

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-17228-8 - Plato's Meno
Edited by R. S. Bluck
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PLATO'S
MENO

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-17228-8 - Plato's Meno
Edited by R. S. Bluck
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PLATO'S
MENO

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION
AND COMMENTARY

BY

R. S. BLUCK

M.A., PH.D.

SENIOR LECTURER IN GREEK IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1961

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-17228-8 - Plato's Meno
Edited by R. S. Bluck
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521172288

© Cambridge University Press 1961

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1961
First paperback edition 2010

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-05961-9 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-17228-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in
this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,
or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> vii
INTRODUCTION	I
A The Argument of the <i>Meno</i>	I
(i) Definitions of Virtue, <i>p.</i> 4	
(ii) The Theory of Recollection, <i>p.</i> 8	
(iii) The Hypothesis that Virtue is Knowledge, <i>p.</i> 17	
(iv) The Absence of Teachers of Virtue and its Bearing on the Conclusion, <i>p.</i> 19	
(v) The Arguments for the Absence of Teachers of Virtue, <i>p.</i> 25	
(vi) True Opinion, Knowledge, and Divine Dispensation, <i>p.</i> 30	
(vii) The Unity of the Dialogue, <i>p.</i> 43	
B 'Recollection' in other dialogues	47
C Transmigration and 'Recollection' before Plato	61
D The Hypothetical Method	75
(i) The <i>Meno</i> and Greek Geometrical Analysis, <i>p.</i> 76	
(ii) Hypothetical Method in the <i>Meno</i> , <i>p.</i> 85	
(iii) Hypothetical Method in the <i>Phaedo</i> and the <i>Republic</i> , <i>p.</i> 94	
(iv) Later Dialogues: Conclusion, <i>p.</i> 104	
E The Date of the <i>Meno</i>	108
F The Setting and the Characters	120
G The Evidence for the Text	129
TEXT	149
COMMENTARY	197
APPENDIX: The Geometrical Problem at 86e <i>sq.</i>	441
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	462
<i>Index I: English</i>	467
<i>Index II: Greek</i>	471

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-17228-8 - Plato's Meno
Edited by R. S. Bluck
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

Only two editions of the text of the *Meno* with a commentary in English (apart from the Loeb) have ever been published. St George Stock produced a small school edition in 1887, which ran to a revised third edition published in 1924. E. Seymer Thompson published his larger (and extremely useful) work in 1901. In the mass of literature about Plato in general and the *Meno* in particular that has appeared in the last half-century, old problems have been settled and new ones raised, and it would seem to be time for a new and full edition of this important dialogue.

I wish to thank the Central Research Fund of the University of London for a grant which enabled me to visit Paris and Vienna and undertake a much-needed re-examination of some of the more important manuscripts. I wish also to thank the Director and Permanent Members of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey, for granting me membership of the Institute for the academic year 1957–8, which enabled me to devote all my time to this work, and to benefit greatly from discussion with Professor Harold Cherniss and others, to all of whom I am extremely grateful for much help and many kindnesses. In addition I wish to thank Professor E. R. Dodds for the time and trouble he has taken in giving me most valuable guidance in my study of the manuscripts; Professor W. K. C. Guthrie, Mr J. P. Sullivan, Mr Norman Marlow and Professor Dodds for reading sections of my introduction in typescript, and offering most helpful comments; Mr D. A. Russell for sending me notes on the commentary; and Mr J. L. Ackrill and Mr Douglas MacDowell for valuable criticism and assistance in the reading of the proofs. The faults that remain are, of course, my own. Finally I should like to thank the Editorial Board of the Faculty of Arts of Manchester University for generously contributing a subsidy towards the cost of publication.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-17228-8 - Plato's *Meno*
Edited by R. S. Bluck
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

It has not been found possible to print in this edition a Greek line of the same length as that of the Oxford Classical Text. Consequently it has been necessary to make all references here given to the *Meno*, including those cited from the work of other scholars, accord with the sections and lines of this edition. In arranging these sections I have consulted Stephanus' 1578 edition, and marked a change of section by any line of my text which contains the first complete word of a new section in Stephanus. Sometimes Stephanus' section-letter appears between lines, and it is uncertain to which line it was meant to be attached; but this system of references can in any case be only approximately correct.

I have made a new collation of W, P, F, and Y, and compared the Latin versions of Aristippus and Ficino. My results will have helped, I hope, to establish the evidence for the text of the *Meno*, as well as being of interest so far as the manuscripts themselves are concerned, although, as it happens, they have not led me to make any major changes in the text. My apparatus criticus will be found to differ considerably from Burnet's. My text differs from his in some thirty-odd readings (see Index I, under 'Text'), but only in a few of these places has new evidence been primarily responsible for the change.

R. S. B.

MANCHESTER