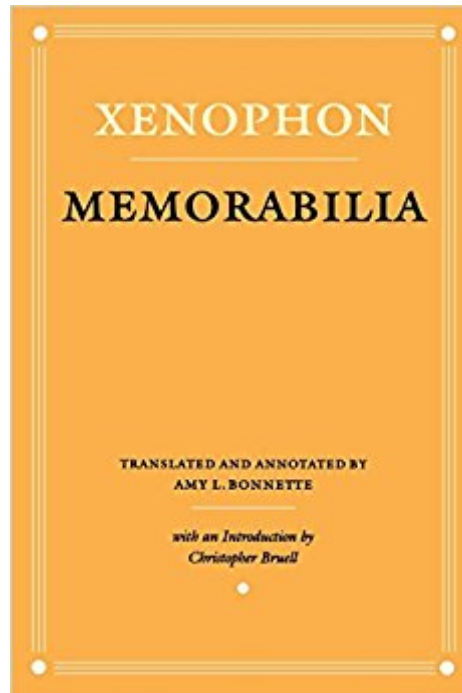




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Memorabilia (Agora Editions)



Synopsis

An essential text for understanding Socrates, Xenophon's *Memorabilia* is the compelling tribute of an affectionate student to his teacher, providing a rare firsthand account of Socrates' life and philosophy. The *Memorabilia* is invaluable both as a work of philosophy in its own right and as a complement to the study of Plato's dialogues. The longest of Xenophon's four Socratic works, it is particularly revealing about the differences between Socrates and his philosophical predecessors. Far more obviously than Plato in the dialogues, Xenophon calls attention in the *Memorabilia* to his own relationship with Socrates. A colorful and fully engaged writer, Xenophon aims above all to convince his readers of the greatness of Socrates' thought and the disgracefulness of his conviction on a capital charge. In thirty-nine chapters, Xenophon presents Socrates as an ordinary person and as a great benefactor to those associated with him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This new translation of Xenophon's *Memorabilia* . . . provides something that all the other translations do not: it is a current and faithful English translation supplemented by introductory text and extensive notes which serves well its intended audience—primarily scholars outside of the field of classical studies who possess little to no Greek. . . . This edition will certainly meet the needs of all scholars and students having an interest in Socrates, . . . in political science, . . . history, law, and philosophy. . . . If, as is implicit in the text, the intention of Bonnette is to make Xenophon's

Memorabilia more accessible to a larger audience, then she certainly has succeeded." — Bryn Mawr Classical Review

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I will not comment on the worth of Xenophon's Memorabilia itself. The convention for review of thoroughly canonical classical texts should be to comment on the edition. As with all Agora Editions it has a high quality gummed binding, quality paper, and ample margins. This is a good translation. I have checked it in parts against the Greek and have found it honest and accurate, as one should expect from a Straussian translation and from the Agora Editions. Unfortunately, Amy Bonnette chose to use endnotes, and there are a lot of them. There are more than a few too many notes like "'Noble' (kalos) is elsewhere translated as 'beautiful,'" and they are repeated often. At some point one should either expect that the reader is not attentive to the Greek, or is already aware that the word often translated as 'knowledge' could also be translated as 'science.' Christopher Bruell's introduction does not attempt to put forward a comprehensive account of the Memorabilia. Instead, he first tries to give some indication of Xenophon's intention by contrasting Xenophon's presentation of Socrates with Plato's. He then briefly summarizes the Memorabilia by section. I found it very helpful to refer back to as I proceeded through. The book does not contain an interpretive essay; for that, readers should consult Leo Strauss's *Xenophon's Socrates*.

I opted for a new edition mostly on account of needing it as soon as possible. When it came the cover and outside of the pages were beat up and stained with what I assume was ink. At least it's readable.

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