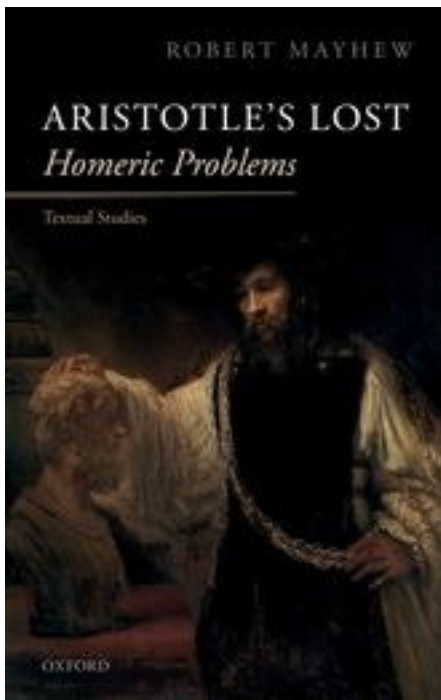


Aristotle's Lost Homeric Problems



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This volume takes as its focus an oft-neglected work of ancient philosophy: Aristotle's lost Homeric Problems. The evidence for this lost work consists mostly of 'fragments' surviving in the Homeric scholia - comments in the margins of the medieval manuscripts of the Homeric epics, mostly coming from lost commentaries on these epics - though the series of studies presented here puts forward a persuasive case that other sources have been overlooked.

These studies focus on various aspects of the Homeric Problems and are grouped into three parts. The first deals with preliminary issues: the relationship of this lost work to the Homeric scholarship that came before it, and to Aristotle's comments on Homeric

scholarship in his extant Poetics; the evidence concerning the possible titles of this work; and a neglected early edition of the fragments. Following on from this, the second part attempts to expand our knowledge of the Homeric Problems through an examination in context of quotations from (or allusions to) Homer in Aristotle's extant works, and specifically in the History of Animals, the Rhetoric, and Poetics 21, while Part Three consists of four studies on select (and in most cases disregarded) fragments. Collectively the chapters support the conclusion that Aristotle in the Homeric Problems aimed to defend Homer against his critics, but not slavishly and without employing allegorical interpretation; within the context of a renewed interest in Aristotle's lost works, the volume as a whole brings much needed illumination to a virtually unknown ancient work involving not one but two giants of the classical world.

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Robert Mayhew is Professor of Philosophy at Seton Hall University, New Jersey. He specializes in ancient Greek philosophy and his most recent publications in the field include the books Theophrastus of Eresus: On Winds (Brill, 2018), Prodicus the Sophist: Texts, Translations, and Commentary (Oxford University Press, 2011), and Aristotle: Problems (two volumes; Harvard University Press, 2011), as well as a number of essays on Aristotelian philosophy and science published over the past couple of years in the following journals: Classical Quarterly; Eikasmos; Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies; Harvard Studies in Classical Philology; Hermes; Hyperboreus; Journal of Hellenic Studies; Philologus; and Rheinisches Museum für Philologie. He also edited and contributed to The Aristotelian Problemata Physica: Philosophical and Scientific Investigations (Brill, 2015).

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