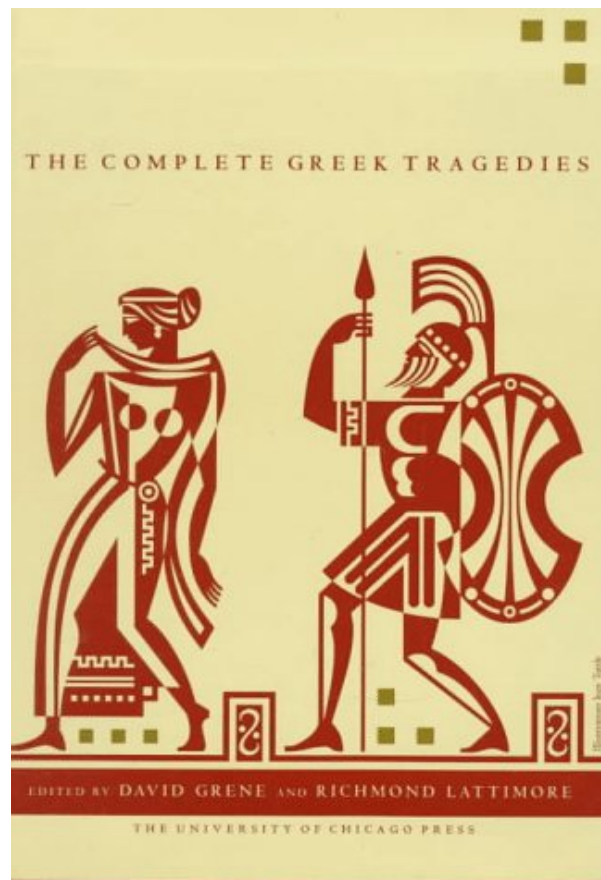
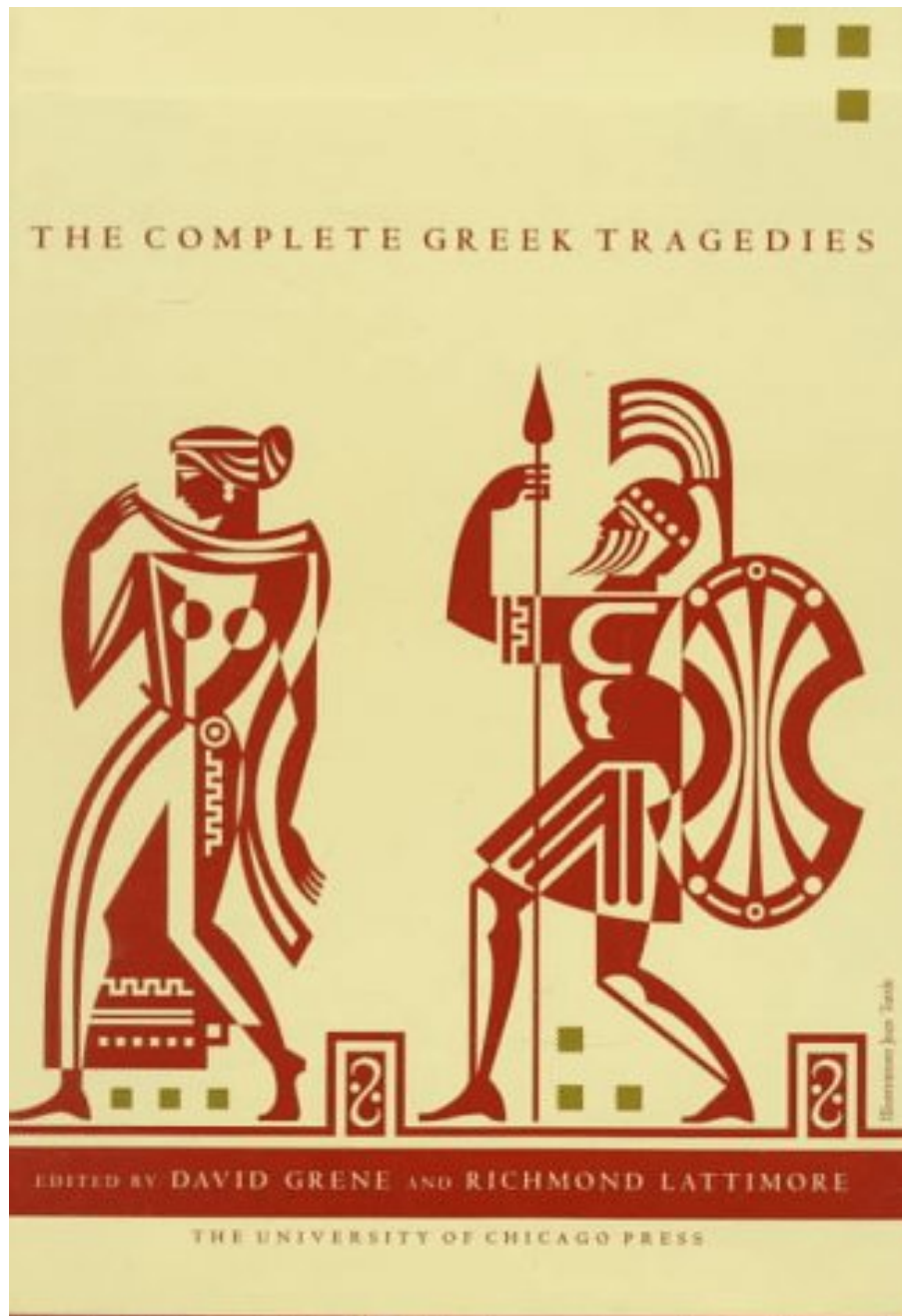


