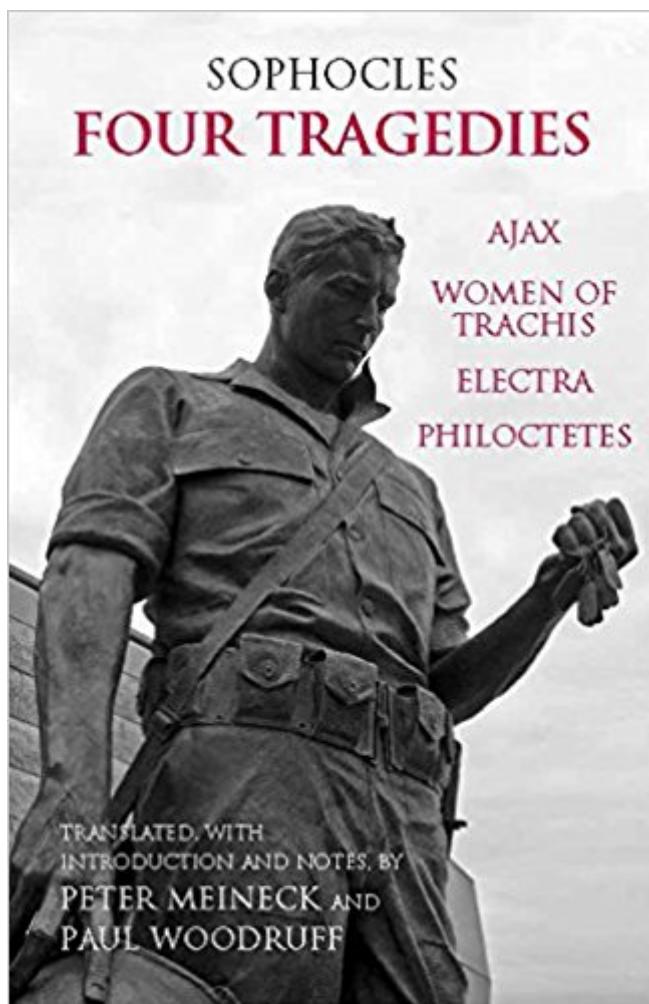


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# Four Tragedies: Ajax, Women Of Trachis, Electra, Philoctetes



## Synopsis

Meineck and Woodruff's new annotated translations of Sophocles' Ajax, Women of Trachis, Electra, and Philoctetes combine the same standards of accuracy, concision, clarity, and powerful speech that have so often made their Theban Plays a source of epiphany in the classroom and of understanding in the theatre. Woodruff's Introduction offers a brisk and stimulating discussion of central themes in Sophoclean drama, the life of the playwright, staging issues, and each of the four featured plays.

## Book Information

Paperback: 312 pages

Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. (September 15, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0872207633

ISBN-13: 978-0872207639

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #56,614 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Ancient & Medieval Literature > Greek #62 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Ancient & Classical #106 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > American Literature

## Customer Reviews

In these new translations Meineck and Woodruff have struck a near-ideal balance between accuracy and readability, formality and colloquialism. Their versions are simply a pleasure to read, conveying with remarkable vividness the powerful characterizations and poetic variety of the originals. The addition of succinct but illuminating notes makes this an exemplary volume for anyone interested in Sophocles' dramatic art. --Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Department of Classics, Wesleyan University [T]his sequel to the same pair's well-received translation of the Theban plays hits an appropriate mean . . . a text that I could happily adopt for teaching. --Malcolm Heath in *Greece and Rome*

Meineck and Woodruff's new annotated translations of Sophocles' Ajax, Women of Trachis, Electra, and Philoctetes combine the same standards of accuracy, concision, clarity, and powerful speech that have so often made their Theban Plays a source of epiphany in the classroom and of

understanding in the theatre. Woodruff's Introduction offers a brisk and stimulating discussion of central themes in Sophoclean drama, the life of the playwright, staging issues, and each of the four featured plays. "In these new translations Meineck and Woodruff have struck a near-ideal balance between accuracy and readability, formality and colloquialism. Their versions are simply a pleasure to read, conveying with remarkable vividness the powerful characterizations and poetic variety of the originals. The addition of succinct but illuminating notes makes this an exemplary volume for anyone interested in Sophocles' dramatic art." --Andrew Szegedy-Maszak, Department of Classics, Wesleyan University Critical Acclaim for the Meineck and Woodruff Theban Plays: "This edition of the Theban Plays is bound to excite . . . The translations and the quality and directness of Woodruff's discussions are enough to ensure that." --James Robson, The Joint Association of Classical Teachers Review "Presents a readable, clear translation with the assistance students will need to understand these plays and the society that produced them. A worthy addition to Hackett's growing series of translations of classical literature in accessible editions." --Anne Mahoney, The New England Classical Journal "[Meineck and Woodruff] succeed admirably, and I would not hesitate to teach from or to direct from these translations." --Amy R. Cohen, The Bryn Mawr Classical Review "These eminently readable translations have real potential for teaching." --Eleanor OKell, The Classical Review Peter Meineck is Artistic Director of the Aquila Theatre Company and Clinical Assistant Professor of Classics and Ancient Studies, New York University. Paul Woodruff is Professor of Philosophy and Classics, University of Texas at Austin.

You have to be willing to read and re-read these four plays to get a full understanding as to what is going on in them. You also have to get the ORESTIA to get the back story of ELECTRA. Greek drama is not always an 'easy' read, but it's definitely a good read!!

I was mistaken in ordering the English version without the original Greek text. However, reading the text in translation now, I could recommend it as reflective, sensible translation with a certain weight. But it is not my idea of "Ajax". Ajax is a mad, tragic cry for help. The main character is going through a war trauma. The beauty of some lines should be so painful, and not resembling a discussion or argument in court. Great series of texts though.

There are not too many good translations of Sophocles's other 4 miscellaneous plays. The 2 other main versions are by Lattimore, and by Watling. I find the Lattimore too stiff and archaic, and the Watling stuffy and congested :(This one translated by great stage director Peter Meineck (on the

excellent Hackett label) re-defines the art of translation in this edition! He blows the many other translations out of the water by his lucid, powerful, believable and beautiful version. I love his lines, the words he chooses, and the way he puts them all together. I actually can see it happening before me, whereas in other versions, it's more like history and a "good read". Perfect for the acting student, stage director and lover of ancient wisdom!

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