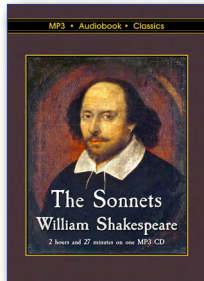


Renaissance Classics



The Sonnets of William Shakespeare

Author: William Shakespeare (1564-1616)
 Read by: Elizabeth Klett
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 2 hours and 27 minutes
 Genre: Poetry

"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? / Thou art more lovely and more temperate..." These lines from Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 and many others that are quoted to this day come from *The Sonnets*, a collection of 154 poems written for a private readership and published in 1609. The poems are about affairs of the heart and fall into two groups – lust for a dark complexioned married woman (the "dark lady") and a conflicted love for a young man (the "fair youth"). It is unclear if the subjects were real people or if the voice of the author is that of Shakespeare himself. The mystery is compounded by the dedication of the 1609 edition to a "Mr WH", whose identity is unknown. Whatever the particulars, it is universally agreed that *The Sonnets* are a "profound meditation on the nature of love, sexual passion, procreation, death, and time." William Wordsworth commented that "Shakespeare unlocked his heart" in the sonnets.

Catalog: DB-1128
 UPC: 0683422134456
 MSLP: \$9.99

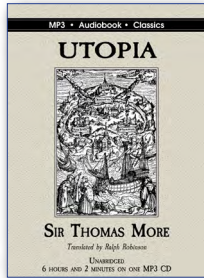


Don Quixote, Books 1 & 2

Author: Miguel Cervantes (1547 - 1615)
 Read by: Expatriate
 Length: 38 hours and 24 minutes
 Format: 2 MP3 CDs in DVD case
 Genre: Action & Adventure Fiction, General Fiction

Catalog: DB-2008
 UPC: 0701236969597
 MSLP: \$14.99

Don Quixote, fully titled *The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha*, follows the adventures of Alonso Quixano, an hidalgo who reads so many chivalric novels that he decides to set out to revive chivalry, under the name Don Quixote. He recruits a simple farmer, Sancho Panza, as his squire, who often employs a unique, earthly wit in dealing with Don Quixote's orations on antiquated knighthood. He is met by the world as it is, initiating such themes as realism and literary representation. Published in two volumes, in 1605 and 1615, *Don Quixote* is considered the most influential work of literature in the entire Spanish literary canon. As a founding work of modern Western literature, it regularly appears high on lists of the greatest works of fiction ever published. In a 2002 list, *Don Quixote* was cited as the "best literary work ever written". It is also thought to be the best-selling book of all time, with estimated sales of 500 million copies since its first appearance.

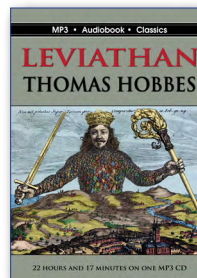


Utopia

Author: Sir Thomas More (1478 - 1535)
 Translated by: Ralph Robinson (1520 - 1577)
 Read by: Ruth Golding
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 6 hours 2 minutes
 Genre: Political Philosophy, Satire

Sir Thomas More invented the word "utopia" by blending the Greek words meaning "no place" as a title for his fictional work of political philosophy. The mythical island of Utopia is located in the New World. Raphael, a voyager, describes the customs he observed during a five year journey to Utopia, a mythical island in the New World with representative government and no private property. Dwellings are rotated. Meals are communal. Everyone wears the same clothes. Men and women are equals. Everyone works six hours a day. Each household has two slaves. There are no lawyers. Health care is free. Multiple religions are tolerated. Priests can marry, couples may divorce, but premarital sex is punished by lifelong celibacy and adulterers are enslaved. Written in Latin and published in 1516 in Belgium, the book was not published in England until 1551, sixteen years after More's death. Many of the concepts stand in direct opposition to More's beliefs as a devout Catholic. Most see it as a satirical commentary on the evils of European society and influence on later works such as Francis Bacon's *New Atlantis* and *Candide* by Voltaire.

Catalog: DB-1158
 UPC: 0683422134739
 MSLP: \$11.99

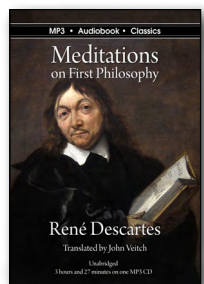


Leviathan

Author: Thomas Hobbes (1588 - 1679)
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 22 hours and 27 minutes
 Genre: Political Philosophy

Catalog: DB-1202
 UPC: 0701236969207
 MSLP: \$14.99

Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* is a classic work of statecraft and political philosophy on the order of *The Prince*. The book is divided into four parts. Part 1, *Of Man*, is a description of human nature, material and psychological, in which the state of nature is a war of all against all. Part 2, *Of Common-wealth*, articulates the social contract that gives rise to an effective government and social order. Part 3, *Of a Christian Common-wealth*, delves into the problem of the relationship of church and state. Part 4, *Of the Kingdom of Darkness*, describes four causes of the "darkness of ignorance" that suppress the light of true knowledge. While Hobbes advocates for an absolute monarchy on rational grounds, he also introduces aspects of the social contract now fundamental to liberal political philosophy: the artificial nature of any political form, the right of the individual, the natural equality of all, the notion of political power as "representative" of the people and the corresponding need for the consent of those governed.