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Includes "Oedipus the King", "Oedipus at Colonus" and "Antigone".

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- 2099 pages

Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

Important in History, Literature and Anthropology

By Dave (D.J.) Butler

Physically, this is a nice book. It's volume one of a four volume collection, *The Complete Greek Tragedies* (volume two is Sophocles and volumes three and four are Euripides), and all four volumes are lovely hardcovers, printed on nice paper, with handsome Greekish designs on the front and interspersed throughout. Maybe not so attractive as to go on your mantel, but their prominence in your library will not be an embarrassment.

The contents are lovely to match. The translations (by Lattimore, Grene and Bernadete) are readable and flowing. The book has almost no footnotes (only Grene's translations of "Seven Against Thebes" and "Prometheus Bound" have any at all, and there they are sparse), but each play (or collection of plays, in the case of the Oresteia) is introduced by a brief explanatory essay. If you know nothing about the Greeks or Greek tragedy, these essays will not be enough to get you through (and you should check out Rose's *Handbook of Greek Literature*), but if you have a little background information already, the essays are helpful (especially the introductory essay to the Oresteia, which is the most fulsome).

Now, about the plays themselves. Of course, you have to read them. This is, effectively, the beginning of Western drama, and the combination of familiar and alien elements is fascinating. In some ways, Aeschylus's plays are like modern musicals, or like opera, with very few characters, a big role played by a chorus, and lots of long songs. Action happens all off-stage and is described by the characters.

In addition to being important as part of the history of drama, the plays are important primary sources of Greek mythology. In particular, the Oresteia is simply the most complete telling of the murder of Agammemnon and his children's revenge. In addition, "Prometheus Bound" is an important source for understanding the tale of the West's most famous fire-thief, and "Seven Against Thebes" gives detail and perspective about the tragedy of Oedipus not contained in Sophocles's retelling.

Finally, being the most ancient of the tragedians, Aeschylus gives narrative details that reflect a very ancient Greek culture, including, for instance, his ideas about justice and family and several descriptions of rites of aversion. Aeschylus is important -- read him.

19 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

Lattimores Masterpiece of translation of Aeschylus

By Ernest Boehm

This edition is the materworks of two great men Aeschylus and Richmond Lattimore. I have read a dozen of translations of Aeschylus and this has no rival. As well the whole series edited by Green and Lattimore are the best compelation of all the Greek tragedy to date. Lattimore understand the darkness and the fatilism of greek tragedy. The verse translation is flowing and rythmic as the greek is. The translation is loose and not exacting like Lattimores Illiad but he captures the theme better than a too literal translation would allow.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

The only way to get all four updated hardcover volumes

By P. Sean Bramble

If you are interested in owning all four volumes, be warned that Chicago UP at present does not seem interested in releasing Vol. 4 separately. Vols. 1 (Aeschylus), 2 (Sophocles), and 3 (Euripides part I) are available individually in new, hardcover versions -- but good luck tracking down a new, 1992 edition of Vol. 4 (Euripides part II)! If there were only minor Euripidean works (an oxymoron, I know) in part II that might not be a problem, but Vol. 4 includes such plays as "Electra," "Orestes," and "The Bacchae." I'm not sure it's worthwhile to buy the first three volumes separately and then hunt around for the remaining plays in a different format (note the sad voice of experience here.) I wrote Chicago UP inquiring as to whether Vol. 4 by itself might be making an appearance soon; I am still waiting after two years for an answer ...

See all 11 customer reviews...

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