCE), the great Greek philosopher, researcher, logician, and scholar, studied with Plato at Athens and taught in the Academy (367–347). Subsequently he spent three years in Asia Minor at the court of his former pupil Hermeias, where he married Pythias, one of Hermeias' relations. After some time at Mitylene, he was appointed in 343/2 by King Philip of Macedon to be tutor of his teen-aged son Alexander. After Philip's death in 336, Aristotle became head of his own school (of “Peripatetics”), the Lyceum at Athens. Because of anti-Macedonian feeling there after Alexander's death in 323, he withdrew to Chalcis in Euboea, where he died the following year.

Problems, the third-longest work in the Aristotelian corpus, contains thirty-eight books covering more than 900 problems about living things, meteorology, ethical and intellectual virtues, parts of the human body, and miscellaneous questions. Although *Problems* is an accretion of multiple authorship over several centuries, it offers a fascinating technical view of Peripatetic method and thought. *Rhetoric to Alexander*, which provides practical advice to orators, was likely composed during the period of Aristotle’s tutorship of Alexander, perhaps by Anaximenes, another of Alexander’s tutors. Both *Problems* and *Rhetoric to Alexander* replace the earlier Loeb edition by Hett and Rackham, with texts and translations incorporating the latest scholarship.

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Aristotle: Problems, Volume I: Books 1-19 (Loeb Classical Library) By Aristotle Bibliography

- Rank: #206929 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-14
- Released on: 2011-12-14
- Original language: Ancient Greek
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.50" h x 1.40" w x 4.50" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 624 pages

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Mayhew's new edition and translation are sure to draw more English-speaking readers to this fascinating text, whose present neglect is all the more startling given its former influence on Classical Arabic and Early Modern natural philosophy...Mayhew's new edition is extremely welcome, a huge advance on its predecessor, and the best value edition currently available in any language. (Oliver Thomas *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2012-08-21)

About the Author

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