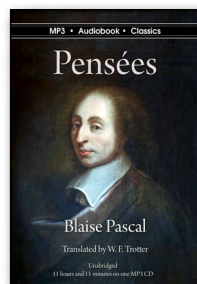


Meditations on First Philosophy

Author: René Descartes (1596 - 1650)
 Translated by John Veitch (1829 - 1894)
 Read by: D. E. Wittkower
 Length: 3 hours and 27 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Philosophy, Religion

The Meditations on First Philosophy is a detailed presentation of the metaphysical and philosophical systems of Descartes that became a fundamental document in the development of western thought and one of the most influential ever written. The book consists of six meditations in a narrative voice that suggests they had taken place in six days. In the course of the narrative he attempts to discard belief in things which are not for certain and establish what can, in fact, be known for sure. The product of two years of effort, it first appeared in Latin in 1641 and was translated into French as *Méditations Métaphysiques* in 1647. The first two meditations, which used the skeptical method of doubt to conclude that only the ego and its thoughts are unquestionably true, exerted a huge impact in the history of philosophy and are considered an indispensable first lesson in modern philosophical thinking. *The Meditations* continues to be a standard text in most university philosophy departments.

Catalog: DB-1187
 UPC: 0683422135071
 MSLP: \$10.99



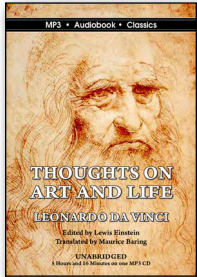
Pensées

Author: Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)
 Translated by W. F. Trotter
 Read by: Dexter
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 11 hours and 11 minutes
 Genre: Philosophy, Religion

Catalog: DB-1186
 UPC: 0683422135088
 MSLP: \$12.99

In 1654 Blaise Pascal had a religious experience that motivated him to turn his prodigious intelligence to the subjects of philosophy and theology. He envisioned a comprehensive work in defense of Christianity often referred to as the *Apology for the Christian Religion*. Among the groundbreaking ideas put forth is that of "Pascal's Wager", which argues that people should live as if God exists, because if God does exist, one will experience only the small loss of some pleasure while achieving the bliss of heaven and avoiding the damnation of Hell. The work was incomplete at the time of his death, and the fragments of ideas and notes were gathered together in a collection and published in 1670 under the title *Pensées*, or "thoughts". The work has become a classic work of theology and philosophy that many regard as the finest work of prose in the French language.

Renaissance Classics

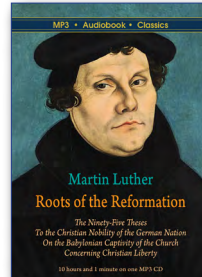


Thoughts on Art and Life

Author: Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) Translated by Maurice Baring. Edited by Lewis Einstein.
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Length: 5 hours and 16 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Non-Fiction, Philosophy, Art, Design, Memoir

Catalog: DB-1239
 UPC: 0701236969580
 MSLP: \$9.99

At the age of 55 Leonard da Vinci set out to organize his ideas from a review of the thousands of pages of notebooks he had produced over an intensely productive lifetime. He begins with "Begun at Florence in the house of Piero di Braccio Martelli, on the 22nd day of March, 1508; and this is to be a collection without order, taken from many papers which I have copied here, hoping to arrange them later, each in its place, according to the various subjects treated." The result is *Thoughts on Life and Art*, a collection of thoughts made in simple statements, some as short as one sentence, many a single paragraph, seldom more. Many take on the character of an epigram, an axiom, perhaps a revelation. Others show a keen mind quickly parsing a subject down to its essence. Each idea seems described as it occurred to Leonardo in the instant of its conception. There 333 entries in all, organized into three groups: 129 Thoughts on Life, 93 Thoughts on Art, and 111 Thoughts on Science. The book was assembled by editor Lewis Einstein and contains a Table of References that lists the nineteen source documents with a listing by page and thought for each section showing the source document. It was initially published by the Merrymount Press in Boston in 1906 in a run of 303 copies. It is a remarkable digest of the workings of one of the greatest minds ever to grace the planet.

