

# **ENGLISH FOLKLORE**

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English folklore by A. R. Wright

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**A. R. WRIGHT**

**ENGLISH  
FOLKLORE**



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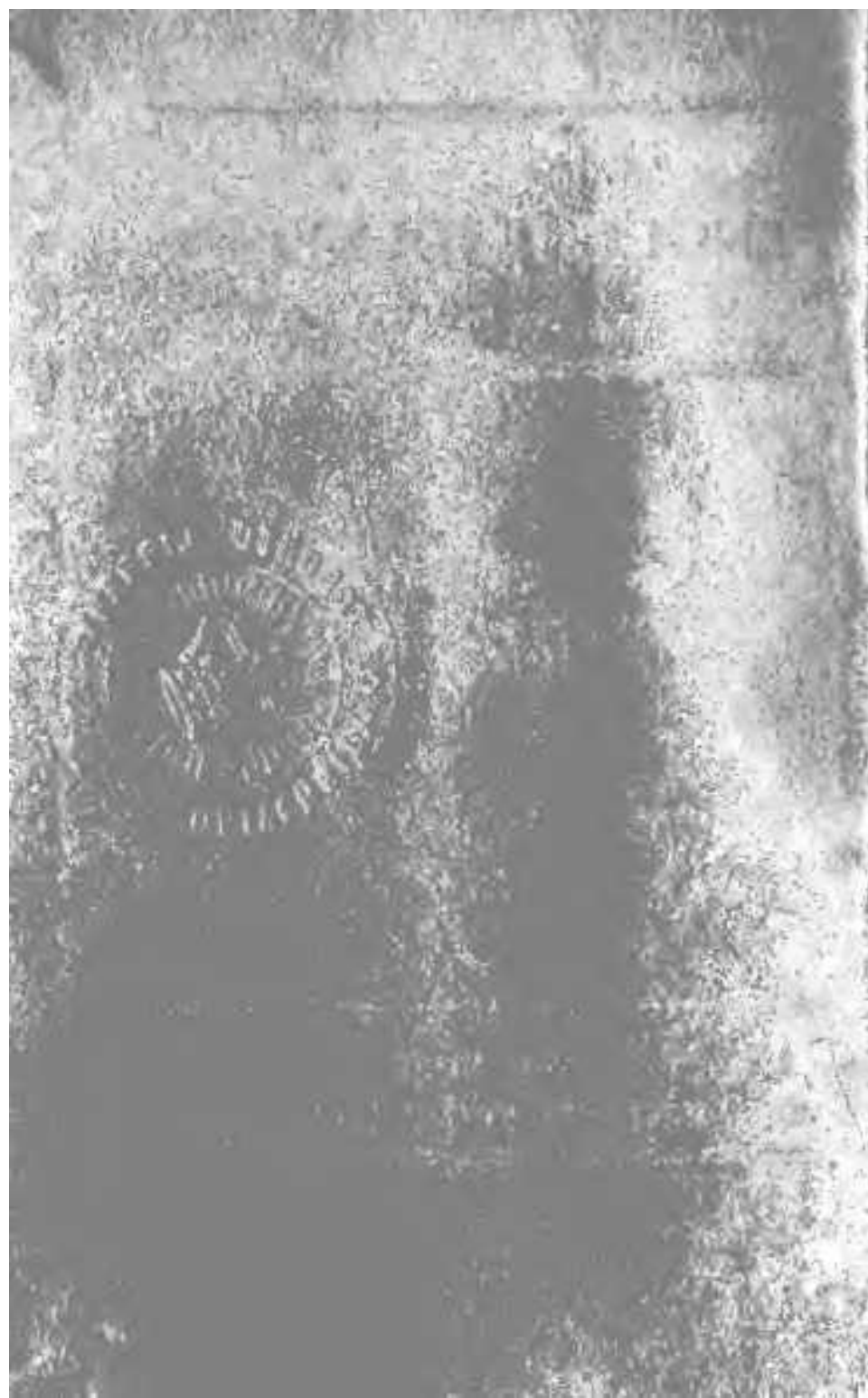
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# I

## INTRODUCTION

IN 1725 Henry Bourne dedicated to those "In-couragers of Learning and Rewarders of Merit," the Mayor and Corporation of the town and county of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he was curate of All Saints' Church, a little book with the title *Antiquitates Vulgares*, or "The Antiquities of the Common People. Giving An Account of several of their Opinions and Ceremonies. With Proper Reflections upon each of them; shewing which may be retain'd and which ought to be laid aside." The mixture of affable condescension to the "common people," and of humble apology to their "betters" for a display of interest in what vulgar folk did and thought, makes the book delightful reading nowadays. The preface says: "I would not be thought a Reviver of old Rites and Ceremonies to the Burdening of the People, nor an Abolisher of innocent Customs, which are their Pleasures and Recreations: I aim at nothing, but a Regulation of those which are in Being among them, which they themselves are far from thinking burdensome, and abolishing such only as are sinful and wicked."