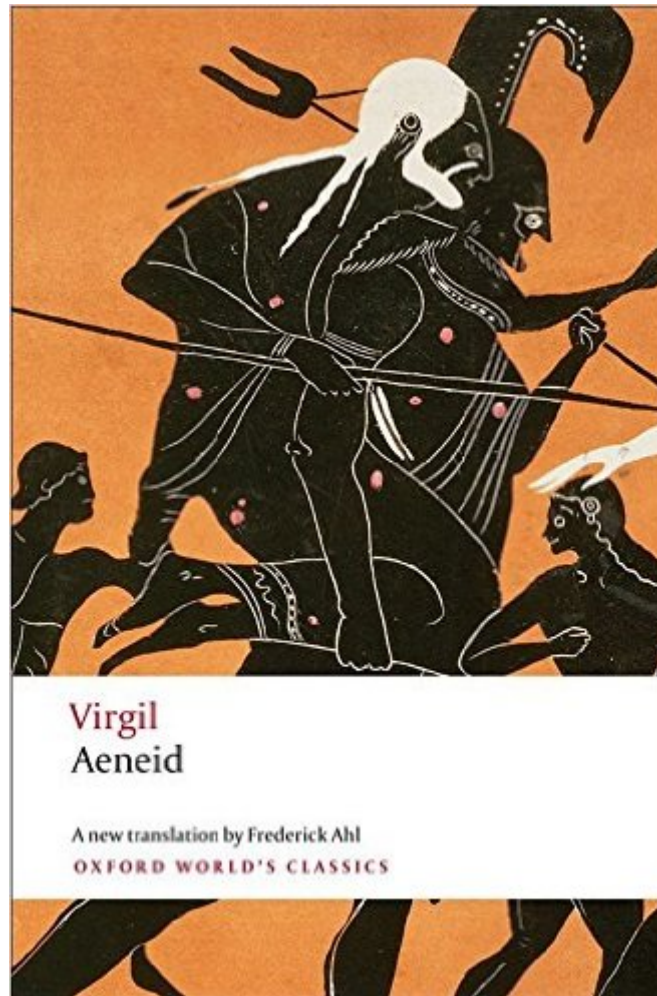


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Aeneid (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

Frederick Ahl's new translation captures the excitement, poetic energy, and intellectual force of the original in a way that has never been done before. Ahl has used a version of Virgil's ancient hexameter, a swift-moving six-beat line varying between twelve and seventeen syllables, to reproduce the original poetry in a thrillingly accurate and engaging style. This is an Aeneid that the first-time reader can grasp and enjoy, and whose rendition of Virgil's subtleties of thought and language will enthrall those already familiar with the epic. Unlike most translators, Ahl has chosen to retain Virgil's word-play, the puns and anagrams and other instances of the poet's ebullient wit. "Like Shakespeare and the Greek tragedians, Virgil grasped that humor and earnestness are not mutually exclusive in art any more than they are in life. One should read the Aeneid not in solemn homage, but for enjoyment." Enhanced by Elaine Fantham's Introduction, Ahl's comprehensive notes and an invaluable indexed glossary, this lively new translation brings readers closer to the original and the myriad enjoyments to be found there. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

Ahl's translation of the Aeneid into English blank verse is rather unique in his mostly successful attempt to match the meter of the original Latin. Like much poetry however, it doesn't look good on the Kindle screen. The formatting is messed up and lines are improperly broken up no matter the font size. This edition does look super on the Kindle for iPad however. I wouldn't perhaps suggest this as a first verse Aeneid you read (try Mandelbaum's translation ... Which does look just fine on the Kindle), but it's worth picking up and reading along with a version that reads more like English verse. It's also close enough to the Latin that it can serve as a bit of a crib sheet too.

Having been a student of Latin many years ago, though I can hardly have been called even a modest scholar, I appreciate the sound and wordplay that echo's the original Latin and preserves its subtle humor and pathos.

My grandson has become enamoured of all things Greek and Roman and asked for this book as a present for his birthday. I read it before I sent it and found the poetry amazingly beautiful. It is a great translation.

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