ARISTOTLE: ON GENERATION AND CORRUPTION
BOOK II

Aristotle: On Generation and Corruption Book II is concerned with Aristotle’s theory of the elements, their reciprocal transformations, and the cause of their perpetual generation and corruption. These matters are essential to Aristotle’s picture of the world, making themselves felt throughout his natural science, including those portions of it that concern living things. What is more, the very inquiry Aristotle pursues in this text, with its focus on definition, generality, and causation, throws important light on his philosophy of science more generally. This volume contains eleven new essays, one for each of the chapters of this Aristotelian text, plus a general introduction and an English translation of the Greek text. It gives substantial attention to an important and neglected text and highlights its relevance to other topics of current and enduring interest.

Panos Dimas is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oslo. He was the director of the Norwegian Institute at Athens and chairs the Board of the Plato Dialogue Project (PDP), for which he coedited the first two volumes, on the Philebus and the Statesman. He is currently working on a bigger project on Plato’s ethics.


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ARISTOTLE: ON GENERATION AND CORRUPTION BOOK II

Introduction, Translation, and Interpretative Essays

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Preface

The volume originated in a workshop on Aristotle’s *Generation and Corruption* II held at the Anargyrios and Korgialenios School of Spetses on July 3–9, 2016. This workshop was made possible by funding from the Philosophy Department at the University of Oslo, which we would like to thank for its generous support. The participants were (in alphabetical order) Andreas Anagnostopoulos, Timothy Clarke, Panos Dimas, Christopher Frey, Emily Katz, Sean Kelsey, Mary Krizan, Spyridon Rangos, Margaret Scharle, and Stasinos Stavrianeas. The group divided its work into ten two-hour sessions; each participant was assigned a chapter to present (in one case, two chapters); most presenters distributed translations of their assigned chapter or substantial portions thereof; and each presentation was followed by an extensive discussion. The quality of the presentations, and of the discussions they facilitated, was agreed to be high, so the idea was floated around of producing a volume, including a translation based on the critical edition of the Greek text established by Marwan Rashed (2005). The group was keen and agreed to proceed.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak; we were fortunate, then, when in March 2018 we had the brilliant idea of asking Andrea Falcon to join us as coeditor, and more fortunate still when he agreed. The project would not have been completed without his dedication, energy, and professionalism.

We would also like to thank Andreas Anagnostopoulos and Laura Castelli, who organized a research workshop on Aristotle’s *Generation and Corruption* II at the Ludwig Maximilian Universität in Munich on January 7–8, 2020, where the introduction to the volume and two other essays were presented and discussed.

Panos Dimas and Sean Kelsey

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## Abbreviations

**Aristotle**

<table>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APo</td>
<td>Analytica posteriora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APr</td>
<td>Analytica priora</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>De anima</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>De caelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>De generatione animalium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>De generatione et corruptione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HA</td>
<td>De historia animalium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>De incessu animalium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juv.</td>
<td>De juventute et senectute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long.</td>
<td>De longitudine et brevitate vitae</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>De motu animalium</td>
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<td>Mem.</td>
<td>De memoria</td>
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<td>Meta.</td>
<td>Metaphysica</td>
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<td>Meteor.</td>
<td>Meteorologica</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>De partibus animalium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phys.</td>
<td>Physica</td>
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<td>Poet.</td>
<td>De arte poetica</td>
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<td>Resp.</td>
<td>De respiratone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sens.</td>
<td>De sensu et sensibilibus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somn.</td>
<td>De somno et vigilia</td>
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<td>Top.</td>
<td>Topica</td>
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**[Aristotle]**

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<tr>
<td>MXG</td>
<td>De Melisso Xenophane et Gorgia</td>
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**Philoponus**

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<tr>
<td>In GC</td>
<td>In libros De generatione et corruptione commentaria</td>
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List of Abbreviations

Plato

Tim. Timaeus
Phd. Phaedo
Phil. Philebus
Theaet. Theaetetus

Simplicius

In DC In Aristotelis De caelo commentaria On Aristotle’s On the Heavens
In Phys. In Aristotelis Physicorum libros commentaria On Aristotle’s Physics

Further Abbreviation

DK H. Diels and W. Kranz, Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker. Weidmann Verlag, Zurich 1951