

**ON THE HISTORY OF GREEK
LITERATURE IN ENGLAND, FROM
THE
EARLIEST TIMES TO THE END OF
THE REIGN OF JAMES THE FIRST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649452163

On the History of Greek Literature in England, from the Earliest Times to the End of the Reign of James the First by Sir George Young

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SIR GEORGE YOUNG

**ON THE HISTORY OF GREEK
LITERATURE IN ENGLAND, FROM
THE
EARLIEST TIMES TO THE END OF
THE REIGN OF JAMES THE FIRST**

ON THE HISTORY
OF
Greek Literature in England,

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES

TO THE

END OF THE REIGN OF JAMES THE FIRST.

"You are an elegant Latinist, Margaret," Erasmus was pleased to say;
"but if you would drink deep of the wellsprings of Wisdom, apply to
Greek. The Latins have only shallow rivulets; the Greeks copious rivers,
running over sands of gold."—*The Household of Sir Thomas More.*

BY

SIR GEORGE YOUNG, B.A.

SCHOLAR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Cambridge:
MACMILLAN AND CO.
AND 23, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN,
London.

1862.

250 .f. 126.

Cambridge:
PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A.
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.



*THIS ESSAY OBTAINED THE LE BAS PRIZE IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE IN THE YEAR 1861.*

A LARGE number of Members of the Civil Service of India who were students at the East India College at Haileybury, at various intervals during the thirty years that the Rev. C. W. LE BAS, M.A. formerly Fellow of Trinity College, was connected with that Institution, desirous of testifying their regard for Mr LE BAS, and of perpetuating the memory of his services, raised a Fund which they offered to the University of Cambridge for founding an annual Prize, to be called in honour of Mr LE BAS, The *Le Bas Prize*, for the best English Essay on a subject of General Literature, such subject to be occasionally chosen with reference to the history institutions, and probable destinies and prospects of the Anglo-Indian Empire.

The Prize is subject to the following Regulations, confirmed by Grace of the Senate, Nov. 22, 1848.

1. That the LE BAS Prize shall consist of the annual interest of the above-mentioned Fund, the Essay being published at the expense of the successful Candidate.

2. That the Candidates for the Prize shall be, at the time when the subject is given out, Bachelors of

Arts under the standing of M.A. ; or Students in Civil Law or Medicine of not less than four or more than seven years' standing, not being graduates in either faculty, but having kept the Exercises necessary for the degree of Bachelor of Law or Medicine.

The subject for the Essay proposed by the Vice-Chancellor for the year 1861 was :—

“On the History of Greek Literature in England, from the Earliest Times, to the End of the Reign of James the First.”

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1

CHAPTER II.

Stories of ancient Greek learning in England: 1. Greek testimonies; 2. Secondary, or Roman traditions; 3. Monastic tales.

Traces in the early period of modern history—St Alban, Gildas, Columbanus.

The Anglo-Saxon School. Austin, Wilfrid, Theodore and Adrian—their success. Benedict Biscop—Libraries. Aldhelm, Alcuin, Bede—his works—Translation of St John—his death. Deep rooting and consequent vitality of learning. Alfred—his schools—education of the laity. Temporary extinction of literature at the Conquest—the age of Glosses. Erigena—his treatise on the Verb.

The Norman school. Spurious records of Croyland Abbey. Lanfranc and Anselm—religious controversies. Abandonment of Letters for the School Philosophy 7

CHAPTER III.

The Schoolmen. Rise of the dogmatic theology. Boethius—the Quadrivium and Trivium. Translations of Aristotle—the Arabians. Essential similarity between Realists and Nominalists. Futility of their systems of limited speculation 34

CHAPTER IV.

	PAGE
The pilgrims of learning and the early grammarians. Athelard—Robert of Retines—John of Salisbury—Peter of Blois—Benoit of St Maur—Neckham. Translators of Aristotle. Daniel Morley—the Civil Law. Rise of the University of Oxford—Groups of scholars—Groeteste—Nicholas of St Alban's—John of Basyng. Roger Bacon—his life and labours—the <i>Opus Majus</i> —treatise on Grammar. His other works—analysis of part of the <i>Opus Tertium</i> and the <i>Compendium Philosophiarum</i> . The Clementine Decretals.	
Revival of Greek studies in Italy. Richard Aungerville—Sir John Mandeville—John Wiclif. Alliance of the two Reformations . . .	44

CHAPTER V.

The Restoration of Learning. English scholars in Italy—pupils of Guarini. Oxford—Cornelius Vitelli. Groeyn—Selling—Linacre—Letimer—Lilye—More. Erasmus visits England—his Scotch pupils. Linacre tutor to Prince Arthur. Court of Henry VIII. Colet—Pace—Tunstal. Spirit of the Founders of Greek Study—reverence for antiquity—substitution of Grammar for Logic. Disputes at Oxford—the Trojans. Erasmus at Cambridge—Fisher—Croke—labours of Erasmus. Lupset—family of More—Vives—Calpurnius—attempted reform of Greek pronunciation. Linacre's *Galen*—Greek types in England. Education of youth—William of Wykeham—Winchester—Eton—St Paul's—other public schools. Sir Henry Savile—the Eton press.

Greek pronunciation—Roger Bacon's hints. Cheke and Smith at Cambridge—their lectures, travels, controversy with Gardiner, and victory. Progress of Greek study—appreciation of classical authors. Attempt to reform English spelling—its failure. Translations of the Bible—Tyndale—Coverdale—the Authorized Version—John Boys. Chapman's Homer. General spread of Greek learning, and consequent conclusion of its History, properly so called. Casaubon.

Francis Bacon—his estimate of antiquity. Beginning of a new age. Conclusion 65

GREEK LITERATURE

ix

ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

“The thoughts of men are widened with the process of the Sun.”

Tennyson.

THE history of Greek Literature in England is from first to last a conflict, a tale of oppression and resistance. It comprises a period of between nine and ten centuries, dating from the establishment of a school in Kent, A.D. 670, only 74 years after the second introduction of Christianity by the mission of Austin. Its proper close is the end of the sixteenth century; when it ceased to be the acquirement of men, and became part of the education of youth. It exhibits a checkered story of ardent pursuit alternating with dreary neglect; every long continued depression exciting reaction in its favour, while again and again its course was hindered and reversed by external violence and persecution. At last it triumphed over opposition; established itself as the object of intellectual ambition, and justified its high claims by opening wide the portals of knowledge, by destroying the fences of prejudice and superstition, and guiding the minds of men to the path of advancement and discovery along which they have to this day been pressing. Since that era no decline of knowledge has thrown us back upon the traces of the past; and we