Aristophanes has long been admired for his brilliant satire of the social, intellectual, and political life of Athens at its height. The new Loeb Classical Library edition of his plays—with a suitably romping translation facing a freshly edited Greek text—is now brought to completion with this fourth volume. Frogs was produced in 405 B.C., shortly after the deaths of Sophocles and Euripides. Dionysus, on a journey to the underworld to retrieve Euripides, is recruited to judge a contest between the traditional Aeschylus and the modern Euripides, a contest that yields both comedy and insight on ancient literary taste. In Assemblywomen Athenian women plot to save Athens from male misgovernance. They institute a new social order in which all inequalities based on wealth, age, and beauty are eliminated—with raucously comical results. The gentle humor and straightforward morality of Wealth made it the most popular of Aristophanes' plays from classical times to the Renaissance. Here the god Wealth, cured of his blindness, is newly able to distinguish good people from bad.

My Personal Review:
This book, the fourth in Dr. Henderson's fine series of parallel translations, is perhaps the best of the series, containing as it does the comic masterpiece "Frogs," in my opinion the finest of Aristophanes' works. Henderson's translations are crisp, clear, and hilarious, and his extensive use of vulgarity is always textually and philologically sound (as a few comparisons of Liddell-Scott and the OED will surely reveal). In short, it is the definitive edition of Aristophanes' works, and the only translation accurate enough to be worth having on your bookshelf (and believe me, I've read quite a few).
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