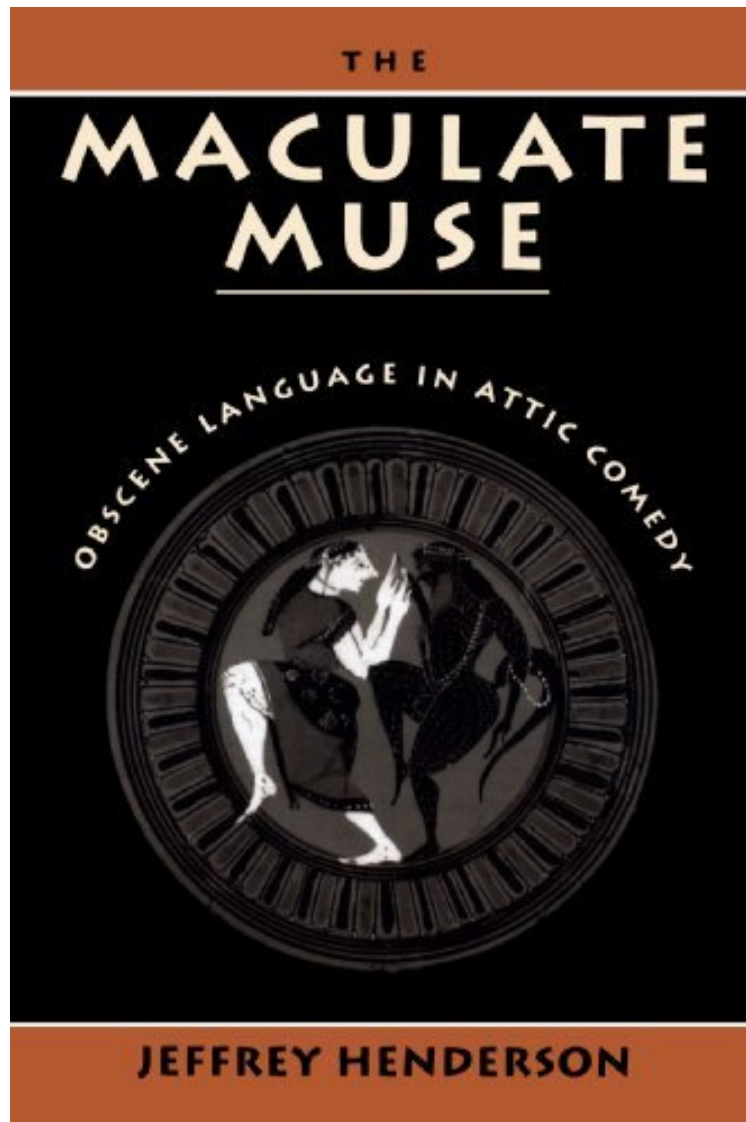


The Maculate Muse: Obscene Language in Attic Comedy

Jeffrey Henderson

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Jeffrey Henderson : The Maculate Muse: Obscene Language in Attic Comedy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Maculate Muse: Obscene Language in Attic Comedy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The definitive book on the subject! A great read. By Matthew Callahan As a Classical studies major, this book has been absolutely delightful. Henderson's translations are excellent and for anyone who wants to get more details into slang terminology of Ancient Greece, whether for research purposes or simply for the additional amusement when reading ancient works, this is a must have. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bernd Timmermann 0.5 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating content, but Kindle can't handle Unicode. By Paul Anderson The content of this book is wonderful, providing a thorough discussion of vulgarity in ancient Greece. Also has an excellent discussion of why exactly we use profanity. However, being a book on ancient Greek language necessitates having contents that are in ancient Greek. The kindle has considerable difficulty handling this. Highlights don't work right, words are broken in half by random spaces. The price is much too high for a such poor quality transcription.

The pervasive and unrestrained use of obscenity has long been acknowledged as a major feature of fifth-century Attic Comedy; no other Western art form relies so heavily on the sexual and scatological dimensions of language. This acclaimed book, now in a new edition, offers both a comprehensive discussion of the dynamics of Greek obscenity and a detailed commentary on the terminology itself. After contrasting the peculiar characteristics of the Greek notion of obscenity to modern-day ideas, Henderson discusses obscenity's role in the development of Attic Comedy, its historical origins, varieties, and dramatic function. His analysis of obscene terminology sheds new light on Greek culture, and his discussion of Greek homosexuality offers a refreshing corrective to the idealized Platonic view. He also looks in detail at the part obscenity plays in each of Aristophanes' eleven surviving plays. The latter part of the book identifies all the obscene terminology found in the extant examples of Attic Comedy, both complete plays and fragments. Although these terminological entries are arranged in numbered paragraphs resembling a glossary, they can also be read as independent essays on the various aspects of comic obscenity. Terms are explained as they occur in each individual context and in relation to typologically similar terminology. With newly corrected and updated philological material, this second edition of *Maculate Muse* will serve as an invaluable reference work for the study of Greek drama.

Praise for the First Edition: "An important, sound, scholarly contribution to our understanding of obscenity not only in Athenian culture generally, but especially as it is integral to the themes of ancient comic plays....This study breaks new ground and will have wide appeal."--Library Journal "For the first time in the history of scholarship on Greek Old Comedy in general and on Aristophanes in particular we have in Henderson's [book] a comprehensive study of the obscenity which is so prominent a feature of Old Comedy, and his discussions will be welcomed by all interested in this aspect of it....A major contribution."--The Classical Journal "This thorough collection will be of great use to students of Aristophanes."--Times Literary Supplement "A most valuable instrument of study, for which we must be heartily grateful."--Classical Philology About the Author Jeffrey Henderson is at University of Southern California.