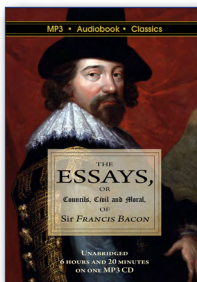


Martin Luther: Roots of the Reformation

Author: Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)
 Read by: Multiple readers
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 10 hours and 1 minute
 Genre: Non-Fiction, Religion

Catalog: DB-1240
 UPC: 0701236969603
 MSLP: \$9.99

This book collects four key works by Martin Luther that sparked the Reformation and articulated the theological underpinnings of Protestantism. *The Ninety-five Theses* is a list of propositions intended for academic debate posted on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg in 1517 that created the division in the Catholic Church that became the Reformation. It objected to the practice of the church selling indulgences, with which buyers could reduce the punishment in purgatory for sins. *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* is the first of three works written in 1520. He sets forth the radical doctrine that all baptized Christians are "priests" and "spiritual" in the eyes of God, as opposed to the traditional division of the Church into "spiritual" officers of and "secular" followers. He also articulates the doctrine of two kingdoms of God, the secular, physical world of things and action, and the world of the spirit, gospel and grace. Both were radical breaks that directly challenged church doctrine. *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, the second 1520 work, examines the seven sacraments of the Church. Angry and harsh in tone, Luther criticizes the Pope and limits the true "divinely instituted" sacraments to Baptism, Eucharist, and Penance, excluding Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders and Extreme Unction. *On Christian Liberty*, the third 1520 work, justifies the notion of salvation by faith alone and the seeming paradox of Christians as fully forgiven children of God who nevertheless willingly serve God and their neighbors, encapsulated by his famous statement. "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

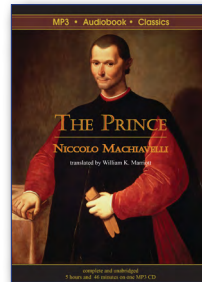


The Essays of Francis Bacon

Author: Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626)
 Read by: Carl Vonnoh, III
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 6 hours 20 minutes
 Genre: Non-Fiction, Essays, Philosophy

Catalog: DB-1112
 UPC: 0684758936660
 MSLP: \$11.99

Francis Bacon thought of his *Essays* as "recreation of my other studies" in politics, law, natural philosophy, and science. First published in 1597 as *Essays: Religious Meditations, Places of Perswasion and Disswasion, Scene and Allowed*, the collection was expanded to 38 essays in 1612 and again in 1625 to 58 essays under the title *Essays or Counsels, Civill and Morall*. *The Essays* have no logical sequence or theme (ironic for the man who brought method and organization to science) and find their topics in diverse areas, public and private. Bacon had a gift for making catchy phrases, and many expressions still in use are found first in *The Essays*. The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations contains 91 quotations from *The Essays*. Although the treatments vary in style from the unadorned to the epigrammatic, he invariably covers the topic at hand from all angles in a systematic and considered fashion. They were well received and so well done that some have thought of Bacon as the originator of the essay form; they clearly stand with the work of Aristotle and Montaigne and have stood the test of time.



The Prince

Author: Niccolo Machiavelli (1469 - 1527)
 Read by: Paul Adams
 Length: 5 hours 47 minutes
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Genre: Political Science

Catalog: DB-1035
 UPC: 0684758936189
 MSLP: \$11.99

Niccolo Machiavelli broke the mold when he wrote *The Prince*, an ostensibly traditional work in the style of books written for princes. Written in the Italian vernacular for all to read, it speaks truth to power about power: the truth about how "things really work" in the sphere of power, politics, leadership and governance. Most advances in man's progress occur when the thinkers of their time look at the world as it is and not as they might want it to be. It's the difference between the declarative and the subjunctive modes – the difference between "this is this" and "the would, could, shoulds" of a fantasy land. Princes obtain and retain power over their subjects using tactics with little or no consideration for ethics or the strictures of the then dominant faith. And those who argue to the contrary will be the ones without power. In saying so *The Prince* was and remains groundbreaking and subversive. And required reading for anyone active or interested in public life.

Audiobook Market Statistics 2012 - 2016

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Unit Sales	42,022,525	45,716,525	54,391,225	67,341,630	89,558,322
Unit Sales % Inc/Dec	17.9 %	14.3 %	19.5 %	24.2 %	33.9 %
Sales	\$1.2 Billion	\$1.3 Billion	\$1.47 Billion	\$1.77 Billion	\$2.1 Billion
Sales % Inc/Dec	13.5 %	11.8 %	13.2 %	20.7 %	18.2 %
Titles Published	16,309	24,305	25,944	35,574	50,937

Source: Annual Sales Surveys conducted for the Audio Publishers Association by Management Practice, Inc.