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L'IMMAGINARIO DEL DENARO
NELLE COMMEDIE DI ARISTOFANE

Abstract

My work points to the very fascinating imagery of money in Aristophanes. It tries to focus on the multilevel structure of the Attic comedy, where money works either as the very detonator of laugh, or as the device through which a perfect social anatomy is likely to come up.

The language of money in Aristophanes is both denotative and connotative: while speaking of money characters reveal their own fears, taboos, appetites.

*I tried to epitomize the ancient thought about money in Greek culture in order to lead the reader to draw consistent analogies with the comic microcosm. Thus, I considered few comedies by Aristophanes, especially *Clouds*, *Wasps*, *Peace*, *Birds*, *Lysistrata*, *Frogs*, *Ecclesiazousae* and *Ploutos*, and I screened the various and paradoxical dialogues which are centred on money, in order to rebuild the social and historical background lying beneath, in the so called hypo-text, and to underline the possible intertwining between the on stage surreal world and the economic pressure at the end of the fifth century b.C.*