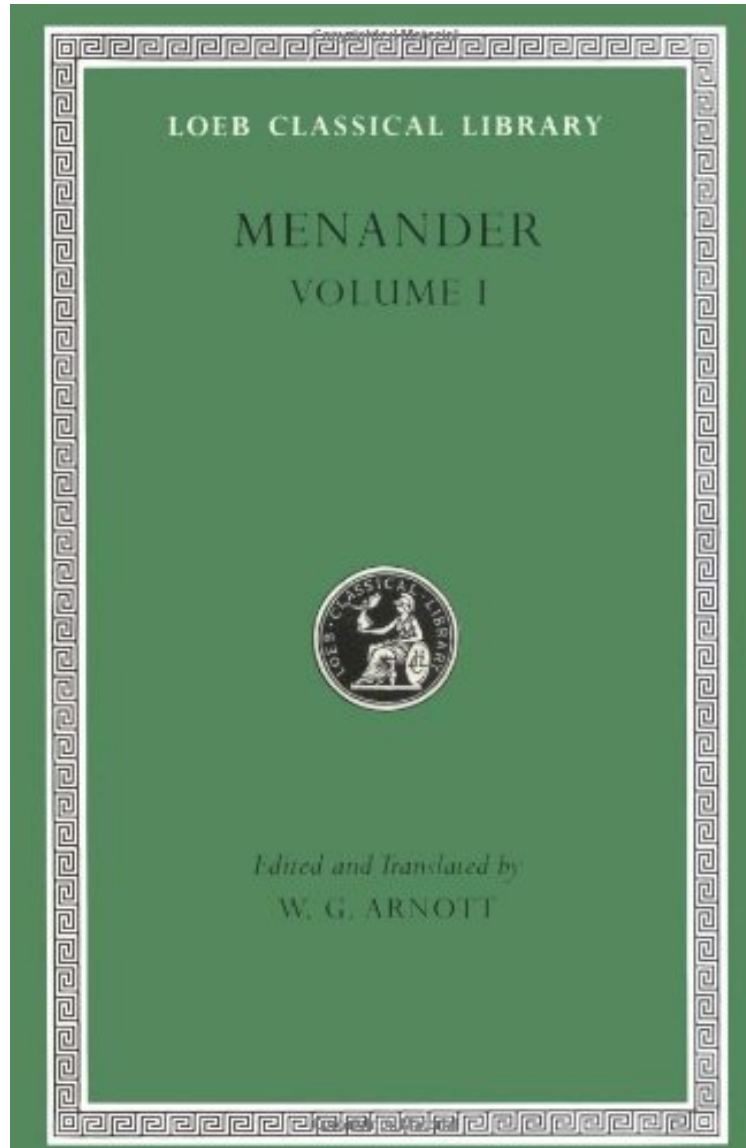


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Menander, Volume 1

Menander

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Menander : Menander, Volume 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Menander, Volume 1:

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Comparing Loeb edition to Oxford edition of Menander's worksBy stephen liemIn this review I will compare the three volume Loeb edition of Menander's works and the Oxford World's Classics edition. ("Menander" v1,v2,v3 Loeb Classical Library, trans: W.G.Arnott// "Menander: The Plays and Fragments" Oxford World's Classics, trans: Maurice Balme).Loeb edition:Loeb series contain both Greek

and English translations. The translation is good. All of Menander's works (with the exception of *Dyskolos*) are incomplete, fragmented, and there are a lot of missing lines. Loeb's approach is to leave the missing lines as they are. Instead Arnott added a note on what the missing lines would be. So from a readability perspective, reading this edition can be very challenging especially for those works that are extremely fragmented. The value of this edition is in the Greek text and the original translation as-is. It will cater better to the purists who want to read the original Greek text. Oxford edition: The translation is equally good. In this edition Balme decided to supply the missing lines with what he thinks should have been there. As a result, it is highly readable and flows very nicely even for those works that are highly fragmented (for example the *Sikyonios*). For those who are purists, this edition may be highly speculative and may disagree with the supplied missing lines. But, for the rest of us who simply want to enjoy Menander's works, this edition is preferable to the Loeb edition.

Menander, the dominant figure in New Comedy, wrote over 100 plays. By the Middle Ages they had all been lost. Happily papyrus finds in Egypt during the past century have recovered one complete play, substantial portions of six others, and smaller but still interesting fragments. Menander was highly regarded in antiquity and his plots, set in Greece, were adapted for the Roman world by Plautus and Terence. Geoffrey Arnott's new Loeb edition is in three volumes. Volume I contains six plays, including the only complete one extant, *Dyskolos* (*The Peevish Fellow*), which won first prize in Athens in 317 BCE, and *Dis Expaton* (*Twice a Swindler*), the original of Plautus' *Two Bacchises*. Volume II contains the surviving portions of ten Menander plays. Among these are the recently published fragments of *Misoumenos* ("The Man She Hated"), which sympathetically presents the flawed relationship of a soldier and a captive girl; and the surviving half of *Perikeiromene* ("The Girl with Her Hair Cut Short"), a comedy of mistaken identity and lovers' quarrel. Volume III begins with *Samia* (*The Woman from Samos*), which has come down to us nearly complete. Here too are the very substantial extant portions of *Sikyonioides* (*The Sicyonians*) and *Phasma* (*The Apparition*) as well as *Synaristosai* (*Women Lunching Together*), on which Plautus's *Cistellaria* was based. Arnott's edition of the great Hellenistic playwright has been garnering wide praise for making these fragmentary texts more accessible, elucidating their dramatic movement.

The new Loeb Menander...has received a warm welcome...It is a work of solid and meticulous scholarship, the mature production of an acknowledged authority on Greek Comedy. (Classical)Language NotesText: English, Greek (translation) Original Language: GreekAbout the AuthorW. G. Arnott is Emeritus Professor of Greek, University of Leeds, and a Fellow of the British Academy.