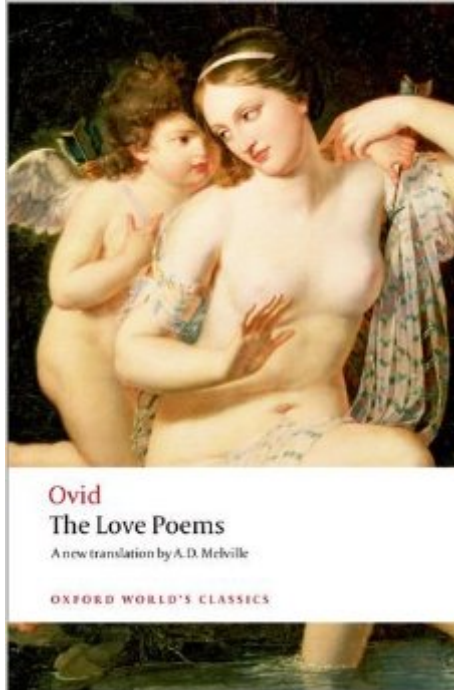


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The Love Poems (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

Alan Melville's accomplished translations match the sophisticated elegance of Ovid's Latin. Their witty modern idiom is highly entertaining. In this volume he has included the brilliant version of the Art of Love by Moore, published more than fifty years ago and still unequalled; the small revisions he has made will enhance the reader's admiration for Moore's achievement. 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.

Book Information

Series: Oxford World's Classics

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (July 15, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199540330

ISBN-13: 978-0199540334

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.7 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #438,778 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #191 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Gothic & Romance](#) #226 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Love Poems](#) #300 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Shakespeare > Literary Criticism](#)

Customer Reviews

Melville's translation fails for one specific reason: the Latin text is not translated faithfully, and he sacrifices an accurate representation for producing rhyming English verse. I should remind potential readers that Latin poets did not produce rhyming poetry, and the tendency for English-speaking scholars to do this is a rather out-dated, 19th century (and earlier) practice. Look to Peter Green's Penguin translation, which is a much better translation of these excellent poems.

The poetry here is racy, beautiful, funny, and provocative. The translations are well done (who am I

to judge?), preserving the original intent and meaning, but the notes tend a little on the prudish side. While the notes are invaluable for a serious student (me), and especially since some translations of Ovid's Amores have no notes, this editor leaves out some pertinent information about Caesar Augustus, and family, who ruled at the time of publication, and whom Ovid addresses occasionally in his works. Also, the translator admittedly prefers the Metamorphoses, seemingly because it is gentler and more mature, so I am left wondering whether this colored his translation of the Amores--it's racy, but is it as racy as the original?

Ovid in some ways the most important of the ancient Roman poets, as author of The Metamorphosis, the compendium of ancient myths well told and enjoyably readable. This is his volumes of "love" and "romance guidance" poems brought together and make excellent and enjoyable reading.

Wonderful and came in perfect time for the class.

I see it as this: everyone should have some writers or books to constantly go back to, and re-read as time goes on, this Dryden translation of Ovid is such a masterpiece that I go back to it as much as I can.

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