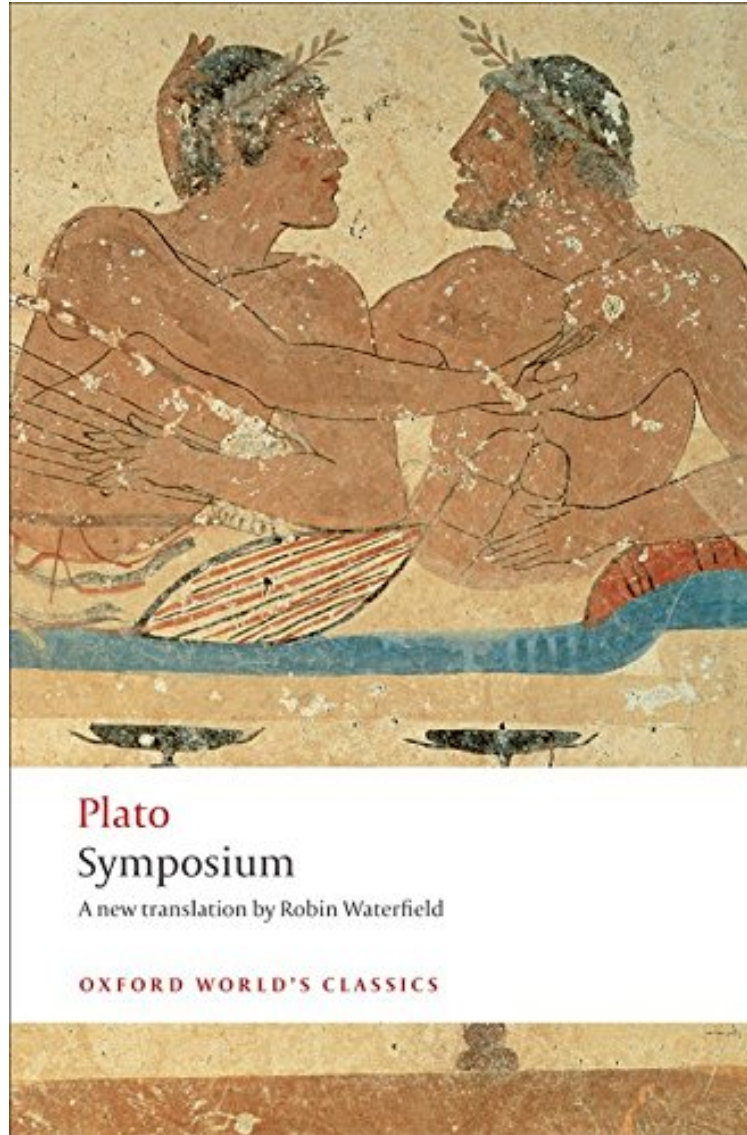


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Plato : Symposium (Oxford World's Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Symposium (Oxford World's Classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Kindle edition with live footnotes, navigable chaptersBy TCAAll too often academic editions of classic works are dreadful on the Kindle, with poor proofreading and worse navigation. But Hackett has gotten it right, and delivered an excellent edition in this reading format. Footnotes are live links, so you can easily navigate from text to notes and back again without losing the flow of your reading. On the

Kindle touch you can use swipe gestures to jump easily between chapters, which is extremely handy both in reading and in the classroom. It's frustrating that in early 2012 these qualities should be so rare as to be worthy of comment, but if you've ever had to deal with a bad Kindle edition of a classic -- and even otherwise excellent publishers seem to feel they can get away with this nonsense -- then you'll know that high standards for etexts are not something you can count on. Where they exist, they deserve praise, garlands, chocolate -- and oh yes (in my opinion), money. Hackett's priced the text at \$3.45, which is considerably cheaper than the paperback. Given the high quality of the etext, this edition gives value for the money. It provides a better experience for new readers and students than you could get in the Project Gutenberg version, which uses the Jowett translation, I believe. In this edition you get: a text impeccably formatted for the Kindle; an introduction, bibliography, and notes that are informative but not overly obtrusive; and a very good translation that will be more accessible than many of the alternatives to readers who are new to the book. The translation is lively, readable, and fun. Its idiomatic English allows readers to appreciate sudden shifts between formal and informal language, as when Alcibiades, dangerously snarky even when smashed out of his mind, greets a more pedantic guest like this: "O Eryximachus, best possible son of the best possible, most temperate father: Hi!" As for what the Symposium is actually about -- I will leave that to the many excellent and informative reviewers who preceded me. I'm writing under the assumption that you navigated to this page because you've heard of the Symposium elsewhere, and you are trying to decide which edition to buy, whether for school or for your own pleasure. If you have never read the book, I promise you that you are in for a treat. This is one of the most delightful discussions of the nature of love that human beings have ever produced, anywhere. If you've ever been in love and felt something bigger was at stake in this feeling than simple lust, then this is the book for you to read. It will offer you five (at least) different perspectives on *why* so many people believe that love is not just a feeling for another person (though of course it is that) but a way of understanding the world and our place in it. Read the darn thing, if not in this edition than in some other. You won't regret it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 3 stars
By Pamela Mapp
This classic piece is about the base attractions of mankind. It was obviously written in a time when such discussion blurred the lines between morality and reality. A very interesting look into mankind at that point in history and human society development.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Imperative reading!
By pamporos
To read, and read again throughout life at any stage - this book is an imperative!

In his celebrated masterpiece, *Symposium*, Plato imagines a high-society dinner-party in Athens in 416 BC. The guests--including the comic poet Aristophanes and Plato's mentor Socrates--each deliver a short speech in praise of love. The sequence of dazzling speeches culminates in Socrates' famous account of the views of Diotima, a prophetess who taught him that love is our means of trying to attain goodness, and a brilliant sketch of Socrates himself by a drunken Alcibiades, the most popular and notorious Athenian of the time. Engaging the reader on every page, this new translation conveys the power, humor, and pathos of Plato's creation and is complemented by full explanatory notes and an illuminating introduction.

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'In his lucid introduction Waterfield highlights the artistry and subtleties which might elude non-classicists. He emphasises that Plato's *Symposium* is fun.'

Sophia Sackville-West, London Evening Standard

About the Author
Robin Waterfield is a well-known writer, translator, and editor, much praised for his translations of Plato which include *Philebus* (1982), *Theaetetus* (1987), *Early Socratic Dialogues* (1987), and *the Republic* (1993). He currently works as a consultant editor for Collins-Harvill.