



The Songs of Aristophanes

By L. P. E. Parker

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Aristophanes' comedies were as much musical as dramatic performances. The scores from these performances are lost, and the only way of recovering a sense of what the Athenian audience experienced is to study the rhythms of Aristophanes' poetry. His lyric verse covers a wide range of styles--from popular song to parody of tragedy. In this book, L.P.E. Parker provides a full text, with scansion, of the surviving plays' lyrics, and an introduction to the different rhythms used by Aristophanes, their origins, and literary associations. Parker emphasizes the role played by lyric meter in dramatic architecture and distinguishes the different levels of musical style. In this way, Parker illustrates meter's centrality in Aristophanes' dramatic art and satire.

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Editorial Review

Review

`A major addition to the specialist literature on the author ... There is an enormous amount of scrupulous, carefully pondered scholarship here, used to highlight both large scale features ... and the rhythmic effects of particular passages ... Parker's work represents a superb achievement; it will be indispensable to all who want to pick the finer threads in the fabric of Aristophanic comedy.' Greece and Rome

`This book testifies to extraordinary scholarly zeal, offering an abundance of detailed analyses, observations and readings of all lyric passages in Aristophanes' complete works ... the book provides a good insight into the metrical techniques employed in the comedies of this period ... By giving the book a clear structure and by offering a comprehensive study of Aristophanes' poetry and to some extent of the entire Attic poetry of the time, Parker has successfully provided us with another commendable basis for research.' Christoph Kugelmeier, Bryn Mawr Classical Review

`The explanatory text is highly readable because of its refreshingly low amount of footnotes. Important quotations and bibliographical references are integrated into the text, giving the impression of a lively discussion ... Parker incorporates her scholarly knowledge into the discussion and evaluates opposing views only where absolutely vital. She offers sensitive observations and readings without ever exceeding the self-imposed limits.' Christoph Kugelmeier, Bryn Mawr Classical Review

From the Back Cover

This book provides a full text, with scansions, of the lyric of the surviving plays, and an introduction to the different rhythms used by Aristophanes, their origins, and literary associations. Dr. Parker pays particular attention to the role played by lyric metre in the structure of the plays and to distinguishing the different levels of metrical style, thus illustrating the integral part metre plays in Aristophanes' dramatic art and satire.

About the Author

L. P. E. Parker is at St Hugh's College, Oxford.

Users Review

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