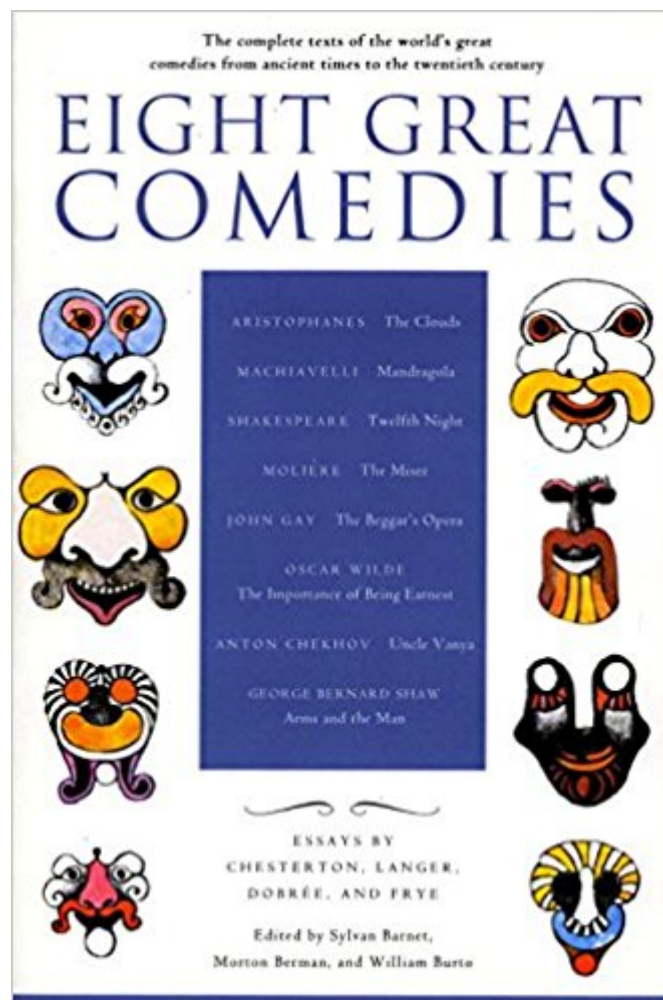


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# Eight Great Comedies: The Complete Texts Of The World's Great Comedies From Ancient Times To The Twentieth Century



## Synopsis

"A remarkably rich and stimulating volume...A unique blending of emotional and intellectual experience." — Los Angeles Times  
Here in one volume are the complete texts of eight of the world's greatest plays, masterful examples of the comic view of life in drama. This outstanding treasury of great reading includes the bawdy humor of Machiavelli's *Mandragola*; the poignant, searching wit of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*; the ironic social comment of Shaw's *Arms and the Man*; and five other influential works, including a new translation of Molière's satire *The Miser*, which the editors have prepared especially for this book. Accompanied by provocative essays that define and explore the spirit, structure, and meaning of comedy, this unique volume is an ideal companion to the editors' *Eight Great Tragedies*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Sylvan Barnet wrote numerous texts analyzing the works of Shakespeare as well as the writing craft. He was the general editor for Signet Classics Shakespeare as well as professor emeritus at Tufts University. He died in 2016. Morton Berman is professor emeritus of English at Boston University. William Burto served as the chair of the Department of English at Lowell State College, which became University of Massachusetts-Lowell. He wrote several texts focusing on the poetry of Shakespeare. He died in 2013.

The printing of this book is cheap as it gets. The thickness in ink will be unapologetically bold on the left page, standard on the right, and often times it causes the ink to be visible on the opposite side of the page. It's honestly just way too difficult to read. The footnotes also leave plenty to be desired as well. Maybe I'm just spoiled by Norton, but I found a lot of the notes to be sparse and sometimes inaccurate.

If you love classic comedies, this is the book to have. It contains the wonderful work of some of the greatest comedies of ancient times to the twentieth century. The book starts with Aristophanes's "The clouds," to Machiavelli's "Mandragola," Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," Moliere's "The Miser," John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera," to Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", Anton Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," and ends with George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man." This book is a pleasure to read and a treasure to keep.

I was looking for material for Vermont's high school one act festival, and this collection reminded me of some classic texts I'd long forgotten. All of the great elements of comedy are contained in these works. A wonderful read.

I wish these comedies (at least the 1st) were put on mass media. They would make great comedies; too bad for political correctness though. I doubt they will ever make it.

I bought Eight Great Comedies to replace a water-damaged edition that was at least 45 years old. It has remained in print for all these years for eight very good reasons.

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