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The *On Poems* by the Epicurean philosopher and poet Philodemus of Gadara (1st century BC) survived amid the library of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum, which was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. The papyrus-rolls in this, the only library that survives from the ancient world, are with the aid of advanced technology at last able to be read, reconstructed, and translated. The *On Poems*, in five books, offers unique insights into ancient literary criticism from Aristotle to Horace. Book 1 was published in 2000. This volume contains the Greek text, translation, and scholarly commentary on Books 3 and 4, together with the fragments of Aristotle's lost dialogue *On Poets*, which sheds light on Aristotle's views on such controversial questions as mimesis, catharsis, and the origins of tragedy and comedy.

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"Limitations of space made it impossible for me to describe the details of Janko's interpretations of the texts he presents (from both Philodemus and Aristotle) or how his views differ from those of other scholars. Nor can I successfully convey the amount of painstaking work that Janko went through to produce this superb volume. I do hope, however, that my description of this volume makes clear how valuable it is, not only to scholars of Philodemus but to anyone interested in Aristotle's poetics and Hellenistic literary criticism."

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About the Author

Richard Janko is Gerald F. Else Collegiate Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Michigan.

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