



A New Aristotle Reader

Aristotle , William David Ross (Translator) , J.L. Ackrill (Editor, Translator)

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In a single volume that will be of service to philosophy students of all levels and to their teachers, this reader provides modern, accurate translations of the texts necessary for a careful study of most aspects of Aristotle's philosophy. In selecting the texts Professor J. L. Ackrill has drawn on his broad experience of teaching graduate classes, and his choice reflects issues of current philosophical interest as well as the perennial themes. Only recent translations which achieve a high level of accuracy have been chosen; the aim is to place the Greekless reader, as nearly as possible, in the position of a reader of Greek. As an aid to study, Professor Ackrill supplies a valuable guide to the key topics covered. The guide gives references to the works or passages contained in the reader, and indication of their interrelations, and current bibliography.

A New Aristotle Reader Details

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pearl says

So far still in "Physics", but reading it makes me feel like I'm swallowing cottonballs. Or reading Gertrude Stein. Holy shit.

Tiffany says

A good smattering of Aristotle's texts and major ideas. Includes all of or major portions of *Physics*, *On the Heavens*, *On the Soul*, *Metaphysics*, *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Politics*, and *Poetics*, among other works.

Wanda Kosakiewics says

I love Aristotle but loathe this translation. His translations are way off. For instance in Aristotle's *Metaphysics* he screws up how art arises. I do not think this translator understands the essence of *techne* and that is why he is a lousy teacher of Aristotle.

Ronald Wise says

A collection of writings by ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. For the most part, an extremely tedious read — some of his recursive explanations reminded me of *Monty Python* skits. But as with reading all ancient materials, I was both comforted and disturbed by how consistent human reasoning has been over the millennia. This book was added to my list after enjoying another of the author's books, *Aristotle the Philosopher*.

Matt says

Aristotle was a prolific writer and has approximately 40 written works credited to him (even more if you include the ones historically attributed to him but disagreed by those who claim themselves some authority). Well over two dozen of these writings fall into discussions regarding either Natural Philosophy or Logic.

It's for that reason I read *A New Aristotle Reader*. The first half of the book is devoted to selected excerpts of some of the major Physics and Logic works. Quite frankly, unless one wishes to read with pen in hand, and chart out the logical progressions presented in *Prior Analytics* and *Posterior Analytics* there probably is little to be gained for the casual reader of his Logic works. Many arguments can be followed tenuously simply by following along, but the real goal of the work seems to dedicate the reader to breaking down arguments into components for logical analysis. Think of it like a classic Greek workbook for the LSAT.

Additionally, the substantial works under the category Natural Philosophy will probably yield little to most

modern readers as well. Aristotle is praised for his contributions to the systemization of scientific thought. But I'm not sure what that leaves for the reader today other than historical trivia. His conclusions on the mechanism of the heavens, dreams, animal reproduction, aging and many other natural phenomena are presented throughout his prolific writings. Of course, in light of what we know today, he's wrong. His taxonomic tendencies were probably unparalleled in the ancient world, but it's somewhat disheartening to read the numerous works relying on theory which lead to such an excessive collection of conclusions disproved by empirical evidence.

It makes one pause when considering how such thinking can lead astray when dealing with unprovables such as ethics, metaphysics and politics.

I abandoned *A New Aristotle Reader* after reading the selections on Logic and Natural Philosophy. Given that more weight is given today to his Metaphysics and Practical Philosophy categories, it seemed more appropriate to read unabridged versions of *Metaphysics*, *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Eudemian Ethics*, *Politics* and *Poetics*. However, the excerpts provided in *A New Aristotle Reader* has given me a taste of Aristotle's efforts in the scientific realm even if I am left without a full appreciation of his contributions.
