

**CLARENDON PRESS SERIES
MODERN GERMAN READER; A
GRADUATED COLLECTION OF
PROSE AND POETRY. PART II**

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Clarendon Press Series Modern German reader; a graduated collection of prose and poetry. Part II by C. A. Buchheim

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C. A. BUCHHEIM

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Clarendon Press Series

MODERN GERMAN READER

A Graduated Collection

OF

EXTRACTS IN PROSE AND POETRY

EDITED BY

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Professor of the German Language and Literature in King's College, London
Examiner in German to the University of London
To the University of New Zealand
To the Society of Arts, the College of Preceptors, etc.

PART II

WITH ENGLISH NOTES AND AN INDEX

Second Edition, Revised

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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P R E F A C E.

THE *second* part of my *Modern German Reader* resembles, in its main features, the preceding one. The Selections as well as the annotations are, of course, of a more advanced character. The former have been made—as was the case with the Extracts in Volume I—by myself from the original works, and exclusively from *modern* writers. I imposed upon myself this by no means easy task for two reasons. First, because I considered it right to give such Extracts only as are quite to the purpose. Not every piece of prose is adapted for illustrating the grammatical and idiomatic peculiarities, or the niceties of any language. My first object in making the Selections was, therefore, to choose pieces which, whilst interesting and, on the whole, also instructive, were suitable as a background for educational purposes. Secondly, it seemed to me desirable to get out of the beaten track by presenting perfectly fresh materials which would have the charm of novelty for both teachers and pupils. This feature formed one of the principal characteristics of the first volume of this series of *Readers*; and it is not a mere conventional phrase, if I add that the publication of a Reading Book which is not the mere outcome of other Readers, was hailed with great satisfaction in the School-room, and that I received numerous requests for the speedy publication of the subsequent volumes.

In arranging the Selections I have adopted the plan of a systematic variation, so as not to weary the students by a tedious monotony, or to startle them by abrupt transitions. This volume thus presents a 'harmonious whole,' as it were, though it contains a considerable number of Extracts, varying in style, treatment and subject-matter. All the pieces are written in excellent German—in a style which may be considered *mustergültig*—and they form, besides, complete sketches by themselves, although they are mere Extracts. Some short tales, such as Auerbach's *Feuerreiter*, Hackländer's story, given under the title, of *Nach hundert Jahren*, and Börne's *Englische Schauspieler in Paris*, have been reprinted *in extenso*. I have carefully avoided the so-called 'professional anecdote,' of which the teacher gets tired at the second, if not at the first reading, and which is greeted by your sharp-witted schoolboy with a half-obliging and a half-mocking smile. I have, however, admitted several humorous pieces which, besides offering pleasant reading, will serve to dispel the common prejudice that the element of wit and humour is wanting in German writings¹.

The short Play which I have selected, giving it—as in a

¹ Some of the extracts in vol. i. have already found their way—as I have been informed—into various papers without any mention being made as to the source from which they were taken. Might I ask the future 'adapters' of any extracts in this volume to deal more honestly by me? I believe I might address the same request to those who may make use of any of the special features in the *Notes*, or of the Extracts in this book, in their future publications. A grammatical feature which I introduced in Part I. for the first time in connection with a modern Reader has already been adopted in a recent publication—of course, in a somewhat altered form—without any mention of the priority of my production.

few other instances—with some slight but necessary alterations, or rather abbreviations, will, it is hoped, be found very pleasant reading and may prove suitable for acting.

In one respect the present part materially differs from the preceding one. It contains a number of poems which I have chiefly selected for the purpose of recitation. It seems that this part of linguistic instruction, as far at least as foreign languages are concerned, does not yet meet with due attention in this country; which is greatly to be regretted, since nothing is so much calculated to promote purity of accent and correctness of pronunciation, and to inspire the learner with courage to hear his own voice in a foreign language, as the reciting aloud of verses¹. It would, of course, be a great mistake, and quite contrary to the acknowledged methods of instruction, if poetry were made the basis of teaching *living* foreign languages. Apart from the desirability, nay, necessity, of acquiring a colloquial knowledge of them, it is imperative first to study them in prose writings, in order to become fully acquainted with their grammatical structures and their idiomatic peculiarities. Poetry is pre-eminently the expression of feeling, whilst prose is the language of thought, which is the reason why numbers of people can easily grasp the drift of a poem in a foreign language, without being able to construe an idiomatic sentence in prose. The right meaning of a poem may frequently be vaguely felt and guessed, whilst prose must be thoroughly understood. In

¹ I may be allowed, perhaps, to mention here for the benefit of those who wish to possess a comprehensive collection of poems, my '*German Poetry for Repetition, with English Notes*' (published by Messrs. Longmans). A few of the Notes have been adopted in the present volume.

accordance with these facts I have explained the Poems only as far as it seemed to me requisite for the general understanding of the Text, whilst I have made the Prose Extracts the basis for illustrating the structure of the German language. It is true that in Germany, the Readers—whether intended for the study of the native or the foreign languages—contain as a rule poetry as well as prose; but the former is, in the first stages, only given for the sake of practice in recitation.

It is a matter of course, that I could not strictly adhere, in the poetical portion of this volume, to the principle of novelty; still I have inserted several pieces which are not to be found in the usual collections of poems.

Another new feature which I have now for the first time introduced in my educational works, is the adoption of the modern Orthography, as sanctioned by the Prussian Ministry of Education; since it seems to me expedient to take cognizance of the spelling reform which has taken such deep root in Germany. I have also endeavoured to introduce an uniform mode of punctuation. If there should be some slight inconsistencies in either the spelling or the punctuation, it should be remembered that the whole of the German Text had to be transcribed from various authors, so that here and there the original spelling or punctuation may have been inadvertently retained. The Poems have been collated with the best critical editions, so that the reader will not meet with the corrupted Texts current in most collections of poetry.

The *Notes* are of three kinds. In the first instance they give all the literary, historical, and geographical information requisite for the elucidation of the Text. Secondly, they