

TRYGEOS

STILL
AT
IT.

From Brasidas to Khrushchev, to Kosygin, to Mao; from Cleon to Kennedy, to L.B.J. and beyond either way, there have been and always are, those at either end and those in the middle. Those in the middle are caught between the authority and the war. Art has seen them invariably as the victims - as objects of pathos and pity. Aristophanes was the first to see them as a force. He used them as the instrument, helped along a bit by the deity, to bring about peace. Trygeos is an Aristophanic creation. So are Hermes and Polemos who figure in this play.

Twelve years ago Mr. Alastos gave a prose translation of Aristophanes's PEACE. Here he gives his own version of PEACE. Motive, mood, theme and the principal characters are lifted straight out of Aristophanes. But in being lifted up to the present they are being transmuted. They become conceptual forces facing a set of circumstances dominated by a terrifying reality. Trygeos's aim becomes a mission.

The arc of action of this drama is vast - from the "Peloponnesian War" to "Cuba Week" - but simultaneously intensively short - the space between the opening of one's eyes and of being awake. Here Mr. Alastos tackles an overwhelming human issue in concrete terms. His characters spotlight our dilemma and present it as an urgent human problem. The action of the play moves fast, positions alternate or change with rapidity and the whole drama advances with controlled relentlessness towards its nearly apocalyptic end.

Trygeos has been sent by Aristophanes to heaven in search of peace.

He is searching for it in this play - still at it.

Βιβλιοθήκη Πανεπιστημίου Κύπρου

“ M. Dinos Alantos has a great theme for his biography (or should it rather be called a history ?), and he has addressed himself seriously to this theme. He has studied state papers and speeches: he is familiar with ... all the literature of his subject. The result is a work of solid scholarship, which deserves the serious attention of every student of a great man and a great career.”

Prof. ERNEST BARKER.