

GOETHE'S POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649675043

Goethe's Poems by J. W. von Goethe & H. G. Atkins & L. E. Kastner

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J. W. VON GOETHE & H. G. ATKINS & L. E. KASTNER

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Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von.

GOETHE'S POEMS

SELECTED AND EDITED
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER ON METRE
AND NOTES

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LONDON

BLACKIE & SON, LIMITED, 50 OLD BAILEY, E.C.
GLASGOW AND DUBLIN

1902

Stacks)
Gift
Prof. Austin Warren
1-23-70
813999-291

PREFACE

The present volume contains more than fifty of the finest and most famous products of Goethe's lyrical genius. In making their selection, the editors have purposely chosen the longer and more difficult rather than the shorter and easier poems, their intention being, as will be evident from the nature of the notes, to interest readers who desire more than a superficial acquaintance with Goethe's poetry—such as the higher forms of schools, and students of a university type.

With the object of facilitating the study of the poems in the only way in which many of them are to be fully understood, namely, by a reference to the poet's life, a short biographical sketch is given.

A short chapter on metre, divided into two parts, the first dealing with German versification generally, and the second more especially with Goethe's metre, has also been added. Just as the short survey of the life is intended to assist in the better understanding of the thought, it is hoped that this additional chapter may lead to a fuller and more correct appreciation of the form, and of

the poet's range and mastery in the field of poetic workmanship.

In preparing the notes the editors have derived much help from the numerous German commentaries on the poems, more particularly from those of Düntzer, von Loeper, Strehlke, and Blume. They have also referred repeatedly and with much profit to the large number of articles and notes contained in the *Goethe-Jahrbuch* and the various German periodicals.

For that part of the Introduction which deals with metre, the works most frequently consulted were J. Minor's *Neuhochdeutsche Metrik*, and F. Kauffmann's *Deutsche Metrik*.

The text is that of the Weimar edition.

H. G. A.

L. E. K.

September, 1902.

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