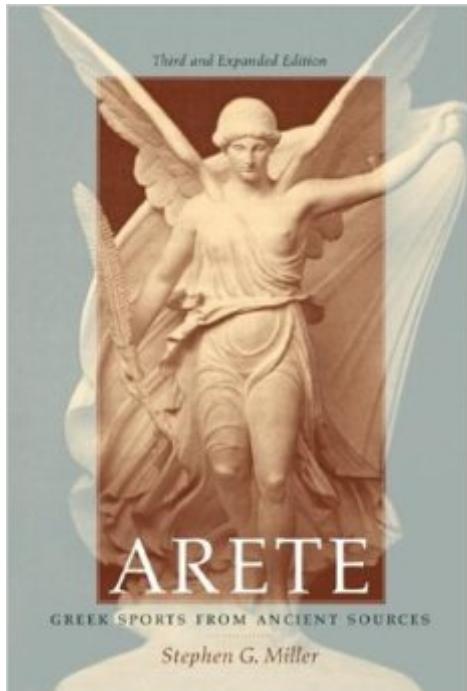


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Arete: Greek Sports From Ancient Sources



Synopsis

From the informal games of Homer's time to the highly organized contests of the Roman world, Miller has compiled a trove of ancient sources: Plutarch on boxing, Aristotle on the pentathlon, Philostratos on the buying and selling of victories, Vitruvius on literary competitions, and Xenophon on female body building. *Arete* offers readers an absorbing lesson in the culture of Greek athletics from the greatest of teachers, the ancients themselves, and demonstrates that the concepts of virtue, skill, pride, valor, and nobility embedded in the word *arete* are only part of the story from antiquity.

Book Information

Paperback: 248 pages

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Customer Reviews

This collection of excerpts from ancient sources concerning athletes, athletic contests, skills, prizes, and the athletic "mystique" is excellent. For it gives a generous overview from different sources, from different ancient venues, and from different time periods. The reader gains a growing sense of the awe and reverence in which skilled as well as beautiful athletes were held, both by spectators at the events as well as through the fame which they gained that was passed down in inscriptions, statues, poetry, and the memories of those who heard of their skills and victories even in distant places. The excerpts are not excessively long, but they are highly interesting and instructive. The topics covered by chapters are: the Earliest Days of Greek Athletics/Nudity and Equipment/ The Events at a Competition(Running, Wrestling, Boxing, Pankration, Pentathlon, Equestrian, Music, Poetry and Prose Composition, Acting, Painting)/ Organization of a Panhellenic Festival/ Local Festivals/ Role of the Games in Society/ Women in Athletics/ Athletes and Heroes/ Ball Playing/ Gymnasion, Athletics,

and Education/ Spread of Greek Athletics in the Hellenistic Period/ Greek Athletics in the Roman Period/ Amateurism and Professionalism/ Nationalism and Internationalism/ Our Ideal and the Reality. As the author, Stephen Miller, explains in the "Introduction": "A definition of -arete- would include virtue, skill, prowess, pride, excellence, valor, and nobility, but these words, whether taken individually or collectively, do not [completely] fulfill the meaning of -arete-." *** "...

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